

WEST CHRISTCHURCH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

www.wcresidents.co.uk

Committee Meeting Minutes

Hall on the Hill: 2nd December 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; Sue Fotheringham; Chris Gordon; Steve Roberts;
- 2. Apologies for absence:** Maureen Biggin; Malcolm Green;
- 3. Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of November 2015 were approved
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** David Barnett reported that to date income now exceeded expenditure by £539.32 whilst assets stood at £8159.20. It was noted that membership had exceeded 1800.
- 5. Auditing the Accounts:** from investigations made it appears that we are unlikely to find anybody to audit our accounts for no fee (as has been the case in the past). Professional licenced auditors will charge at least £500, which is more than we can afford. As we are not a registered charity, do not pay tax or borrow money we do not legally need to employ an auditor. The existing division of responsibilities between the Membership Secretary, the General Secretary and the Treasurer – which will be strengthened in 2016 when Sue Fotheringham replaces Maureen Biggin – make fraudulent activity difficult. After discussion *it was resolved that* the Treasurer and the General Secretary will both sign future accounts to verify their accuracy.
- 6. Membership:** Jim Biggin confirmed that: Dukesfield; Hurn Way; River Way Central; Wilton Close; have all been collected and banked along with subscriptions obtained from "Sorry We Missed You" letters.
- 7. Hand Over to Sue Fotheringham:** Sue Fotheringham confirmed that letters to collectors and newsletter distributors explaining the change will be delivered in December. She now has copies of the membership spreadsheets on her IT system.
- 8. Reorganisation of Local Government:** Jim Biggin outlined developments since the last meeting including letters to ACRA from Cllr David Jones and Cllr Colin Jamieson and one from ACRA to Cllr Ray Nottage. Details of the Financial Analysis to be undertaken have been published and are on the website. Based upon their work experience both David Barnett and Jim Biggin expressed surprise at what they perceived as a very optimistic timetable that would allow for little more than a desk based mathematical exercise. *It was resolved that* Jim Biggin would write expressing our concerns.
- 9. ACRA:** David Barnett reported that the next ACRA meeting is scheduled for 8th December. It was noted that Grange RA has merged with Somerford RA.
- 10. Hall on the Hill:** in a written report Malcolm Green informed that repairs and modifications to the Hall audio system have been commissioned.

- 11. Hall on the Hill Bookings:** Jim Biggin reported that he had booked the hall for our meetings and ACRA meetings in 2016. The Hall Committee had sent him a contract to sign. After taking suitable advice he had written back to the Hall Committee requesting clarification on some points.
- 12. Planning Issues:** Malcolm Green reported an increase in applications looking to sever back gardens and build in-fill properties.
- 13. St Catherine's Hill Management Plan:** Chris Gordon reported that felling licence applications have been submitted and the associated contracts are out to tender
- 14. FOSCH:** Chris Gordon reported a reply to Jim Biggin's letter to the organisation lighting fires on the Hill indicated that ARC had given permission for this activity. CBC had confirmed that they would not give similar permission as far as their land is concerned. The whole matter has now been referred to the St Catherine's Hill Steering Group
- 15. New School at Marsh Lane:** Steve Roberts reported that the full planning application is now on the Dorset for You website. Jim Biggin reported that he had asked DCC to allow more than 21 days for consultation. After some discussion of the application *it was resolved that we would be in favour but with strong reservations as to the adequacy of the traffic management proposals.*
- 16. ACRA Fozard Affair:** Jim Biggin reported that The Ministry of Health had replied to ACRA in a classically unhelpful manner. He thought ACRA would now let the matter drop.
- 17. Junction of Hillside Road and Aston Mead:** Jim Biggin undertook to supply Sue Fotheringham with the letter used by WCRA when dealing with the residents of Sandy Lane.
- 18. Defibrillators:** Chris Gordon confirmed that the Hall on the Hill Committee has agreed to install a defibrillator and are interested in receiving a donation from WCRA amongst others. Chris will now research suitable equipment. David Barnett agreed to raise the issue at the next ACRA meeting using a capital cost of around £1,200 and running costs of around £12 per annum plus consumables such as batteries.
- 19. Web Site:** Jim Biggin gave details of recent activity on our website. All present congratulated Eileen our webmaster on her management of the site.
- 20.** The meeting closed at 9.15pm. Next formal committee meeting is on **Wednesday 6th January 2016 at 7.30pm**, at the Hall on the Hill