

# Minutes

**BPCCRA Open Meeting** Wednesday, 9 October, 7.30pm Committee Room, St Aldhelm's Church, Lindsay Road

Present:

Peter Schroeder – Chairman (PS)  
John Gunton – Magazine Editor (JG)  
Andrea Charman – Secretary (AC)

Stanley Peters – Treasurer (SP)  
Vicky Moss – Special Projects (VM)  
Roy Pointer - Planning Matters (RP)

*Coffee & Tea was available on arrival*

1) **Welcome & Apologies** (PS) called meeting to order at 7.33 meeting welcoming all attendees. Apologies were noted from John Challoner, Gavin Wright, Mike & Carol Parkin, John Harkness Chair (PS) expressed his thanks to Secretary, new Membership Secretary, working remotely, John Gunton, John Sprackling, and Roy Poiter, noting the latter's excellence at questioning. It was also requested that the Secretary (AC) is copied into Apologies in the accepted manner to streamline procedures.

2) **General Planning Update - Car Parks, Planning Issues, AOI** It was noted that BRCP has moved from councillors to officer action. (RP) question was rejected but we may have grounds for appeal. Council failed to give suitable reasons for withholding the asking price for the property. There is an assumption that Covenant Holders are pursuing their interests; reminders are in process (RP) with a write-up in P&C. (SP) John Sprackling noted the project has to go to Cabinet again. The Chair (PS) took up Planning Issues in the absence of (JH) who provided a written summary update. (attached).

**717 Spencer Road:** appeal on refusal of one year ago prompted a re-application which Ken Park (engaged expert) and others do not consider meets the refusal objections. The Treasurer (SP) noted it had been agreed that BPCCRA contribute to expert fees; (PS), Chair gave the go-ahead, noting this as an important issue in a conservation area, with the possibility of setting a precedent going forward.

**6 Burton Road:** June 11 application submitted (after various earlier applications), an improvement on earlier applications. Comments from the floor suggested this might progress to 7 floors of flats.

**4 Burton Road:** (RP) suggested this needs to be monitored. Various attendees also concurred.

**Sandbanks, Haven, Harbour Heights** development was also raised as in need of attention. (PS) will write an update in November's Newsletter.

Some general discussion ensued, concluding with a question from the floor around Tree Work Applications and whether BPCCRA monitors this? (PS) confirmed (JH) does and will himself progress this issue.

3) **Local Amenity Support & Ecological Issues** (VM) summarised recent Speed Watch activities, noting the existence of 88 active groups across the county. A recent meeting of those involved reported a 70% decrease in deaths on Dorset roads, in the

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last 20 years. 2010 saw the start of Community Speed Watch, prompting a significant fatality drop. (VM) reconfirmed earlier reports of driver abuse which has in turn prompted limited police presence/back-up.

The Association is not about planning and resident safety matters alone. (PS) The decay in the area is increasingly evident; there is a need to 'push' the Council to acknowledge this and conserve key assets in all 3 areas – Poole, Bournemouth, Christchurch. The argument is always funding. Comments from the floor ensued with people attesting to being stone-walled by the Council when they have documented evidenced concerns. The reduction from 25% of required funding to 15% in instances where a neighbourhood has no documented plan, was raised. (PS) noted the group of 4 excellent volunteers in Pinecliff Gardens who receive no Council support. Comments about the associated zigzag path to the seafront, now in a dangerous state, were noted. (JG) warned any complaints might result in its closure by the Council. Chair (PS) encouraged the floor to provide a proposal for gravel supply – not just plants – with an attendee suggesting the introduction of a relative (in the business) who could assist. Action (VM?). (RP) mentioned the previously suggested plaque seeking volunteers and (AC) mentioned a scout initiative to remove litter. (SP) suggested a contribution of £1 per bag. Floor concurred. (AC) to follow up.

Fly Tipping is another huge issue. Again, lively conversation. Christine Harrington complained by email to the Council about this and was told the latter can do nothing. A council employee was verbally abusive; action required. (PS) will forward to John Challoner plus write to Echo.

**4) Local Officials & Ward Councillor Input** (PS) noted John Challoner is chasing the Refuge issue as well as fly tipping.

John Sprackling will comment on the CC extension of parking metres in the next Newsletter with its interference in the use of the Library.

**5) Issues from the Floor** (SP) requested all present be aware that membership DDs need to change from Santander to Barclays as the Association wants to close the Santander account. This is part of the rationalisation process underway, to make life easier for officers and to professionalise proceedings. Account numbers can be found on the website.

Number 50 bus issue was presented to the group by a resident who had already raised this by email pre-meeting. In summer there are 2 buses an hour. Demand is high so it is often necessary for residents to go the Bournemouth Station to secure a seat to Swanage. The issue is systemic, a lack of buses and drivers, a service run commercially without subsidy. The Council can do nothing. General discussion resulted in the suggestion (VM) for people to write to Neil Duncan-Jordan MP who has an active interest in local bus services. (JG) reminded people that there is always the 40 bus from Poole.

(JG) commented that Rockwater seems to have subsided as a key issue. He would like to put another article on this in P&C and requested views.

Blocked drains were raised as an increasing problem – pine needles, tree debris... Discussion confirmed this is much more than an unblocking issue requiring a planned approach to deteriorating infrastructure. (PS) suggested the Agency in the Council is the first port of call.

(RP) noted the demise of the Council's Future Places Firm with a loss of £6 million of taxpayer money. Needs further conversation.

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6) **AOB** (JG) announced an Opera Evening at All Saints Church on October 24 @ 7pm.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm

The next Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for November 13

**Next Open Meeting:** December 11 @ 7.30pm - followed by wine and nibbles

Peter Schroeder

*Peter Schroeder*

Chair

Tel: 01202 701430