

CHRISTCHURCH CITIZEN'S ASSOCIATION

Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th May 2014

Present: John White (Acting Chairman)
Nigel Cook (Chairman)
Cynthia Moss (President)
Patrick Delaine (Treasurer)
Lynne Kerrigan (Secretary)

Cllrs: Peter Hall
Colin Bungay

22 Members of the public

- 1 Apologies were received from Mrs Sue Bungay and Penny and Mike Drusin.
- 2 Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7 April 2014 were reviewed and accepted by the meeting as a true record.

3 Matters Arising

- A letter regarding the Tree felling in Druitt Gardens was sent on 13 March to Christchurch Council Chief Executive regarding the independent investigation. Keith Mallet responded that he felt the Scrutiny Committee was sufficiently balanced to present a true assessment.

The Chairman read out a letter from Christchurch Council, Head of Community & Open Spaces, Judith Plumley, regarding the Renaissance Development Archaeological Dig which had damaged the trees which were then felled at a cost of £1,350. The trees were assessed as unsafe by the Tree Officer and Council employees. Scot Tree Services were asked to fell the trees as a matter of urgency as storms were predicted. Ms Plumley explained their costs were fair when compared with other contractors.

The CCA asked why the rate payers had to pay for the trees to be felled as the Developer caused the damage and therefore they should have to pay. The point was also raised that the Contractor should be fined for illegally felling the trees and a figure of £20,000 per tree was mentioned. It was agreed a further letter will be written to the Council saying the letter of the 13 March had not sufficiently answered the points raised.

- Presentation by Avril Coulton, PCC Advocate for Older People in Christchurch. See Minute 5.

4 CCA Logo

Mr White showed a copy of the proposed logo and it was suggested that rather than the Priory symbol in the centre there should be a silhouette of a gentleman, a lady and a child. David Skipper agreed he would work something out and his input was greatly appreciated.

5 Presentation by Avril Coulton, PCC Advocate for Older People in Christchurch.

Ms Coulton had provided written answers to most of the questions however there was nothing concrete about a local Police presence.

CLlr Bungay said the question of a Police presence in Christchurch is still up in the air although it had been suggested the Civic Offices might be used. This idea was to have a town beat officer and PSC's somewhere in the town. The Rapid Reaction Police will have to come from Ferndown, 20 minutes away. Local police are concerned that back-up will be too far away. The CCTV, which is a very expensive piece of equipment, would also need moving elsewhere.

Mrs Moss suggested that when the area is developed it would be a good idea to have a police presence on the existing site. It was agreed a letter should be written to the Chief Executive of Christchurch Council and the Police Commissioner suggesting an office as part of the redevelopment of the current Police Station.

6 Tea and informal discussion

7 Druitt Hall Progress Report

The Chairman said in the past week a generic lease had been discussed with CBC. Liability for the roof is more than the CCA would like to take on so CBC would be asked to look after the roof of the building. The outside of the building would be the responsibility of the CCA – with the exception of the roof.

A new group called Rugby Tots have shown an interest in the Hall for one morning a week.

Before September 2014 the plan is to refurbish one of the toilets, decorate the entrance and main hall, sort out the lighting, relocate the fire extinguishers, sort out the heaters and electrical sockets.

Money would be requested from CBC to put the hall in a reasonable order. A target of 95% usage would match the usage of other halls in the Borough.

A paid person is required to work approximately 8 to 10 hours a week whose duties would involve checking the hall both morning and evening, ensure it is in good order and finally to promote the use of the building.

Mr White asked if the Council were leaning to being more helpful. The Council have said the hall is compliant with safety regulations and "fit for purpose". They have offered a three year lease to the CCA.

Many volunteer groups have been suggested such as Waitrose and local schools to help with the renovation and the Chairman asked for volunteers to come forward to help no matter however little time they could offer.

8 Correspondence

- A letter has been written to CBC regarding the parking notices have appeared in the town. It was stated that the money spent on this would be better spent on directional signs at Stour and Barrack Road, repairing pot holes etc.

Two replies have been received from Dorchester one of which stated a directional sign had been ordered and that the single yellow line restriction in Gleadowe Avenue is being monitored. It was agreed a further letter should be sent regarding Gleadowe Avenue. The second letter referred to the car park guidance scheme and explained the reasoning behind the signs. However both letters were felt to be unhelpful and unsatisfactory in their response.

It was agreed a further letter should be sent stating that it had been noted that during the recent Food Festival that spaces were shown on the signs however the car parks were full.

- A letter has also been sent to Mrs Ward at Dorchester County Council regarding the felled trees in Druitt Gardens and asking that Steve Marios be involved in the overseeing future tree work.

The response received stated that Dorset County Council had no jurisdiction over the trees. DCC do not have a mandate to look after these trees and could therefore not assist. Cllr Hall said the Dorset County Council had put covenants on these trees before the land was handed to the CBC.

9 Any other Business

- **Judicial Review** - Dr Alastair Somerville-Ford gave an update on the Judicial Review and passed out a paper.
- **ACCRA** - £20 has been requested from ACCRA to cover their travel expenses etc. This was unanimously agreed.
- **Flood Wardens** - Cllr Phipps has put out feelers regarding Flood Wardens. Cllr Bungay said this matter was ongoing and although it was a worthwhile task any Warden should investigate any liability or legality issues.
- **Replacement Trees** – Mrs Moss asked if the trees felled at Druitt Gardens had been replaced. A letter will be sent to the Council regarding this matter and stipulate mature trees be replanted.
- **Covenants on Druitt Gardens and Hall** – Two covenants exist on the Gardens with which the CBC have failed to comply. DCC say this is a “grey area”. Peter ... gave a short talk on the covenants and said it was no secret that the Leader of CBC was very keen to knock down Druitt Hall. Peter urged all the members to be extremely vigilant regarding defending Druitt Hall against any further action in this regard by CBC.

10 Meeting Dates

2 June, 7 July, no August meeting, 1st September.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.