

ACRA

Alliance of Christchurch Residents Associations

Minutes of the meeting on **Tuesday 12th April at 7.30pm**

1. **Present:** Liz Evans (Christchurch Citizens); Rob Evans (Christchurch Citizens); John White (Christchurch Citizens); Ken Clay (Friars Cliff); Andy Glaser (Friars Cliff); Robin Ede (Highcliffe); Malcolm Burton-Smith (SAMRA); Mike Collard (SAMRA); : Debbie Stephens (SAMRA); John Pendrill (West Christchurch - Chairman); Jim Biggin (West Christchurch - Secretary);
2. **Acceptance of Minutes:** the FORCEDA minutes of December 2010 and March 2011 were accepted. *It was resolved that* the minutes of the March 2011 FORCEDA meeting would not be placed in the public domain
3. **Matters Arising:**
 - 3.1. The Chairman outlined his meeting with a representative of West Parley Residents Association. As a result of that meeting he had concluded that abandoning the experiment of working with East Dorset organisations was the correct course of action for Christchurch based Residents Associations and that accordingly he recommended that FORCEDA should be replaced by an Alliance of Christchurch Residents Associations (ACRA) comprising Christchurch Citizens; Friars Cliff; Highcliffe; SAMRA; and West Christchurch. *It was resolved that* FORCEDA be formally disbanded forthwith. *It was resolved that* links be preserved with Verwood Residents Association.
 - 3.2. The Secretary confirmed that in accordance with the minutes of March 2011, the representative on the two airport committees had been changed to John Pendrill of West Christchurch
4. **ACRA Constitution:** the ACRA Constitution was formally adopted
5. **Transfer of Funds:** the transfer of funds from FORCEDA to ACRA was approved.
6. **Appointment of ACRA Officers:**
 - 6.1. Chairman: John Pendrill of West Christchurch
 - 6.2. Secretary: Jim Biggin of West Christchurch
 - 6.3. Treasurer: Debbie Stephens of SAMRA
 - 6.4. Delegate to Bournemouth Airport: John Pendrill of West Christchurch
 - 6.5. Delegate to Druitt Gardens and Druitt Hall: Liz Evans of Christchurch Citizens
 - 6.6. Delegate to Christchurch Community Partnership: Malcolm Burton-Smith of SAMRA
7. **Treasurer's Report:** initial ACRA funds amounted to £128.43
8. **Advising Others About The Formation of ACRA:** *it was resolved that* the Secretary should inform CBC Officers; Hurn and Burton Parish Councils; the Airport; and Verwood RA. It was noted that the Christchurch Courier had already been informed because of their printing deadlines

9. **Member's Current Issues:**

- 9.1. SAMRA reported that there is currently no way to transfer a telephone call made to CBC Offices over to EDDC Offices or vice versa. Several Members expressed the view that based upon their working experience providing this facility should not present any major problems
- 9.2. Friars Cliff reported that the general level of interest shown by residents in their activities was issue driven. At a time of no real burning issues overall interest levels are low
- 9.3. Christchurch Citizens reported that they would be holding a hustings for candidates to the May Council Elections on 19th April
- 9.4. Highcliffe reported that they had been asked by DCC to take over The Old School House building in Lymington Road. The building is in bad need of repair and represents a negative cash flow to DCC. They are considering restricting the space used by the nursery school and expanding use to include adult education and the local police
- 9.5. West Christchurch reported that the first draft plan for the Management of St Catherine's Hill had been published to the Management Committee for consideration before it was passed to CBC and then on to public consultation

10. **Joint Working CBC-EDDC – the Current Situation:** things appear to be functioning well
11. **Financial Situation:** the merging of CBC-EDDC administrations had achieved savings that meant that CBC could meet necessary cost reductions whilst maintaining front line services; DCC is not so well placed although Councillor Spenser Flower had struck a positive note in a meeting with the Chairman and Secretary; the revue by Central Government of Local Government financing scheduled for 2013 represents an unknown quantity that is complicating financial planning
12. **Local Hospitals:** the consultation on Christchurch Hospital was noted and option one was confirmed as Member's preferred option; the possible loss of Southampton Cardiac Unit for Children was viewed with concern; it was left for individual Members to act as they thought best on these issues
13. **Delivery of Council Services:** Members believed that there remained scope for cost cutting through: sending Council Tax Bills by e-mail; replacing the weekly printed progress report on current planning applications by an e-mail based change report; producing all minutes of meetings within three working days of the meeting and distributing them by e-mail; developing improved audit trails; standardising and encouraging recycling across the Borough
14. **Responses to Draft Core Strategy:** the responses made to the Core Strategy can be viewed on the Dorset For You website.

15. **Local Police and Traffic Accidents:** the complete gridlock of local roads on Saturday 8th April caused by the traffic accident near the Cooper Dean flyover was discussed. It was felt that much of the blame for the gridlock rested with the police, there apparent lack of preparedness for such events and the inordinate time it took them to process the scene (in sharp contrast to other countries). It was resolved that the Secretary would write to The Chief Constable to express Member's concerns.
16. **Next Meeting:** Tuesday June 14th 2011 at The Hall on the Hill, West Christchurch at 7.30pm

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