

FRIARS CLIFF RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING

Minutes of Meeting held on 5 December 2024 at 7 pm Highcliffe Sailing Club

Present: Steve Alves, Chairman
Paul De Jonghe, Vice Chair & Forum Editor
Louise Heybourne, Secretary & Environmental Representative
Social Secretary, Sarah Luder
Charles Newman, New Member
Cllr Paul Hilliard, BCP
Cllr Stuart Perry, CTC

Apologies: Kevan Ward, Web Master
Meg Ward, Membership Secretary
Peter Skeggs, Treasurer
Sarah Webb, Head Road Representative

Guests: Claire Seymour, BCP Lead Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Team
Ed Turner, Landlord of Haven House Inn & Café, Mudeford Quay

Introductions from the Chairman:

Welcomed residents, explained the different seating format, and to let Committee know if like arrangement or prefer rows. Agenda displayed electronically.

1.0 Councillor Update:

- 1.1 Cllr Stuart Perry
Blue Flag – do residents wish to have them for the local beach? Cost £1,000 per flag. Usually funded by businesses and Christchurch Town Council has to respond to BCP by Monday.
- 1.2 Cllr Paul, Hilliard, BCP
Civic Offices - finally with an agent to sell, awaiting offers to be analysed, bids closed on 29 Nov. BCP had a consultation on the budget and in early January there will be a meeting to see where the budgets are going and to prepare us for cuts in services.

Live consultation online is about Adult Social Care – BCP working with GPs and hospital residents to look at what is needed. Advised all residents to review and comment.

Government have been talking about devolution at strategic level, which is more for infrastructure and larger scale housing schemes. It will give more control to devolved authority (with Mayor model or not). Does BCP want to go alone or potentially with Dorset or Somerset and Wiltshire. We need 500,000 population but have 400,000.

Rotary living advent calendar every night 6 pm and Christchurch Priory have lots of events for Christmas.

2.0 Guest Speaker – Claire Seymour, Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Team Lead for BCP Council

Worked in Community Safety for 15 years. At BCP in Public Protection department with 39 staff, from fly tipping to public health issues. Claire manages ASB officers, one Christchurch, one

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Bournemouth & one for Poole, works with all partners, particularly the police. Joint working with Police and Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) officer in Christchurch, employed by Local Authority and deals with ASB and disorder issues where police do not have capacity to do so. Jen has done some wonderful work in Christchurch, it is demand led, and her salary paid by Town Council.

Lots of tools and powers to deal with ASB injunctions, Community protection notices (CPN), Public space protection orders (PSPO), Closure Order on properties (rare in our area). The government are exploring new options called Respect Orders. Frontline officers have to consider what can and can't be done within the realms of the law with regard to ASB. What is the evidence, what is the impact on the community?

With reference to recent FCRA Unauthorised Encampment at Steamer Point the turnaround was 72 hours. Some areas have dedicated sites for those who travel. Likelihood it could happen again. Communication is critical and when ASB team are informed of an unauthorised encampment the path team is sent to attend do a needs assessment (no. of children, people, sanitation, well-being, etc), they work with ASB team and complete paperwork which is signed off by the Chief Inspector and once done they are moved on. There is an Encampment inbox for councillors so they can inform the ASB team and respond back to councillors.

If there are less than 6 vehicles involved is there anything the ASB team can do? Sometimes there's forcing entry so damage, breaking and entry, therefore there is criminal damage. There may be public health related issues with waste so that is important with the community and environment so that is substantial. On occasion there have been difficulties with highways and that is much more difficult, no ASB or significant impact, so that takes a lot longer to resolve. Very difficult about the right to roam, unless someone causing nuisance or stress which is the threshold for the ASB team to become involved. Out of 41 encampments there were 9 repeaters. There is an assessment for every case.

With ASB fires on beaches or loud noise who does it get reported to? Report to police first. Clare is going to send a document to Cllr Hilliard to clarify how and what to report. Evidence is needed, photos are useful. Claire looking into having signs to ensure PSPO is enforceable in their seasonal planning. *Post meeting note – There are no PSPO's in our area.*

ASB with regard to motorbikes is a police matter, report to police. The more reports received the more resource is put into an area. If they identify who that person is causing nuisance and noise, alarm or distress then ASB can do something such as an injunction. Has to be a criminal investigation first. The more information in a report, such as time and as much detail is helpful. ASB reporting is different to unauthorised encampment, which takes one report to start process.

