

WEST CHRISTCHURCH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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Committee Meeting Minutes

Hall on the Hill: 6th April 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 March 2016 were approved
4. **Treasurer's Report:** David Barnett reported excess expenditure over income of £609.55 with assets of £7,530.71. He drew attention to the increase in printing costs compared to 2015. Jim Biggin explained there are two reasons for this (1) the 2016 spring newsletter is twice the size of the 2015 one and (2) following the retirement of old colleagues at the printer, WCRA favourable rates have been withdrawn. He confirmed that the posters for the spring public meeting had been produced by a different printer.
5. **Membership:** Sue Fotheringham reported that some new collectors have been recruited and that membership renewal packs will be distributed to collectors before the end of April
6. **Reorganisation of Local Government:**
 - 6.1. Jim Biggin outlined developments since the last meeting including: the non-binding vote by DCC Councillors at a DCC special event to split Dorset into two portions (1) Bournemouth-Poole-Christchurch on the one side plus (2) Shire-Dorset on the other with East Dorset featuring in either camp or possibly split between the two camps; the fact the "high level strategic analysis" had not appeared on the target date of 26th March and was not now due until "end May"
 - 6.2. The meeting discussed these developments and was particularly disappointed by the missed target for the financial analysis. Three particular features were highlighted:
 - 6.2.1. The loss of credibility suffered by those who made the initial assessment of how long the work would take. Their figure of 3 months elapsed time was roundly decried at the time and had indeed proved to be substantially wrong. This had to throw doubt on the credibility of any subsequent work they produced
 - 6.2.2. The naivety of those who had accepted the 3 month target without question instead of rejecting it. They were clearly operating outside their sphere of knowledge and experience

6.2.3. The overall effect upon the timetable that Central Government have tied to the date of the next General Election. It was widely suspected that this time squeeze would be reflected in the time devoted to the public consultation phase of the process

- 7. ACRA:** noted the ACRA sub-group that will consider Local Government reorganisation is to meet on 14th April
- 8. New School at Marsh Lane:** no new developments
- 9. Hall on the Hill:** noted that the floor is to be refurbished during the last week in April. Malcolm Green was asked to again raise the fire exit risk posed by the projector screen when it was lowered and obstructed the rear fire exit.
- 10. Planning Issues:** Malcolm Green reported that no decision has been reached on planning application 8/16/0043 **Meadow Bank Caravan Park**; he made favourable comments about the new software now being used on Dorset-for-You
- 11. St Catherine's Hill Management Plan:** Chris Gordon reported ongoing issues with: timber and chippings extraction; the abuse of the car park area at the junction of Fairmile Road and St Catherine's Hill Lane; ARC funding. There is no news regarding the future funding of CBC operations
- 12. WCRA Spring Meeting:** posters have been passed to Malcolm Green; Jim Biggin confirmed that he is keeping Dave Barnes up to date with local developments
- 13. ACRA Hustings for election of Dorset PCC:** Jim Biggin confirmed the date as Wednesday 27th April in Druitt Hall at 7.30pm and asked members to support the initiative if they possibly could
- 14. Website:** Jim Biggin outlined the usage figures for March
- 15. DCC Mobile Library consultation:** Jim Biggin confirmed that the survey affected the whole of Dorset and not just Christchurch
- 16. Defibrillators:** the committee was pleased to learn that NISA was considering making a donation. The meeting felt that a plaque should be produced to be mounted next to the equipment listing the organisations that had contributed in this way. The suggestion that some people be given training in the use of the equipment was not understood as it was the belief that the equipment is specifically designed to be used by untrained members of the public.
- 17.** The meeting closed at 9.15pm. Next formal committee meeting is on **Wednesday 4th May 2016 at 7.30pm.** NB the Hall on the Hill will likely be unavailable as it will be being prepared for the PCC election on 5th May