

WEST CHRISTCHURCH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

www.wcresidents.co.uk

Committee Meeting Minutes

The Hall on the Hill: 2nd March at 7.30 pm

In these minutes: ARC=Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (previously known as HCT=Herpetological Conservation Trust); BWHW=Bournemouth and West Hants Water; CBC=Christchurch Borough Council; DCC=Dorset County Council; EDDC=East Dorset District Council; FORCEDA=Federation Of Residents (Christchurch and East Dorset) Associations; FOSCH=Friends of St Catherine's Hill; NE=Natural England; RA=Residents Association; SSSI=Site of Special Scientific Interest (Town Common and St Catherine's Hill for example); TPO=Tree Preservation Order; WCRA=West Christchurch RA; WPRA=West Parley RA; WW=Wessex Water

- 1. Present:** Chairman Jim Biggin; Maureen Biggin; Chris Gordon; Roger Hamilton Eileen Lancaster; John Pendrill; Janet Robson;
- 2. Apologies for absence:** none
- 3. Eileen Lancaster:** following her election to the committee at the AGM, Eileen Lancaster was welcomed
- 4. Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of 2nd February 2011 were approved.
- 5. Treasurer's Report:** John Pendrill submitted accounts as at 2nd March 2011 showing an excess of expenditure over income of £201.62 with cash at bank of £5177.31 (£5172.75 on deposit).
- 6. Membership Records:** Jim Biggin reported that he had eventually obtained the membership records from those representing the late Terry Morgan. He had completed the necessary processing and had passed them on to Jane Rumbell for updating.
- 7. Committee Members Agreements:** following the difficulty experienced in obtaining our records each committee member signed an instruction to their relatives authorising the release of our records where the member is unable to act personally
- 8. Allocation of Roads:** Maureen Biggin presented an allocation using the existing collectors and committee members. Key roads not covered include Cross Way and Elm Avenue. *It was resolved that we will do a letter drop asking for volunteers in these and other roads being covered by committee members.*
- 9. Special letter for collectors:** *it was resolved that we will draft a letter that collectors can deliver to houses where it is difficult to obtain a response.*
- 10. E-Mail Newsletters:** Jim Biggin reported that he had succeeded in bringing together all the e-mail addresses and reloading them into an e-mail mailing system. The February Newsletter had gone to every e-mail address that we have. Where the e-mail bounced a follow up letter was hand delivered requesting amended e-mail address details.
- 11. Delegate to FORCEDA:** the quarterly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 8th March
- 12. The Forestry Commission (TFC) and ARC:** the letter from TFC to ARC was discussed and thought to be weak and equivocal. *It was resolved that Chris Gordon will use the Freedom of Information Act to obtain a copy of the actual felling order. He will also obtain quotations from independent experts to give us a truly independent view of the likely effect of the felling undertaken by ARC. All of this with a mind to pursuing matters further.*

- 13. Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and ARC:** Nothing has been heard from HSE and they are thought to be carrying out a risk assessment as to whether or not they dare venture onto St Catherine's Hill
- 14. FOSCH:** Councillor David Fox is retiring; Councillor Sue Spittle is to continue as Chairman.
- 15. The Hall on the Hill:** It has been discovered (not quite sure how) that the existing chairs will only support 108 kg (17 stone) so an investigation is under way to find a small number of more robust chairs that will be made available to those that need them (not quite sure how)
- 16. St Catherine's Hill Management Plan:** in negotiations the hill has been divided up into numbered sectors with each sector corresponding to a particular hydrological feature as defined in the hydrology plan. In raising a separate plan for each sector the consideration of hydrology will thus be built into each area. We have defined our basic negotiating stance (full details have been posted on the website). We have walked the hill several times looking at each sector and discussing opportunities and issues. We now await the next tome from the facilitator that should be a first draft plan.
- 17. Planning Issues:** a very quiet period. A proposal to knock down and rebuild Grove View, St Catherine's Hill Lane, is not thought to be contentious.
- 18. February 2011 Public Meeting:** again well attended with an excellent presentation by the Bournemouth Airport Executive. Minutes are on the website.
- 19. SE Dorset Transport Strategy:** Chris Gordon has responded (details posted on website)
- 20. 2010-11 Council Budgets:** the FORCEDA meeting with Councillor Spencer Flower had revealed that 75% of Dorset's income comes from the local council tax and only 25% from Central Government. This puts Dorset in a good position to weather the financial difficulties because they are less affected than others by cuts in Central Government allocations. Details had also been obtained of Dorset's deposits in Icelandic Banks (details posted to the website)
- 21. 2011 Newsletter:** the final draft was approved. *It was resolved that Janet Robson will arrange the printing plus 2011 Collector's Identification Badges*
- 22. WCRA Web Site:** the problems related to the web site following the death of Terry Morgan were resolved by securing a new domain www.wcresidents.co.uk and building a new site. Thanks to outstanding work by Eileen Lancaster this site is now up and running and is judged to be a better site than the old one
- 23. Christchurch Hospital Consultation:** Janet Robson continues to work on this with submission due by mid-April

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm. Next formal committee meeting is on **Wednesday April 6th 2011 at 7.30pm at The Hall on the Hill**