Cllr Hilliard mentioned BCP Local Plan has designated an area for a transit site over towards Branksome. In other areas across UK there is a static site to unauthorised encampment to go to and should reduce encampment significantly.

Following on from recent cut gate lock at Steamer Point, if we see damaged bollards or bunds getting lowered or damaged then report it, as it enables support from BCP ASB team to build community resilience.

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3.0 Action Tracker:

Available on the FCRA website is the Action Tracker using a Red, Amber, Green (RAG) status system, where items are prioritised as P1 (red), P2 (amber) and P3 (Green). Actions presented at the meeting will be Priority 1.

ITEM	ISSUE	NOTE
1. Beach Safety	Speeding craft inside yellow buoys near swimmers	BCP zoning area - ongoing hope to trial, change of rules
2. Speeding Along Bure Lane	Need to reduce speeding	Grant failed as had ongoing costs
3. Seaway Avenue/Penny Lane	Vehicles parking on pavement blocking bend to car park - no loading zone	Remove rusty gate, barrier re-sited
4. ASB	Anywhere in FCRA	Need to report all instances & include FCRA so can challenge policing

Item 1: Seafront Services are hoping to get municipal port status for Christchurch to change rules quickly.

Item 2: Suggestion of Speed Watch Group. A few neighbours need to get together, register on website and do training.

Item 3: Cllr Hilliard re road safety issue – lot of gates needing repair, Avon Beach, Southcliffe Road, procurement takes 3 months and we may have an update in the Spring.

Item 4: ASB Neighbourhood Watch Scheme resident asking is anyone interested? Good idea. Register for Dorset Alerts which keeps residents aware of scam alerts and FCRA can communicate.

Resident raised concern re issue with cycling on promenade. Cllr Hilliard responded that byelaw is unenforceable. Can the no cycling signs being repainted? **ACTION PH**

New Groynes, 4 are not painted and pose a safety risk to swimmers from exposed rock. **ACTION PH**

4.0 Plan for Future:

- Survey showed residents happy with most of our operation and duties within the Committee
- Communication - continue with website, Facebook, forum and our news Emails
- Subs - Increase to £5 per household
A resident challenged subs increase which has not been imposed on residents but was outcome of the FCRA survey responses. Other residents confirmed £5 is good value.
- Possible changes to Committee
 - Editor of Forum : will be Charles
 - Advertising : Paul will focus on this
 - Treasurer : Peter Skeggs tendered his resignation

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Peter has done a good job and the Committee acknowledged all his hard work and he has offered to do a handover and support the new Treasurer.

- Online subs collection has been trialed by the Committee. A Direct Debit system rather than collecting cash. The cost to the association is £150 per annum approx. and will enable data collection for missing houses and email addresses. We will announce at AGM on 6 March.

Community Award - Sara Luder asked for residents to send in a nomination for someone in the community that could receive recognition as a person who goes that extra step to make our area a greater place to live, or does something to make a difference. Please email your nomination of who and why to the EnquiriesFCRA@gmail.com by 15 February. The Award will be announced at the AGM.

Carol Singing planned for Sat 14 December but may have to change the date or have to be cancelled and will be dependent on weather. Money raised is donated to Macmillan.

Finance – Receipts = £6,000, Payments = £5,000 (with pending transactions until month end), over £19,000 in bank and £10,000 in savings account earning interest.

Compliments - Residents commented on Forum being best in area.

Volunteers - Road Representatives required for Avon Run and a short section of Bure Lane Road. A resident enquired about the FCRA catchment area, which was explained as being dynamic and dependent on having road members and road wardens.

Next Guest Speaker - John Ward ex-Chairman. Fund Raising for All Saints Church – Sally & Paul Clifford, how they can expand their fund raising for extras?

Interactive Session

Where everyone has a chance to talk and express anything for discussion, for example membership, footprint (size of FCRA area), social events, BCP/Councillor engagement, communication or environmental engagement.

Noisy Lobster – firework night problem in terms of cars parked across peoples drives, on verges, fireworks noisy, not regulated at all. Is the NL going to continue with that?

Cllr Hilliard responded that it did seem to be last minute, unregulated and somehow got the go-ahead. The Learning is NL need to give plenty of weeks/months' notice and a plan for parking. Had a Risk Assessment been undertaken? Resident suggested the opening of Southcliffe car park might help as the gates were shut.

