

WEST CHRISTCHURCH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

www.wcresidents.co.uk

Committee Meeting Minutes

The Hall on the Hill: 7th September 2011 at 7.30 pm

In these minutes: ACRA=Affiliation of Christchurch Residents Associations;
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; 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; WW=Wessex Water

1. **Present:** Chairman Jim Biggin; Maureen Biggin; Chris Gordon; Roger Hamilton
Eileen Lancaster; John Pendrill;
2. **Apologies for absence:** Janet Robson;
3. **Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of 3rd August 2011 were approved.
4. **Matters arising:**
 - 4.1. Snow clearance – the CBC legal opinion has been posted to the website
 - 4.2. Photographs of The Hill have been put on the website with an explanation of the various features
 - 4.3. WCRA E-Mail address – this appears to be working
5. **Treasurer's Report:** John Pendrill submitted accounts as at 7th September 2011 showing an excess of income over expenditure of £525.85 with cash at bank of £5904.31 (£5618.94 on deposit).
6. **Public Liability Insurance:** the premium is due; cover has been extended to include leaflet delivery with no increase in premium; the small increase in premium is caused by the insurance premium tax; *it was resolved that the premium should be paid.*
7. **Cash at Bank:** the question was raised as to whether we should spend some of the £5900 on facilities for the local community. *It was resolved that we should wait until we are absolutely clear that the funds will not be needed to address problems arising from the creation of the St Catherine's Hill Management Plan but that in the interim we should consider ideas for its sensible future use.*
8. **Membership:** Maureen Biggin reported that six collectors had deposited funds during the month. All outstanding collections have been reviewed with only one collector proving to be completely illusive.
9. **Delegate to ACRA:** John Pendrill reported that the cost of upgrading the private access road to the airport will be borne by the airport and not by the tax payer;
10. **FOSCH:** no report
11. **ARC:** no report.
12. **The Hall on the Hill:** no report.
13. **St Catherine's Hill Management Plan:** Jim Biggin reported that at a meeting that day all the points raised in our criticism of the draft plan dated April 2011 had been satisfactorily addressed and in particular: that the plan should be based upon the hydrology report; that existing drainage should be restored before hydrological measurements are undertaken; that hydrology must be monitored over the ten year cycle of the plan and results fed back to the Management Committee on a regular basis; that the issues related to on-going

maintenance must be addressed; that all measurements must be in both imperial and metric formats

- 14. New Timetable for Management Plan:** Jim Biggin reported that the final draft of the Management Plan should be with us on or before 1st October 2011. We would then have ten days to read, comment, meet and agree our joint comments before a meeting of the Steering Committee on 14th October 2011. The aim is to submit the final agreed plan to CBC Community Services Committee in November 2011. This would mean a public consultation in January-February of 2012.
- 15. Future Funding for the Management Plan:** as the project draws to a close this is the classic time for facilitators to ask for an increase in fee. The issue was discussed and our attitude to such a request, should it arise, was resolved.
- 16. Planning Issues:** we have made representation concerning the redevelopment of 7 to 11 Crossway that the builders respect the needs of local residents whilst working; the redevelopment of 174-178 Barrack Road was discussed and the committee was broadly in favour of the plans; the increase in activity related to the town centre was noted and in particular the new Travelodge and new Pizza Express which will probably be a topic for the next ACRA meeting
- 17. WCRA Web Site:** the site has been kept up to date and has functioned normally; usage fell in August but increased substantially following the issue of the September News Letter; future police alerts are to be sent to us for inclusion on the website.
- 18. The E-Mail Newsletter:** there was no August letter. The September letter was distributed normally to over 800 local residents. The database has been downloaded into an Excel spread sheet and stored on two separate computers
- 19. Renewal Collections 2012:** the proposed changes submitted by Jim Biggin together with a specimen renewal certificate and a specimen newsletter for non-e-mail members were discussed and agreed
- 20. News Letter late 2011:** the slippage of the timetable for public consultation of the St Catherine's Hill Management Plan made it desirable to produce and distribute a News Letter for members not on the e-mail system. *It was resolved that Jim Biggin would draft one.*
- 21. Our Public Meeting October 2011:** we await details from CBC of topics to be discussed. In the meantime we should consider any particular issues that we would like to see addressed
- 22. Polling Stations:** CBC have asked us if the existing polling stations meet local needs (we thought they did) and if we could think of anywhere better for them to be sited (we couldn't)
- 23. Local Transport Strategy:** Chris Gordon reported that the strategy had lofty aims related to improving some local roads and encouraging the use of public transport but that these were not related to available funds. The disappearance of the bus shelter adjacent to Rutland Road was noted as were the unconfirmed rumours that the local bus service is to be reduced to one bus per hour. *It was resolved that Chris Gordon would write to Yellow Buses and seek clarification*
- 24.** The meeting closed at 9.15 pm. Next formal committee meeting is on **Wednesday 5th October 2011 at 7.30pm**, at the Hall on the Hill