

# **BRANKSOME PARK AND CANFORD CLIFFS**

## **RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

### **MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023**

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming those present, including our guest speakers, Sir Robert Syms MP, and David Sidwick, Police Crime Commissioner for Dorset. A Welcome also for Cllr May Haines and Cllr Mohan Yengar, Ward Councillors for our area.

#### **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Roger Allen and Dr. Joy Standeven.

#### **Minutes of the last AGM, May 14, 2022**

These minutes were approved. Proposed by Andrew Barnett and seconded by Dawn Goodson.

#### **Chairmans' Report**

As Acting Chairman, Dugald Eadie presented his report.

Positions on the Executive Committee are vacant at the moment, and finding new people to volunteer has not been easy. More of that later.

DE was pleased to report things seem to have got back to some form of normality.

There have been the normal amount of Planning problems in Conservation Areas, but these will be detailed at our next monthly meeting and on the Planning Report which is published on the website. DE is pleased by the amount of support we have had from both the Planning Department at BCP and the Inspectorate. The Conservation Area Planning rules are designed to protect our environment – the woods, sylvan environment and it is annoying when developers push to have a higher and higher density of buildings.

Last year we had Drew Mellor, Leader of the Council as our guest speaker and he was full of optimism. DE went on to say he would like the Council to return to the real world, and not pursue the ideas of financial engineering. Drew Mellor told last year's meeting about his Beach Hut Plan. Fortunately that never came to fruition and DE would like BCP to return to their business of running the Council and stay away from the world of "fantasy".

The Chairman thanked the Committee members and also thanked our Councillors for their continued support.

In the last magazine people will have seen that John Sprackling is resigning as President. He has done wonderful work for the Association in his role of Chairman for 13 years and President for 5 years. John will now stay in the background but continue to help us. DE thanked JS and asked those present to show their appreciation. DE will continue to act as Chairman for the rest of his time in Poole, but for personal reasons will move to Stratford-upon-Avon to be close to his son later this year, and so a replacement Chairman will need to be found.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Jackie Heap the Hon. Treasurer then gave a report of the Assn's finances.

The Association's finances remain strong and at the end of December 22 we had £42,865 in the Assn's bank account. The Accounts are detailed on the reverse of the Agenda. The increase in costs over the year is accounted for by the Assn. resuming monthly meetings and the AGM. The cost of the magazine has gone up, but thanks to John Gunton's efforts with selling advertising space which makes a huge contribution towards these costs the Assn. does not need to fund the whole cost of the magazine.

JH concluded by thanking Schofields for auditing the accounts free of charge.

A member asked JH what the money in the account is used for. JH replied that we like to keep a reserve fund as we never know what may transpire and it is needed. The member then asked exactly what may this be needed for. DE answered that the money is spent on local projects, eg helping to finance fighting a Planning Application to demolish a house on Spencer Road, and build a block of flats on the land. We made a donation to Canford Cliffs Land Society to organise Christmas Lights in Haven Road, we offered to give money to the Friends of Canford Cliffs Library to build their extension. We sometimes need to seek legal advice, as we did over BCP's Beach Hut Plan. The money is spent on helping local projects to meet the objectives of the Assn. He went on to say that our Constitution states that should the Assn. have to close down, the balance would be distributed to a charity chosen at an EGM. JH added that if we had no advertising in the magazine, the whole cost would need to come out of the Assn's reserves.

### **APPOINTMENT OF SCHOFIELDS**

Schofields have agreed to continue to audit the accounts free of charge. The Chairman asked for a show of hands to approve this. Schofields were duly approved.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

There will be a block vote to approve of these Committee members.

The position of Chairman is vacant. The Executive Committee will discuss with any volunteers for this position. DE is willing to continue as Acting Chairman so long as he is here, which he expects to be about 6 months.

DE then introduced each present member of the Committee.

Hon. Treasurer	Jackie Heap.
Membership Secretary	Mike Parkin. He has also agreed to being the Warden Co-ordinator.
Planning Officer	Dugald Eadie. A result of the article in the magazine, DE was approached by a young man who has agreed to take on the role of Planning Officer. His name is John Harkness, he is an architect who recently moved into this area. The Chairman asked John to stand, whereupon John got a loud applause from the members. DE will now begin to hand over the role of Planning Officer to JH.
Hon. Secretary	Carol Parkin.
Magazine Editor	John Gunton. Roger Allen the previous Advertising Manager retired during covid, and JG has kindly stepped in and agreed to take on these duties.
Special Projects Coordinator	Vicky Moss, who is today looking after the refreshments.
Technical Support	This is a new position which Andrew Barnett has kindly agreed to do. Previously JH looked after the membership Spread Sheets. The Spread Sheets are rather complicated and AB has agreed to handle this, along with other technical situations.

