

# WEST CHRISTCHURCH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

[www.wcresidents.co.uk](http://www.wcresidents.co.uk)

## Committee Meeting Minutes

The Hall on the Hill: 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2013 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); CBC=Christchurch Borough Council; DCC=Dorset County Council; DWP=Dorset Waste Partnership; EDDC=East Dorset District Council; FOSCH=Friends of St Catherine's Hill; HENRA=Hengistbury Head RA; NE=Natural England; PC=Parish Council; RA=Residents Association; SBW=Sembcorp Bournemouth Water; 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; David Barnett; Maureen Biggin; Chris Gordon; Malcolm Green; Roger Hamilton; Eileen Lancaster; Steve Roberts;
- 2. Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> March 2013 were approved.
- 3. Resignation of Janet Robson:** It was confirmed that actions decided upon at the previous meeting had been put into effect
- 4. CBC Housing Strategy:** Chris Gordon reported an over-long, over-complex, report that could have been better structured as a management overview plus detailed appendices. The basic premise of the report, that social and private housing can be completed in mixed developments, was questioned as was the assumption that building should be brick-on-brick rather than prefabrication. As with much Local Government planning, the document existed in isolation failing for example to take due regard of the proximity of Bournemouth and Poole. *It was resolved that Jim Biggin will complete the on-line survey in accordance with the views expressed.*
- 5. DCC Buses Survey:** Jim Biggin reported the exact opposite of the Housing Strategy. This survey appeared to be little more than a box-ticking exercise. It was not clear what information would emerge that could not be derived from other sources
- 6. Appointment of Malcolm Green:** Malcolm Green was welcomed onto the committee
- 7. Treasurer's Report:** David Barnett reported that as at 31<sup>st</sup> March we had funds of £6417.04 and had incurred anticipated losses year-to-date of £371.81.
- 8. Collectors:** Maureen Biggin reported that all collectors have received their packs. When the weather warms up she will train the new collectors who have asked for her help
- 9. Delegate to ACRA:** Roger Hamilton reported that the March ACRA meeting had covered a variety of local issues. The minutes of the meeting are on the website. The meeting with CBC executive Directorate is scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> April
- 10. The Hall on the Hill:** Eileen Lancaster reported that a major investigation was underway exploring the pros and cons of charitable status and incorporation. The upstairs painting is finished but the saga of the new chairs continues.
- 11. Local Hospitals:** Steve Roberts reported that the plans to redevelop the Christchurch Hospital site have been approved by the CBC Planning Committee (with some conditions) after an overwhelming public response in favour of the change. The work done by members of the committee had made a very large contribution to that result. The GP funding has been secured. There have been no developments in the proposed Bournemouth-Poole merger

- 12. Navitus Bay:** Steve Roberts reported a well-attended public meeting at the Royal Bath. However he is concerned that a meeting that was presented as aiming to give a balanced and informative view had in fact been closer to a rally for those against the proposed development. Every speaker was anti and a number of potentially misleading comments were allowed to go unchallenged. Steve Roberts has written to the Chairman requesting clarification. It was noted that our website is perhaps the only place that the uninformed neutral can find a complete range of views. It was noted in passing that in 2012 some 43% of UK energy was sourced from overseas – the highest amount ever.
- 13. St Catherine’s Hill Management Plan:** Chris Gordon reported that the March meeting had been postponed until April.
- 14. The Supermarkets Planning Issues:** the Inspector’s decision on Stony Lane is still awaited
- 15. California Chicken, Barrack Road:** this situation remains unresolved
- 16. Wilverley Road Recycling Centre:** Roger Hamilton reported no new developments
- 17. Marsh Lane-Bronte Avenue Road Calming:** Steve Roberts reported some action at DCC but no resolution to the issues involved
- 18. Spring News Letter:** Jim Biggin reported that the News Letter had been printed and distributed via a large number of volunteers
- 19. Our Website:** Eileen Lancaster reported a redesign of the menu structure and the incorporation of a search facility that had improved the site. She is in contact with Google over site recognition
- 20. Dangerous and Unsightly Wood Pile:** Maureen Biggin reported a large pile of wood from felled trees in the area behind Fairmile Road close to the end of Sandy Lane. Chris Gordon undertook to bring this to the attention of ARC
- 21. Oak Avenue:** it was noted that expensive, temporary repairs had been made to the road surface in Oak Avenue
- 22. Fountain Roundabout:** Roger Hamilton reported that he is still in discussion with CBC over the vegetation at the centre of the roundabout.
- 23.** The meeting closed at 9.00pm. Next formal committee meeting is on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013 at 7.30pm**, at the Hall on the Hill