

Friars Cliff Residents Association (FCRA) Quarterly Meeting Minutes
01/09/2022 at 19:30 - Highcliffe Sailing Club (HSC)

Present: Steve Alves Co-Chairman (SA)
Peter Skeggs Treasurer (PS)
Meg Ward Membership Secretary (MW)
Louise Heybourne Environment Officer (LH)
Councillor (Cllr) Paul Hilliard (CPH)

Apologies: Paul De Jonghe Co-Chairman/Web Master/Forum Editor (PDJ),
Sarah Webb Head Road Warden (SW)
Cllr Lesley Dedman (CLD)

Chairman Introduction:

HSC offered FCRA use of club house following All Saints Church Fire and FCRA would like to thank the HSC Committee. Any residents who had to pay car park fees can receive reimbursement of a couple of hours from the Treasurer.

Health & Safety Briefing re fire exits, toilets. 40 residents in attendance were happy with the new venue.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Change of process, the committee will agree on being an accurate record and electronic copy available on FCRA website.

Police Update:

Police arrange "street" meetings via Facebook, residents went to Steamer Point Open Green and met Police Officers (PCSO+PC). The loss of 2 PCOs recently has led to a reduction in policing resulting in 3 PCSOs for whole of Christchurch. If you call police they were able to attend in 10 minutes following a recent significant incident. Zero incidents were reported for the period 27th July to 17th August. Reminder that it may be quicker to report an issue or crime that are not urgent online (www.dorset.police.uk/do-it-online). 101 non-emergency does not seem to get answered. If emergency call (crime in progress or life in danger) always dial 999.

MW asked that if any issues are reported can residents send her an email so that we have evidence. Cllr Hilliard has monthly meetings with the police inspector and has asked us to forward the data so that CPH can raise incidents at the meeting. **ACTION: MW/CPH**

Treasurer Update:

PS produced hand-outs showing FCRA Receipts and Payments Account, which goes through receipts and accounts in detail. As at 01/09/2022 the sum of £21,855 is in bank. FCRA thanked resident, Anne Jacobs for some very good suggestions on how FCRA could utilize funds. The points will be taken forward to the December EGM meeting.

Committee Action List:

We did not go through these as detailed list is in the forum. A few highlights however were discussed.

Open Spaces Survey:

Background: BCP parishes and areas are preparing Neighbourhood Plans (NP) which include accessible open space. Highcliffe prepared their NP which went to an independent consultant employed by BCP and out of 32 open spaces, 22 were deemed to have sufficient protection under current planning policies but it did allow for 10 open spaces to have extra protection or special status added to the NP. This caused FCRA to focus urgently on our open spaces.

LH subscribed FCRA to the Open Spaces Society (OSS) and we reviewed our type of green/open space and how best to protect them going forward. Local green spaces such as behind the beach café Steamer Point, Bure Close community space, Bure Homage Woodland, Penny Way Car Park, Southcliffe Road Car Park, Freshwater Road/Steamer Point pathway etc.

SA met with Christchurch NP team at the green and asked what we could do to help, resulting in FCRA launching a survey, of which 400 responses out of 1000 residents was received. Timing was crucial as the only time a designation space can be changed is during the preparation of a NP. The resultant statistics showed 97-99% of residents regularly using our spaces and everyone said they are essential. We also conducted a wildlife survey, with thanks to Judith Ward and Louise (LH), a flora and fauna survey, and a historical article by Paul (PDJ) to support and provide the evidence how important area is historically. We hope to get some additional levels of protection. A local green space is similar protection to green belt status.

Email:

Following the survey, FCRA now have a secure web platform which enables FCRA to communicate with members via email to ensure that all receive news and updates in a timely manner.

Residents asked where Christchurch Town Council (CTC) comes into this process as Highcliffe is a standalone Parish Council. CPH – Cllr Bob Luscombe is from Christchurch town council and chair of the NP working group. SA has shared and kept other local areas up-to-date with our plans and actions. The evidence gathering is very important to support a Local NP. The NP gets published in September and then goes to an independent planner to be checked against planning policies. *Post Meeting Note – Likely to be Spring 2023 due to delays in other sections of the NP.*

Highcliffe are 9 months advanced, Christchurch are gathering all 5 areas information re heritage, transport, open spaces etc, then publish their report. This then goes out to public consultation with subsequent independent BCP inspection, which takes a few months. For example, the Highcliffe NP is published in September as per planning policies then goes to

BCP Cabinet October meeting, with a mailshot to residents over 6 week period for voting to accept towards the end of year.