DE then asked for agreement to these positions. This was carried unanimously.

John Gunton wished to extend thanks to Andrew Carswell, Honorary Solicitor who is available for giving BPC CRA legal advice.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Beach Road Carpark. Roy Pointer wished to ascertain the membership's feeling on this.

RP then gave an update on BCP's latest plans for the car park. It has been seen as an important facility near the beach, with around 360 parking spaces. Unfortunately it has been neglected, with a poor surface, rubbish and inadequate signage from the main road. BCP have estimated that it would cost around £40,000 to bring it up to standard.

Its future has been discussed over the last twenty years, but it is protected by ancient covenants that severely restrict any development.

Poole Council developed a plan for 50 to 70 apartments in 2017, leading to many objections resulting in the withdrawal of its application to overturn the covenants and compensation being paid to objectors,

BCP Council, through its own development company, Future Places Limited, now want to sell off and redevelop three sites it considers surplus to requirements,

including Poole Civic Centre, Christchurch Civic Centre and a significant part of Beach Road Carpark. It planned to consult publically following a notice in the local paper on a process of Appropriation of the site as surplus to requirements and enabling it to be sold and developed. This would overcome the Covenants Consultation and is likely in the Autumn this year. A preliminary design brief has already been accepted by the Cabinet. Again this envisages a large apartment block at the front of the site.

The Chairman took a show of hands which indicated that the majority of attendees were against the development. Steps will now be taken to object to the Appropriation and development of the site.

A member asked what would happen to the Harbour Heights and the Haven hotels. Cllr.MH answered that the Applications had still not been registered.

### **GUEST SPEAKER – DAVID SIDWICK, Dorset Police Crime Commissioner**

Mr. Sidwick thanked the Association for the opportunity to talk to the residents. He had spent three years before being elected to try to ascertain what the people of Dorset wanted from their police. He has now put these things into operation. There are six priorities – Cut crime and anti social behaviour, Make policing more visible and connected, Fight violent crime, Fight rural crime, Put victims and communities first, Make every penny count. He then went on to explain how these priorities had been tackled and the situation one year on.

If you wish to read the full presentation please copy the web address below into your browser

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1?ui=2&ik=8ceacd6a3a&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1764262693399381284&th=187beb927a8b4524&view=att&disp=inline>

The Chairman thanked David Sidwick for his interesting talk on how Dorset police are now progressing.

### **GUEST SPEAKER – SIR ROBERT SYMS MP**

The Chairman then handed over to the second guest speaker, Sir Robert Syms MP. Sir Robert thanked the PCC and said that he was doing a good job.

Government is slowly returning to normal. A lot of the world problems have been caused by Covid. Things are now getting better but he thinks it will take a while. He invited questions from the attendees. The Chairman asked his opinion on the situation with Dominic Raab. Sir Robert replied that Mr. Raab was not the easiest person to work with. However, the threshold for bullying is now more robust than it was in the 70's and 80's. The report exonerated Mr. Raab on most things, but Sir Robert thinks that there were one or two occasions when Mr. Rabb crossed the line.

There was then a question about the amount of potholes, to which Sir Robert replied that the Government had given millions of pounds to local councils to deal with this problem. Cllr. Haines interspersed by saying that BPC received £850,000.

There was then a request from Pat Halliday to say a few words on behalf of Neighbourhood Watch.

PH asked everybody to be aware of possible crime in the area. Neighbourhood Watch is still working for the area, even though things were quiet over Covid.

On **MAY 13, 2023** Neighbourhood Watch will present The Big Community Revival and if you want to know what's going on in this area please come along and drop in, as big organisations, charities etc. will have stands with information.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 11.55 and invited all those attending to stay for refreshments, a drink of wine or soft drink.

**THE NEXT MONTHLY MEETING OF BPC CRA WILL BE HELD AT 7:30 PM on WEDNESDAY 10 MAY 23 IN THE COMMITTEE ROOMS AT ST. ALDHEMS ON LINDSAY ROAD.**