

# WEST CHRISTCHURCH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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

Committee Meeting Minutes

Hall on the Hill: 5<sup>th</sup> August 2015 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; CED=Christchurch and East Dorset; CQC=Care Quality Commission; DCC=Dorset County Council; DPCC=Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner; 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; Steve Roberts;
- 2. Apologies for absence:** Sue Fotheringham; Malcolm Green;
- 3. Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of July 2015 were approved
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** David Barnett reported that to date income now exceeded expenditure by £301.37 whilst assets stood at £7921.25.
- 5. Membership:** Maureen Biggin reported that: Burford Close; Durlston Crescent and Closes off; and Lynton Crescent had all been collected.
- 6. Collectors:** Maureen Biggin reported no significant changes
- 7. ACRA:** David Barnett reported the ACRA meeting with DPCC Martyn Underhill (full notes of which are on the website [www.wcresidents.co.uk](http://www.wcresidents.co.uk)). The changes in police practice evidenced by the joint working with Devon and Cornwall were welcomed. The expected increase in *recorded* crimes thanks to a new system was noted. The potential transfer of rapid response units to the Fairmile fire station as part of the process of selling the Christchurch police station site was welcomed.
- 8. DPCC Martyn Underhill:** from the ACRA meeting it was noted that the second election for DPCC will be in May 2016 and that ACRA may organise a hustings. Martyn Underhill has expressed a wish to be re-elected and following a discussion of his perceived performance to date it was felt that WCRA would prefer to see him re-elected both to capitalise upon the experience he has now gained and in preference to a political appointee, an accountant or an administrator. It was felt that if re-elected we should ask him to address our autumn 2016 meeting (likely date Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October).
- 9. Hall on the Hill:** Malcolm Green had prepared a written report in which he outlined the AGM held on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2015. After some discussion it was felt that a surplus of £28,853 was quite large and that some portion of it could sensibly be spent on improvements to The Hall.
- 10. Christchurch Hospital:** It had been reported on the BBC website and in The Echo that one Basil Fozard, who received a lump sum in excess of £320,000 when he retired on May 31<sup>st</sup> 2015, was re-hired by the Trust on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 in a purely bureaucratic role earning £20,000 more a year than the £152,000pa he was paid previously. Jim Biggin reported that he has asked a Trustee to explain the situation to ACRA.
- 11. Planning Issues:** Malcolm Green's written report confirmed that **The Cattery at 256 Fairmile** has appealed against refusal of its planning application. Outline permission has again been submitted for 12 houses at the rear of **Clarendon Road**.

- 12. St Catherine's Hill Management Plan:** Chris Gordon reported that an inspection of the Hill by CBC, ARC, WCRA and consultant Dick Preston has taken place as a pre-requisite of the next stage of the plan. This will involve some thinning but no clear felling. The effects of implementing the plan to date are becoming clearer and are regarded as positive – particularly the increase in bird life and the new saplings (including some oak). The area damaged by the arson is recovering well but there have been further instances of fires being lit (some using wood taken from the scarp edge fencing by the old trig point). A plan to include map references on posts is to be implemented so that a phone call to the emergency services can quote the nearest reference. The Gun Club has not replaced the lock on its gate nor has it displayed an emergency contact number.
- 13. Speaker for WCRA Meeting Spring 2016:** it was resolved that we will ask consultant Dick Preston to give an update on the state of the Hill and the working of the Management Plan (likely date Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016).
- 14. New School at Marsh Lane:** Jim Biggin reported that our letter to Councillor Robert Gould dated 9<sup>th</sup> July had been acknowledged but no reply has been received. It was resolved that we will write formally to Councillor Robert Gould expressing our dissatisfaction
- 15. Hurn Road – Removal of No Right Turn:** it was noted that, whilst Councillor Margaret Phipps had managed to inform local shops and we had managed to inform local residents prior to the 27<sup>th</sup> July implementation date, DCC had failed to fulfil its part of the plan until several days later and then only after Councillor Margaret Phipps had prompted them several times. Councillor Phipps has requested an explanation.
- 16. Defibrillators:** Chris Gordon reported that a defibrillator for The Hall on the Hill was being progressed. It was suggested that he should approach the St Catherine's Hill Dance Club to see if it could make a contribution to the initial purchase and/or the ongoing running costs. Also, he should organise the preparation of a list of appropriate sites across Christchurch for submission to ACRA
- 17. Gravel Extraction:** noted that increased lorry movements will result from recently published Dorset plans that include amongst others a new excavation at Roeshot Hill adjacent to Hampshire's site and by Hurn Farm. All of these plans will add traffic to the B3073. It was felt we could do little more than watch these developments since we have previously drawn the attention of DCC to the problem but have no confidence that they have any solutions.
- 18.** The meeting closed at 8.45pm. Next formal committee meeting is on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 at 7.30pm**, at the Hall on the Hill