Regents Centre – The New Board of Trustees are unaware of the history of the community hub aspect, run by volunteers. The coffee bar will be closed to the general public and Monday Market Traders and will only open to patrons half an hour before a performance. Anne Jacobs, a volunteer since 1982 also confirmed the Regent Centre Museum has been closed and the stuff dumped. People have always had access to the centre and local Artists display their paintings for public to view. Requesting support to make local voices heard and keep the Regent Centre Coffee Bar & Museum open to all and save the documents and historical archives.

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Beach – looks shabby, do we get our fair share of money spent on the beach maintenance compared to Bournemouth? Cllr Paul Hilliard thinks we do. Now Hengistbury Head long groyne has been extended and repaired next year will be good to see movement of waterflow and sand flow and the feedback from fishermen and sailing club.

Erosion – There are very noticeable exposed concrete structures along Friars Cliff beach with excessive erosion and potential risk of collapse to the promenade due to the sand being drawn out from underneath by wave action, abrasion and environmental factors. The annual replenishment of sand should continue to be undertaken, a point to raise now rather than in 2 years' time.

Community Government Review 2018 aligned with Christchurch Town Council rather than Highcliffe Parish and with BCP deadline of 19 January why can't our ward have a parish councillor and have £100,000? The precept went up 54% this year gone up 150% since council formed 2019/2020. The resident raising the matter was asked to put points to Committee/Councillor.

Blue Flag – Christchurch Town Council will make decision to fund £2,200 or not – residents wanted to know is it just a flag, is there criteria to be met? Cllr Perry could only confirm that commercial funders had pulled out and the consultant asked CTC to fund with a short deadline response by Monday. Residents did not wish to vote without more information.

Haven House – Ed introduced himself and if anyone would like to ask questions with regard to the Planning Application for an extensions to the Sundowner Terrace at the rear of the premises, with the addition of a retractable roof, plus a store room around the side.

Sewage – Discussion about social media being misreported with pictures supposedly taken on 18 August and after research, determined no sewage discharge took place on that date. There had been a small discharge 4 days previously and was most likely phaeocystis, a non-toxic marine algae of brown liquid appearance, foam on the water surface and smells of rotten eggs. Phaeocystis is encouraged to grow by phosphates and nitrates, partly from the sewage treatment process but mainly from the agricultural slurry process, where fertiliser puts nitrates into the soil within the catchment area and when heavy rain occurs, washes the fertiliser off the surface of fields, increasing the phosphate levels in the surface water. Raw sewage would not be in the position portrayed in the picture simply because of the River flow.

Looking at the picture showing the brown sewage, it does not resemble that but is likely to be silt and there is also significant colour enhancement. We need to look closely for evidence and hard facts. The video was posted by a councillor and the photo posted on Highcliffe Sailing App group.

Christchurch Harbour and Marine Society (CHAMS) recently held meeting at Stewarts campaigning about harbour pollution of the Avon and Stour Rivers. FCRA wrote to CHAMS in support of their petition to make Christchurch Harbour a protected area, the same as Poole Harbour.

Wessex Water has a mechanical monitoring sensor on every Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) that report when outlets are opened. Matt Wheeldon, the Director of Infrastructure Development, had previously talked about an AI analyses point that monitors in real-time the quality of water and was currently being trialled in the Poole area, and will eventually be rolled out across the whole area.

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The Surfers Against Sewage App informs where sewage discharges into the sea. This afternoon it rained and at 3 pm the app showed a sewage pollution alert at Christchurch Avon Beach, this was not true. There was a small outfall between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. from the Stony Lane Water Treatment Plant and another near Holdenhurst. Generally those discharges are the surface water that runs when there is heavy rain, fills up the various tanks that are combined sewage outfalls and the top surface of liquid overflows and that discharged for 2.5 hours this morning. The Wessex Water mechanical monitors display accurate information on their website of the opening and closing of every single discharge. That is almost certainly surface water discharged and a tiny amount of sewage into the rivers Stour & Avon, from high tide to low tide, flowing out through the expanse of Christchurch Harbour via the run and into the sea. Signs of faeces on our beaches marked with a cross for 48 hrs does not necessarily mean the year round swimmers, or people in the sauna at the Noisy Lobster, are swimming in raw sewage. Local swimmers may follow the 3 tides rule before it's safe to swim, which would mean the app is a useful warning after heavy rainfall.

It is important to difference between faecal contaminants (E.coli etc) and phosphates (causes Phaeocystis) brown slurry often mistaken for sewage. Many different sources of contaminant.

The Environment Agency only monitors water quality in the summer months. The person who monitors the water takes a sample once a week at 10 a.m. There is a need year round testing.

Meeting Closed at 9 p.m.