

# WEST CHRISTCHURCH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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Committee Meeting Minutes

Hall on the Hill: 6<sup>th</sup> January 2016 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; Sue Fotheringham; Chris Gordon; Malcolm Green;
- 2. Apologies for absence:** Steve Roberts;
- 3. Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of December 2015 were approved
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** David Barnett reported that to date income now exceeded expenditure by £489.38 whilst assets stood at £8109.26. The 2015 accounts will be finalised once we know how much interest has been earned on our Teachers Account. He recommended the transfer of £500 from current to HSBC deposit account and this was agreed unanimously.
- 5. Membership:** Sue Fotheringham reported that letters confirming her appointment had been hand delivered to most collectors. The response had been favourable. She further reported the recruitment of a new collector.
- 6. Reorganisation of Local Government:** Jim Biggin outlined developments since the last meeting including: the letter to CBC and EDDC from Chis Chope MP telling them that the proposed CBC-EDDC-Bournemouth-Poole merger is politically unacceptable; the draconian action by Central Government in reducing Local Authority Grant to zero by 2018-19 whilst retaining a higher percentage of Business Rate income thereby effectively forcing change; the Cities & Local Government Act 2015 that gives Central Government the power to enforce such change; the resignation of Ian Monks, Leader of EDDC and one of the original "Gang of Four"; the refusal by EDDC to authorise the fact-finding mission aimed at producing a "business plan" for the two proposed unitary authorities; the ACRA meeting with David McIntosh CBC CEO
- 7. The LG Reorganisation "Business Plan":** Jim Biggin confirmed that what Local Councils are calling a business plan will not be a business plan in the usual commercial sense. It will be revenue based only using the 2015-16 revenue budgets as base data. In discussion it was felt that this would produce a set of results of little real worth. He informed the committee of the potential involvement in assessing the plan of Ray Carnally, Treasurer of Friends of St Catherine's Hill and local resident.
- 8. ACRA Role:** Jim Biggin described how Mike Collard (SAMRA) and he will now visit each ACRA Member to elicit their help in involving local residents in the reorganisation. He indicated that ACRA would also like to talk to Cllr Colin Bungey as leader of the Opposition at CBC. They would also be considering any relationship with the Echo and New Milton Advertiser

9. **ACRA December Meeting:** David Barnett reported that apart from the changes to Local Government ACRA had discussed the Town Centre Plan, which had received a lukewarm reception overall and the suggested replacement of the underpass at Fountain Roundabout by a pedestrian crossing, which was regarded as unacceptable
10. **ACRA Blog:** David Barnett reported that the larger ACRA members had been asked on a voluntary basis to contribute £23 to the cost borne wholly by WCRA
11. **Hall on the Hill:** Malcolm Green informed that repairs and modifications to the Hall audio system have been completed. He was asked to raise with the Hall Committee the broken kitchen fire door.
12. **Planning Issues:** Malcolm Green reported that the application to knock down the garages near **Darwin Avenue** had been approved
13. **St Catherine's Hill Management Plan:** Chris Gordon reported that: 3 contractors are bidding for the felling licence; the latest results from the Dip Wells are awaited; the drainage at the back of Hillside Drive has been improved; there may be a funding shortfall looming.
14. **New School at Marsh Lane:** In the absence of Steve Roberts, Jim Biggin reported that the Marsh Lane Action Group had obtained several hundred signed pro-forma letters of objection. This had led to the local MP "calling in" the application. As this would likely have happened anyway since the Green Belt is involved his action seemed slightly pointless. To make matters worse his letter to the Secretary of State lacked balance and failed to indicate how badly the school is needed.
15. **Spring Meeting:** Chris Gordon reported that Dick Preston could not make the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Jim Biggin indicated that David McIntosh had offered to address local residents and it was decided that we should invite him
16. The meeting closed at 9.15pm. Next formal committee meeting is on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016 at 7.30pm**, at the Hall on the Hill