

WEST CHRISTCHURCH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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Committee Meeting Minutes

Hall on the Hill: 3rd February 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; Sue Fotheringham; Chris Gordon; Malcolm Green;
2. **Apologies for absence:** Maureen Biggin;
3. **Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of January 2016 were approved
4. **Resignation of Steve Roberts:** the resignation with immediate effect was noted
5. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - 5.1. **2015 Accounts** David Barnett presented the year end accounts showing total assets of £8140.26 which were accepted. He will now produce an analysis of expenses to accompany a formal set of accounts to be signed by him and Jim Biggin as Chairman at the March meeting
 - 5.2. **2016 Accounts:** David Barnett reported that to date there had been no income and no expenditure. It was noted that as instructed by the committee £500 had been moved from current to deposit account. An invoice received from the Hall on the Hill to cover hire of the hall was for twice the amount paid in 2015. It was agreed that Malcolm Green would question this
6. **Membership:** Sue Fotheringham reported that streets had been allocated to collectors. A change to the method of numbering Renewal Notices was discussed but was felt inappropriate for roads where membership was patchy. A slight change to the layout will be investigated and implemented if possible
7. **Reorganisation of Local Government:** Jim Biggin outlined developments since the last meeting including: the letter from ACRA to Chis Chope MP requesting an explanation of Central Government actions; the meetings between Council Officers and Civil Servants to establish correct process and procedure; the enactment of the Cities & Local Government Act 2015; the appointment of Cllr Spencer Flower as Leader of EDDC; the slow to non-existent progress of investigations into a pan-Dorset Combined Authority; the work done by Ray Carnally on borrowing facilities for Local Authorities and the CBC strategy papers on Treasury Management and Reserves
8. **ACRA Role:** Jim Biggin described how Mike Collard (SAMRA) and he had now visited each ACRA Member to elicit their help in involving local residents in the reorganisation. He indicated that they had also talked to Cllr Colin Bungey as leader of the Opposition at CBC. Mike Collard is researching "Local Councils" which could for example be formed to cover Highcliffe or say Portfield-Jumpers-St Catherine's-Hurn to replace the current Christchurch structure

9. **New School at Marsh Lane:** it was noted that CBC Planning would discuss the application on 4th February and DCC on 18th February 2016
10. **Hall on the Hill:** Malcolm Green informed that the floor would be sanded and re-varnished. The kitchen fire door has been repaired.
11. **Planning Issues:** Malcolm Green reported no outstanding issues
12. **St Catherine's Hill Management Plan:** Chris Gordon reported that an administrative oversight had prevented the new felling licences from progressing properly and the work covered would now be delayed. Potential funding issues had not been resolved
13. **Friends of St Catherine's Hill:** Chris Gordon reported that at the previous FSCH committee meeting:
 - 13.1. ARC had confirmed that they had given permission for a "forest school" to light a fire on the hill.
 - 13.2. A robust discussion ensued as a number of committee members considered it an inappropriate course of action. Both CBC and NE concurred in that opinion.
 - 13.3. It was pointed out that there are numerous signs on the Hill stating that no barbeques or fires are to be lit (in compliance with the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 SCHEDULE 2 General Restrictions Section 2(1) sub-para (e) which prohibits a person to be on any land if in or on that land he lights or tends a fire or does any act which is likely to cause a fire).
 - 13.4. It was reiterated that the only fires permitted are for conservation purposes and they are closely supervised by the landowners or their agents.
14. **WCRA Spring Meeting:** Jim Biggin indicated that David McIntosh would be unavailable to address local residents but that David Barnes could take his place. It was decided to accept this offer and to ask local Councillors plus David Barnes to partake in a question and answer session
15. **Forthcoming Election of Dorset PCC:** noted that ACRA has arranged a hustings at Druitt Hall on Wednesday 27th April at 7.30pm
16. **Spring Newsletter:** Jim Biggin distributed a draft of a four-page newsletter for comment
17. **Website Hit-rates:** Jim Biggin outlined the activity on the website
18. The meeting closed at 9.15pm. Next formal committee meeting is on **Wednesday 2nd March 2016 at 7.30pm**, at the Hall on the Hill