

WEST CHRISTCHURCH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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Committee Meeting Minutes

Hall on the Hill: 4th May 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;
2. **Apologies for absence:** Maureen Biggin; Malcolm Green;
3. **Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of April 2016 were approved
4. **Treasurer's Report:** David Barnett reported excess expenditure over income of £645.95 with assets of £7,494.31. Some membership subscriptions should be banked in May
5. **Membership:** Sue Fotheringham reported that membership renewal packs have been distributed to collectors
6. **Reorganisation of Local Government:**
 - 6.1. The committee discussed the intemperate e-mail from CBC Chief Executive David McIntosh to ACRA regarding the WCRA April 2016 E-Newsletter and the ACRA reply. It was noted with approval that ACRA had said: *"Our members wish to remind you that it is our duty as Residents' Associations to ask questions and make such comments as we feel are in the best interests of our communities and those we represent in any manner that we see fit. We will continue to do that"*.
 - 6.2. David Barnett drew attention to the shortcomings and anomalies that existed both in and between various papers produced recently by DCC and CBC. He particularly drew attention to the paper *"Exploring future government structures – the intangible costs and benefits of possible unitary authorities"* presented to the CBC Scrutiny and Policy Review Committee meeting of 28th April 2016. Amongst many other points the committee particularly noted that at para 2.1 the paper indicated that in December 2015 at Full Council **Members authorised** the commissioning of Local Partnerships to examine the financial implications for future local government in Poole, Bournemouth and Dorset.
 - 6.3. The committee then discussed the actions of Councillor David Jones at the meeting of the CBC Scrutiny and Policy Review Committee meeting of 28th April 2016 and the resulting request for an analysis of likely functions to be undertaken by a future Christchurch Council. *It was agreed that we would participate in this exercise.*
 - 6.4. Finally the committee undertook to examine and review the non-financial content of the *"high level financial review"* as soon as it is to hand
7. **ACRA:** noted the ACRA sub-group that will consider Local Government reorganisation met on 14th April
8. **New School at Marsh Lane:** no new developments

9. **Hall on the Hill:** noted that the floor has been refurbished. The fire exit risk posed by the projector screen when it is lowered and obstructs the rear fire exit was again mentioned as the danger had been quite apparent at the April public meeting.
10. **Planning Issues:** no report
11. **St Catherine's Hill Lane:** Chris Gordon reported ongoing issues involving a caravan and various vehicles parked at the junction of St Catherine's Hill Lane and Marsh Lane. Local Councillors, DVLA and local police have all been informed but no action has resulted. *It was agreed that* Chris Gordon will draft a letter on behalf of WCRA
12. **WCRA Spring Meeting:** all agreed this was a very good meeting with an excellent presentation from CBC Strategic Director Dave Barnes. It was noted that a broader age range of WCRA members had attended and that was welcomed
13. **ACRA Hustings for election of Dorset PCC:** this was also adjudged a good meeting which had certainly enabled attendees to form a view of the relative merit of the four candidates
14. **Defibrillators:** Sue Fotheringham reported that in her experience giving training in the use of modern defibrillators is not only unnecessary but can be counterproductive. If members of the public believe that training is required they will avoid using the equipment in the belief that they do not have the skills. In fact the equipment is designed to be used by anybody without prior training. It was noted that this was commented on in the recent edition of the Courier regarding the new defibrillator in Burton
15. The meeting closed at 9.15pm. Next formal committee meeting is on **Wednesday 1st June 2016 at 7.30pm.**