

WEST CHRISTCHURCH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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Committee Meeting Minutes

St Catherine's Hill: 1st March 2017 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; 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:** John Cooper
3. **Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of February 2017 were approved
4. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - 4.1. David Barnett reported excess expenditure over income of £454.64 at end February 2017 with assets of £7749.40
 - 4.2. It was noted that a refund would be made to us in respect of the defibrillator purchased for the Hall on the Hill. It was agreed that there was no need for the Treasurer to accrue this small credit
5. **Membership:**
 - 5.1. Noted that the collectors control sheets have been printed
 - 5.2. Noted that the non-e-mail newsletter has been drafted and approved
 - 5.3. Jim Biggin confirmed that the non-e-mail newsletters will be printed on or around 10th March and delivered to Sue Fotheringham by 14th March for distribution
6. **ACRA:** David Barnett confirmed that the ACRA AGM will be held on 14th March. Jim Biggin confirmed that after 13 years he is standing down as both Chairman and Treasurer, partly on health grounds. The committee discussed its attitude to ACRA and the role that ACRA might play in the future
7. **Public Meeting – Spring 2017:** noted that the posters have been drafted and approved. Jim Biggin will have them printed and Malcolm Green will distribute them. It was suggested that Robin Harley of CBC could be asked to give a verbal update on the implementation of the St Catherine's Hill management plan.
8. **Hall on the Hill:** noted that John Spittle has taken over as Chairman and that Sue Spittle is now Treasurer. The new keypad entry system was discussed. David Barnett described the problems it had created for the French Class and the Dance Group that were using the Hall earlier that day. It was predicted that large groups such as the WI would be caused considerable problems. The committee wondered why regular customers had not been consulted about this change and if it might have been better to put the keypads on the toilet doors. Malcolm Green undertook to talk to the Hall management.
9. **Friends of St Catherine's Hill:** no report

10. Reorganisation of Local Government:

- 10.1.** Jim Biggin reminded the committee that alone in Dorset only the two smallest Dorset Councils, Christchurch and Purbeck, along with East Dorset had voted for “no change” despite considerable evidence that such a solution is politically and economically unviable and does not find great favour with either the public or business. It also isolates Christchurch, which is a huge strategic mistake. In February, the committee had unanimously decided that such a situation is not in the best interest of local Council Tax payers (our members) and that WCRA should write to Councillor Robert Gould, Leader of DCC, dissociating ourselves from the decision taken by Christchurch Council and offering our support for an approach to the Minister by DCC along with Bournemouth, Poole and the other assenting Councils with a view to implementing the two Unitary Authorities solution in Dorset
- 10.2.** The letter to DCC Council Leader Robert Gould had been reproduced in the February e-newsletter and Jim Biggin reported that it had caused considerably less feedback than other issues such as Marsh Lane School and the offshore windfarm. Fewer than 20 comments had been received evenly split between critical and approving. However, some of the points raised by members were of general interest and the committee decided to publish the main criticisms and points of approval in the March e-newsletter
- 10.3.** Jim Biggin reported that CBC Council had in February discussed entering a strategic administrative alliance with Purbeck, the smallest of Dorset’s Councils. The committee was puzzled by this potential deployment of scarce and expensive resource on a project that would be likely to produce minimal productivity gains. It was further noted that Purbeck Council had subsequently announced that if the Secretary of State decided to implement the proposed two-unitary structure for Dorset, then it would revisit its vote against.

11. The meeting closed at 9.00pm. Next meeting Wednesday 5th April 2017