

BPCCRA Open Meeting December 11, 2024, St Aldhelm's Church

at 7.30pm

MINUTES

Present:

Peter Schroeder-Chairman (PS), Stanley Peters -Treasurer (SP), Vicky Moss (VM) – Special Projects, John Harkness-Planning (JH), Andrea Charman-Secretary (AC), John Gunton- Magazine Editor (JG), John Sprackling – Former Chair (JS), 24 members

1. **Welcome & Apologies for Absence** Meeting opened at 7.40pm. The Chair (PS) welcomed attendees to the meeting and to Christmas drinks that will follow. Apologies were noted from both Councillors, Pamela Carvell, Roy Pointer and 3 other members.
2. **Chairman's Business**
 - a. John Gunton has found a replacement for himself as Editor of Pines & Chines. Chair (PS) confirmed that John will retain his role as Advertising Manager (request for confirmation from floor).
 - b. Chair (PS) requested we record a formal vote of thanks to our Ward Councillors. Thanks to combined efforts Branksome Chine is being tidied up. This is well highlighted in Pines and Chines. In answer to a question from the floor around what precisely has been achieved, it was noted the stream has been cleaned by the Parks and Open Spaces Department; manpower is extremely limited. New members - Gill and Mark Kedgley – noted their attendance at the meeting was motivated by the idea of establishing a taskforce to undertake the Chine maintenance. It was noted that 3rd party insurance is in place so the Chair (PS) suggested this should be on the February Open Meeting Agenda. Currently, our only maintenance project is Pine Cliff Gardens.
 - c. (PS) reported that on a handover meeting with Jackie Heap that morning meeting (Dec 13) with other Executive Committee Members, spread sheet issues were raised. Privacy issues were revisited to ensure these are emphasised as we record member details. Additionally, spread sheet print needs to be enlarged as it is almost unreadable.
 - d. Update on Beach Road Carpark. BCP will not reveal the true value they place on the site. BPCCRA are appealing nationally. This should enable us to know how much money is available for the other car park. The Committee will keep members informed on updates.
 - e. The issue of Town Councils. Should Poole have a Town Council (TC)? This is currently being asked so BPCCRA would like to invite someone from Christchurch to inform us on this...to give us a view of having a council which sits under the local council. A Poole TC and the associated legal status would offer grant possibilities, green spaces opportunities /responsibilities and associated monies. Chair (PS) noted his personal experience (mixed) in Bath where councillors were elected for the 2 councils.
 - f. Number 50 Bus Service – the association has been bombarded with challenges about the service. Our new MP, Neil Duncan-Jordan has taken this on and achieved the deployment of extra buses and drivers. Figures on the bus usage are available on his website.
 - g. Neighbourhood Plan Issue. This sets out what a given neighbourhood aspires to on various issues and is submitted (in an advisory context) to the local council. It was noted the Dorset Lakes Association is in the process of working on such a plan. John Sprackling commented that this requires a lot of work with no guaranteed returns. CIL money is another issue in need of attention. TBA
 - h. Wardens - The Chair (PS) asked John Sprackling for an update and available data on Wardens so that we can define the role, responsibilities and areas covered more professionally. (JS) noted that Wardens became responsible for the collection of subscription monies and as a result a number resigned. (JS) will forward (AC) the list of Wardens. The Treasurer, (SP), noted that the association has now closed the Santander account but have

subscriptions that we cannot link to a person. These will be in the accounts as voluntary donations.

3. **Planning Matters – presented by (JH)** Some decisions have been made recently but many are still outstanding. John (JH) focused on key decisions in his report, noting a balance must be struck between conservation and development. A Neighbourhood Plan would certainly assist this. (ref: earlier Chair’s remarks on this.) It was noted that November saw a lot of engagement about developments in general which is very encouraging as people are clearly taking an interest. There have been encouraging retrofits rather than demolition. Further, there is building going on without planning permission so red flags have alerted the council to this. The question of Spencer Road was raised from the floor (SP), with the Chair (PS) noting that further objections have been raised so it may go to appeal.
4. **Ward Councillor Matters – Poole Town Council Proposals.** Chair (PS) handled this item in the absence of the 2 Councillors. He noted again that the question of a Poole Town Council has been raised formally. BPC CRA would like to invite someone from Christchurch to inform us on the pros and cons of having a Town Council which sits under the local council. (see 2e above)
5. **Road Safety Matters** (VM) briefly updated the meeting, restating the nightmare presented by Pinecliff Road. Opportunities for walking safely around our area are narrowing. Pedestrian Crossings are expensive and do not solve the speeding issues that abound. It was noted that around £200k is required for a new crossing. Deaths have come down, but this may be at the cost of people walking or cycling (yet to be analysed). Chair (PS) noted our Councillors and MP are in support of (VM) and our collective concerns. (JG) noted that a discussion is required on the response received to our report. Policy inconsistencies have emerged. Comments from another Speed Watch team noted, on disproportionate spending on speed bumps in Talbot Woods 20-mile limit. Funding appears to have come from the Transforming Cities Fund. (TBI)
6. **AOB** From the floor..
 - i) Big Pine Trees issue...8 Park Manor...trees are dead or dying but a tree specialist assessment is required (requested by owner) for action. Owner is not compliant so the issue of what can be done was raised.
 - ii) Request from the floor for the Chair (PS) to continue in post for a further year. Chair (PS) responded positively while noting his intention to nominate a VC (current secretary (AC), at the 2025 AGM.

The meeting closed at 8.43.

Conversation continued over mulled wine and seasonal refreshments.

Date of next meeting – February 11, 2025, at 7.30pm

Andrea Charman. Secretary

Date: December 17 2024

Approved:

Date: