

**BRANKSOME PARK AND CANFORD CLIFFS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**CANFORD CLIFFS VILLAGE HALL**  
**SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026 @10:30AM**

1. **NOTICE OF MEETING** Acting Chair, Roy Pointer opened the AGM, noting the usual housekeeping – fire escapes, roving mike and post meeting refreshments
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Chair announced apologies from Andrea Charman(AC), Cllr Gavin Wright, Leon Ellis
3. **MESSAGE FROM PETER SCHROEDER (PS), RETIRING CHAIR** read by Annabel Stemp (AS). PS joined in April 2023 as new resident. He sent his thanks to all those members who have worked for the Association over the last few years especially members of the Executive Committee, street wardens, volunteer gardeners. Special thanks to two retiring members of the Exec. Committee. John Gunton, the past editor of Pines and Chines, for many years, and Roy Pointer who will stay on as Senior Adviser.
4. **GUEST SPEAKERS** Chair introduced the speakers Neil Duncan-Jordan MP for Poole, Cllr Mark Howell - Mayor of Poole, Cllr John Challinor – Canford Cliffs Ward, Cllr Millie Earl – Leader BCP Council

- 4.(i) **Neil Duncan-Jordan MP for Poole (NDJ)** – in post since July 2024, NDJ paid tribute to outgoing BPC CRA Chair Peter Schroeder, The BPC CRA was one of the first community organisations to attend his surgery with Vicky Moss (VM) in 2024 and PS had ensured he received Pines and Chines Magazine ever since.

NDJ explained current initiative 'Positive About Poole'. The conference focused on solutions and future improvements which brought together public, private, and voluntary sectors to collaboratively address local challenges.

Three key themes:

- Building and sustaining a strong local economy
- The importance of place and community identity
- Understanding and meeting local population needs

NDJ hosts regular roundtable discussions involving community, environmental, business, and other groups.

3 key issues identified from conference:

- Need for more affordable housing
- Traffic and congestion concerns
- Greater investment in youth services

Solutions must come from multiple levels: government, council, and local community action. He stressed the importance of shared responsibility, with local organisations and residents playing an active role in improvements.

He encouraged the AGM attendees to take part in the poll 'Positive About Poole'

<https://www.neilforpoole.co.uk/positive-about-poole>. Question from the floor: '**How much influence does he have with BCP Council?**'. (NDJ) Answer: Meeting with Council offers influence but no power of veto.

- 4.(ii) **Councillor Mark Howell, Mayor for Poole (MH)** – Avoided party politics – pre- election period - instead focused on local structure and community life in Poole. Highlighted the historic roots of Poole, dating back to its first charter (around 1248), both giving the town rights and an identity. Poole developed through collective effort and cooperation among townspeople. Stressed the importance of teamwork and relationships, especially when speaking to young people. He believes the New Town Council is a positive step for bringing people together and improving local governance; wider national and international changes mean communities need to redefine themselves locally. Described the mayoral role as a privilege, involving visits to local organisations, particularly local schools while recognising

community contributions. He praised the work of volunteers, who play a crucial role in maintaining community life but expressed concern about decline in volunteer numbers. He encourages young people to get involved in volunteering. He noted that the mayoral role will transition to the new town council structure. Concluded that community participation and volunteering are essential to sustaining the town's social fabric.

Question from Antony Vickery: '**Are you standing for Town Council in May elections?**' (MH) answered no. His personal circumstances restrict his available time to devote.

**4.(iii) Councillor John Challinor, Canford Cliffs Ward (JC)** – serves on planning committee. Overall message: Planning decisions are complex and constrained, but community input matters. He emphasised ongoing work to balance development pressures with local needs and delivering community improvements. JC highlighted cross-party representation at the Planning meetings. Planning committee role: Receives concerns from residents about planning applications, listens but must remain neutral to avoid accusations of “pre-determination”. JC works with ward colleague who has more licence, request applications go to committee (“call-in” process).

Planning committee process includes:

- Officer presentation
- Public speaking (objectors/applicants)
- Councillor questions and debate
- Final vote on approval or rejection

Community involvement in planning: if 20+ households object, an application is more likely to be considered by committee. Residents need to coordinate and engage to raise concerns effectively. JC explained challenges in planning. Firstly, strong government pressure to approve housing developments. Councillors must demonstrate clear “harm” to reject proposals. Future targets may require doubling housing numbers, increasing pressure on local planning decisions as to locations for growth. Developers can appeal rejected applications, sometimes costing the council money if appeals to Planning Inspector succeed.

Local projects and funding include:

New bus shelters; Road safety scheme (long-campaigned for); Harbour interpretation notice boards and heritage features,; Shelter – Pinecliff Gardens; Play area improvements at Canford Cliffs Pirate Park to include new equipment

**4.(iv) Councillor Millie Earl- Leader of BCP Council**

**ME** The Leader of BCP Council (since 2024) introduced herself, previously deputy leader, elected in 2019. Initially opposed the merger of Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole, but now uses her role to drive positive change for Poole residents. Emphasised commitment to community engagement and being accessible for residents' concerns. Praised strong local interest and participation from the community.

Challenges: roads, pavements, and maintenance. ME acknowledged issues with leaves, pine needles, and debris creating hazards on roads and pavements. Explained the Council is operating at a minimum service level due to long-term funding cuts so street and pavement cleaning now typically happens only twice a year. Residents can report problem areas via the council website. Emphasised that without increased central government funding, service levels are unlikely to improve.

Wider funding challenges:

Budget pressures driven by rising costs of statutory services (e.g. social care, support for vulnerable people). Long-term decline in funding has led to reduced maintenance services over decades. ME the responded to BPC CRA member questions.

**Question: Why was the Alum Chine Tropical Gardens closed?**

Closure due to cliff instability and safety risks, not just neglect. ME stated historic drainage systems have deteriorated due to lack of maintenance and worsening erosion. Stabilising the cliffs would require significant investment (hundreds of thousands to millions of pounds).

Council is seeking government funding and grants for coastal protection work. Monitoring systems are in place to detect cliff movement and protect public safety. Tropical Gardens, therefore will remain closed until the area can be made safe.

Overall message: Local challenges are largely due to financial constraints and infrastructure issues. BCP Council is doing what it can within limits but needs more funding to improve services and facilities.

**Question: Roy Pointer queried the cost discrepancy in setting up new town councils, £1 million was quoted for the first year but later figures suggest costs closer to £4 million. He requested an explanation of what the different figures cover and whether there is confusion or miscommunication?**

ME clarified that the £1 million figure refers only to the cost of running Town Council elections, not the cost of operating them. The higher figure (around £4 million) relates to the overall setup and structure, causing confusion.

ME outlined the purpose of town councils. She alluded to the result of a community governance review which identified a democratic gap in Poole. Aim is to restore decision-making at a local level. Plans to create separate town councils (e.g. Poole, Broadstone, Bournemouth areas).

Consultation considered structure and different boundary options (smaller vs wider areas). Final proposal balances these views to create effective local governance units. ME described examples from elsewhere in England that show TCs can deliver improved local services (e.g. street cleaning, public spaces); community events and activities; stronger local identity and pride; potential to reintroduce lost community services like youth clubs and support for tackling loneliness and antisocial behaviour.

**Costs to residents:** proposed precept is relatively low (around £30 per year for an average property). Significantly cheaper compared to some other areas (e.g. £400+ elsewhere). Large tax base in Poole should allow meaningful improvements at low cost.

Overall message: encouraged residents to keep an open mind about town councils. ME sees them as a “once in a lifetime opportunity” to strengthen communities, restore pride, and improve local services.

## **AGM BUSINESS FOLLOWED**

### **1. MINUTES OF THE 2025 AGM AND MATTERS ARISING**

They had been accepted by the retiring Chair, and there were no matters arising. .

### **2. A SNAPSHOT OF 2025**

**Achievements were outlined as follows:**

- Improved pedestrian safety at The Avenue/Western Road crossroads, making it safer for walkers from Westbourne to Branksome Chine.
- Successfully used community infrastructure levy funding to support rebuilding the Pinecliff Gardens shelter, which had been in poor condition, repainting.
- Local artist Stuart Roberts volunteered to create mural inside the shelter to enhance its appearance. RP introduced Stuart Roberts who had brought sketches of his mural plans to the meeting.
- Introduction of new members to the Executive team, bringing fresh ideas and energy.
- Overall focus has been on practical improvements, community involvement, and organisational renewal.

### **3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

RP proposed the election of Andrea Charman (AC) as Chair, seconded by Annabel Stemp (AS); this was agreed the Executive Committee was voted in en masse: Annabel Stemp was elected as Vice Chair and editor of Pines and Chines. Stanley Peters(SP) was re-elected as Treasurer. Vicky Moss(VM) was elected Honorary Secretary and re-elected for the Special Projects role. John

Pearce (JP) was elected Membership Secretary. John Harkness was re-elected as Planning Officer

#### **4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCEPTANCE OF ACCOUNTS FOR 2025**

Stanley Peters (SP) The Treasurer referenced the accounts on the back of the Agenda and in Pines and Chines Summer 2026. Tony Kelly agreed to verify the accounts.

#### **5. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY UPDATE**

John Pearce (JP) summarised the changes. Moving from manual spreadsheets to a single online membership system and using a third-party payment provider. Aim is to simplify administration, reduce duplication, and make it easier to manage member data. New system will make it easier for new members to join and understand fees.

##### **5 (ii) Membership process changes**

Membership year runs from 1st January, but currently renewals happen at different times. From 1st June, all memberships will transition to the new online system. Existing members do not need to worry about the transition—this will be handled for them.

##### **5(iii) Payment changes**

Individual Membership with cost £10 per annum. Block Members £7. Standing orders should be cancelled before moving to the new system. Future payments will be made online via the website, selecting the appropriate membership type.

##### **5(iv) Current vs new system**

Previously, the upkeep of spreadsheets has been very labour intensive and required separate submissions form and payment, creating inefficiencies. New system combines everything into one streamlined process.

##### **5(v) Support**

Membership secretary will be available at Open meetings to help members with the transition and answer questions. SP stated that Westbourne Library also offered technical support.

##### **5(vi) Business Membership**

Local businesses could have a lot to offer members. Working with them together with a new business membership category, is planned.

#### **6. ASSOCIATION FORWARD THINKING & MEMBERSHIP FEE INCREASES**

RP asked for a vote for approval for increase in subscription from £5 to £10 for Individual Members and from £3 to £7 for Block Members. This passed unanimously with none against, one abstention.

#### **7. AOB**

7 (i) John Gunton (JG) spoke about the future for the Association, in particular, making the area safer for pedestrians and cyclists and the vulnerable. JG wished AC as Chair and the new Executive Committee all the very the best going forward.

7 (ii) Cllr Challinor confirmed that the planning application for the new M & S site at Pottery Junction near John Lewis was coming to the Planning Committee imminently – to which there was a flurry of excitement from attendees mixed with some concern over traffic congestion.

Roy Pointer – Meeting Chair

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026