

WEST CHRISTCHURCH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

www.wcresidents.co.uk

Committee Meeting Minutes

Hall on the Hill: 5th October 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; Malcolm Green;
2. **Apologies for absence:** John Cooper
3. **Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of August 2016 were approved
4. **Treasurer's Report:** David Barnett reported excess income over expenditure of £134.25 with assets of £8,274.51.
5. **Membership:** Sue Fotheringham reported that further problems with collectors means that membership will now probably be down on last year. The committee congratulated her on the way in which she had coped in a difficult year.
6. **ACRA:** David Barnett outlined the ACRA meeting of 13th September 2016 the minutes of which are on the website www.wcresidents.co.uk. The discussion of Local Authority reorganisation in Dorset had revealed a lack of understanding by the representatives of some Residents Associations of both the role played by Central Government and the financial gravity of the situation.
7. **Reorganisation of Local Government:** Jim Biggin reported on:
 - 7.1. the Local Partnerships financial analysis dated 24th August 2016 and the strong correlation between its conclusions and those reported in the ACRA financial analysis along with his discussion with CBC Strategic Director Ian Milner of points arising from the financial analysis
 - 7.2. the issue by WCRA of the special e-newsletter sent Monday 29th August 2016 and the 800 paper newsletters distributed during early September to members not on e-mail alerting them to the public consultation, explaining the background and how to express their opinions but avoiding giving any explicit recommendations. Both the content of these communications and the speed of delivery gave rise to compliments from several quarters. WCRA members appear to be the best informed people on this topic across the whole of Dorset.
 - 7.3. the CBC Medium Term Financial Strategy of 28th September 2016 which highlighted a projected funding deficit for CBC of £167,000 in 2019-20 and a new tax on Local Authorities known as a Tariff Adjustment to come into effect 2019-20 under which a percent of Council Tax will be paid across directly to the Treasury
 - 7.4. all papers mentioned in minute 7 are on the website www.wcresidents.co.uk
8. **WCRA response to consultation:** the committee discussed whether or not WCRA should submit a consultation questionnaire. It was unanimously agreed that, just as with the

Wind Farm and the Marsh Lane School, the committee does not know and has no means of finding out the views of its members. Its activities must be limited to explaining and advising, not expressing opinions. It was agreed that we would not submit a response.

9. **WCRA October Public Meeting:** after some discussion it was decided to postpone the public meeting scheduled for Thursday 20th October. Jim Biggin will mention this in the next e-newsletter and will organise the printing of some posters confirming the cancellation which Malcolm Green will distribute
10. **Hall on the Hill - Defibrillators:** Malcolm Green reported some progress in the purchase of defibrillators. John Spittle has prepared a comprehensive analysis and this has highlighted a rather higher cost than the £1295 previously advised to WCRA. It appears that after allowing for the purchase of a Defibrillator Safe and VAT the total cost is now £1,993. However, in addition to the £500 from Nisa, Friends of St Catherine's Hill, the Gun Club, and the Hall on the Hill will all be making contributions to the cost. It was resolved that WCRA will reconfirm its commitment to contributing funds to the purchase subject to a full and final statement of funding from the Hall on the Hill Management
11. **Hall on the Hill – other matters:** Malcolm Green reported the pending reintroduction of a coded entry lock. There is also some discussion of commissioning some much needed internal decoration
12. **Planning Issues:** Malcolm Green reported that the loss of the overall list of outstanding planning applications following the adoption of the new DCC system is causing problems for Councillors and for him. Jim Biggin will draw this to the attention of DCC.
13. **Goal Posts at Stour Way Recreation Ground:** Malcolm Green reported the successful outcome of this project. He asked that we minute our thanks to: Cllr Sue Spittle; Cllr Margaret Phipps; Phil Old of Hurn Bridge Sports Club. The committee also thanked and congratulated Malcolm on his management of the project.
14. **Friends of St Catherine's Hill:** Sue Fotheringham reported on plans for future events, including the next History Day. The matter of the caravan parked at the foot of St Catherine's Hill Lane is ongoing.
15. **Christchurch Bypass:** the committee noted the publication of the consultant's report and its predictable conclusions. It was felt that CBC should press DCC to explore alternatives such as parking restrictions on narrow roads and one-way systems in the Town Centre
16. The meeting closed at 9.15pm. Next meeting Wednesday 2nd November 2016