

Minutes

BPCCRA Open Meeting Tuesday, 14 February, 7.30pm Committee Rooms. Aldhelm's Church, Lindsay Road

Present:

Andrea Charman – Secretary & VC (AC)	Annabel Stemp – Magazine Editor (AS)
John Harkness – Planning (JH)	John Gunton-Magazine (JG)
Vicky Moss – Special Projects (VM)	Roy Pointer - Planning Matters (RP)
John Challoner – Ward Cllr (JC)	John Sprackling – Chair Emeritus

Coffee & Tea available on arrival

1) **Welcome & Apologies** (AC) called meeting to order at 7.30, welcoming all attendees and introduced Annabel Stemp who takes on the editorial role from John Gunton. Apologies were noted from the Chairman, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, and Cllr Wright.

2) **Planning Update** (JH) provided an update stating it had been a quiet start to the year. Five appeals were outstanding from 2024, including the outcome of the much-anticipated 7a Spencer Road application, which is now overdue; neighbours present at the meeting queried why it is taking so long for the Council to make a decision. Ward Councillor John Challinor had no additional information. (JH) cited other 'interesting' applications but not particularly notable including Branksome Chine, Rockwater Restaurant's - planning for fixed furniture outside needed in view of the weather conditions. An application was approved to replace the rooves of two flat roofed box shape houses built when a single bungalow was demolished on Lakeside Road, 5 or so years ago. An application to install UPVC windows on The Avenue within the Conservation Area has recently been refused because it wasn't in keeping with the area's character. (JH) also said recent decisions reveal inconsistencies within the BCP Planning Dept.

3) **Beach Road Car Park:** Freedom of Information (FOI) request Beach Road Carpark (RP) explained that two questions had been asked of BCP Council late last year:

1) What was a realistic expectation of value, and

2) Why was the site not to be offered with at least outline planning permission?

The BCP Council have refused to provide answers twice including after internal review. Accordingly, (RP) had referred the matter to the Government FOI Commissioner who recently responded that the question had been allocated for attention. (RP) felt the reasons cited by the Council were extremely long & detailed based to an extent on the FOI Act and environmental legislation. Nevertheless, we await the decision of the Information Commissioner as to whether we are entitled to an answer.

4) **Local Officials & Ward Councillor Input** Chair (AC) asked John Challoner (JC) to address the meeting.

(RP) questioned whether the sale process of Beach Road CP had been halted as everything has gone very quiet. Cllr John Challinor said he would make some inquiries.

(JC) told the meeting about the extremely short notice for the Community Governance Review being forced through by the Labour Government, to establish Parish & Town Councils across the BCP area. Poole could become a Town Council and carry out the maintenance side of running our area such as bins and street cleaning whilst the main council would hold responsibility for education, health and social care, etc. Town Councils could increase the precept by any amount they like so it is possible there will be a significant increase in Council Tax if we get a Town Council. (JC) was not convinced it would be any more efficient or that better services would be provided.

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(JC) agreed to write an article for Pines and Chines explaining what Regional Devolution will mean for Canford Cliffs ward. However, to date, he has been provided with virtually no information except that we are going to be aligned to Wessex rather than Solent (these were the 2 choices)

5) **Road Safety Updates** (VM) explained that the Police HQ in Winfrith had set up a Service Level Agreement for CSW, so volunteers would be provided with more support on sorties from the Local Neighbourhood Policing Team. This follows an increase in the level of abuse some CSW teams have experienced in the last year, both at the roadside and online. Branksome Park CSW has been identified in the top five in the County for the worst incidents of both abuse and speeding. (VM) told the meeting how her neighbour on Belgrave Rd had had her fence knocked down by speeders twice in the 3 months between October and December, as cars come flying round the bends on the triangular junction of Western/Leicester Rd.

CSW & Trucam data reveal that Pinecliff Rd is one of the worst spots for speeding in Dorset, with 60 cars caught in one hour- this is significantly higher than other areas of Dorset. Cllr (JC) said there is £35K left in the CIL pot just for Branksome Park Road safety measures and (VM) said rather than looking at individual locations, a simple scheme of measures is needed over a wide area as the speeding tends to start a mile away from where the accidents end up happening. This impacts the area.

Cllr (JC) encouraged (VM) to submit CIL bids for road safety measures as further restructuring in the Council could mean Canford Cliffs Ward CIL money will get re-distributed. (VM) expressed the importance of a scheme of measures across the whole area rather than focusing all the resources in one place.

6) **Advance Notice of AGM & Agenda** The 2025 AGM will be held on Saturday 12th April, Canford Cliffs village Hall from 10am. Agenda items will include the role and status of Wardens; the role of Membership Secretary and associated IT requirements; planning and local Government updates. Refreshments will be served as usual.

7) **AOB** Ward Improvement Grants/CIL bids to be used for replacement Shelters at Pinecliff Gardens and Western Road Surface CP (Cliff top). Cllr Gavin Wright met (VM) earlier in the day with two members of the BCP Green Space team to get the details required to complete the forms – the deadline is soon. Chines Maintenance was raised – a member/resident has come forward, keen to help start work on maintaining the Chines but wants consent from the council and clearance of the debris and would like to see if a team of volunteers can be established for periodic work on cutting back overgrown shrubs along paths etc.

(VM) reminded (JC) that Cllr May Haines had submitted a CIL bid for boardwalks over the boggiest pathways but (JC) explained that Canford Cliffs Ward has collected over £200K in the CIL pot, second to Bear Cross & Merley who have had hundreds of new homes. (JC) also wants CIL to be used to upgrade the paths & mend fences in Branksome Chine.

John Gunton reminded members that the Community Service Scouts had offered to do rubbish clearance for 99p a bag and suggested we take them up on it to tidy the Chine.

(RP) asked (JC) about how often the sand is getting cleared on the Promenade as it's got so deep it's difficult to walk. (AC) commented that she regularly sees the sand clearance machines at work near Branksome Dene with workmen spending more time chatting than working.

One member asked if the new shelters will be beautifully decorated again as they were in 2008?

Annabel – introduced as the new editor of Pines and Chines - asked for articles with a special interest – ones that were somewhat unusual would be of key interest. While (JG) said Iris Morris had given permission before she died for her books on local History Looking Back series, could be reproduced for the Pines and Chines Magazine.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

Andrea Charman – Secretary