Broadstone and Boscombe NP's were in 2020 so BCP can't ignore the NP process, and all councillors have opportunity to question it. Residents can take to Secretary of State to challenge if Christchurch residents feel like poor neighbours to other parts of BCP.

Cllr Hilliard Update:

CPH attending an important meeting on 2nd September which feeds into BCP cabinet meeting. Lesley has kept us informed re scheme to balance the budget, tabled in February to sell the income of the beach huts for £50m to pay off over 50 years. The Government has now informed BCP that the scheme is not possible. KPMG (accountants) were preparing financial reports that were available in January, February and June but no-one was made aware of them, so local councillors will be asking the question who knew and how much did it cost? The leader of BCP had promised to be an open party, listening to residents and engaging with all members of all parties but it is clear that this is not the case.

The Christchurch councillors will be asking how BCP intend to balance the budget.

Residents also wish to know why BCP has created independent limited property investment company (Future Places)?

CPH met with Head of Sea Front and 2 from the Coastal Team with Lesley, who were explaining movement of sand from Poole to the Hampshire border. A lot of sand has been deposited on our beaches and feeding into a report going to Environmental Agency (EA) and hoping that will release £25 million to spend on coastal defences, with groynes along Avon and Friars cliff beaches to be upgraded.

No incidents of sprawl from the extended beach huts along the promenade or conflicts have been reported. If there are problems email FCRA committee or CPH, as if no incidents recorded then no action can be taken.

A couple of rangers have been around with the harbour slipway now open. A few issues of noise with Jet skis but they are generally staying out beyond buoys. New coast watch was launched with Police and BCP marine voluntary service, as there have been a few break ins with boats in the harbour. Encouragement was given to local clubs to engage and report incidents.

Overgrown pathways, verges or hedges that require cutting can be reported online "type bcpreportit" in a browser and report a problem or fault via BCP website. Residents to send CPH any example of reported items not sorted.

Parking Proposal:

Update received re Road Safety Scheme from Andy Brown and Matthew Carruthers, who apologised re wheels of democratic process moving slowly, scheme is in process of being approved and will go forward for final council approval and aiming for October 1st for refreshed single yellow lines and double yellow lines on junctions and corners. They are

confident it will be signed off. *Post Meeting Note – Signed off and implementation likely to be end of October?*

Sewage:

A handout summarising the data for Avon Beach was available.

The data behind the chart shows there were <10 counts for Intestinal Enterococci (IE) and Escherichia coli (E.coli) in all the sampling periods except for small spikes in June and July. EA sampling shows the Avon and Friars Cliff beaches as uncontaminated on the days samples were taken and until we see data showing actual IE and EC counts on the days water discharges are believed to have occurred, there is no evidence to support actual water contamination.

We do remain concerned about discharges in the river's Stour and Avon and possible pollutants emerging through The Run, with consequential impact at Gundimore. However, we do not yet have proof on this.

Planning:

Steamer Point MCA Planning Permission update: Inspector comprehensively rejected the developers appeal of the refused scheme (4 storey flats etc). Abridged reasons – the size and appearance is unacceptable, TPOs and proposed felling of 54 trees is unacceptable, protected species of bat with lighting disturbance adjacent to a nature reserve and within 5Km of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSI), also part of the Dorset Heathlands SPA (Special Protection Area and Ramsar site and is also part of the Dorset Heaths SAC (Special area of Conservation) and does not currently secure an acceptable affordable housing contribution. FCRA feel that the developer now has little chance of success unless a total redesign is submitted to reflect the above points.

Cllr Paul Hilliard to look into demolition of unsafe buildings on site and go back to planning re update on enforcement re safety. **ACTION: CPH Post Meeting Note – No incidents reported to Environmental Health, so no action can be taken with the developer. However subsequent to this query, the site has now been tidied up somewhat.**

All Saints Church (ASC):

ASC recently burnt down and is a big loss to the community it supports. The committee have a proposal and this was conditional depending on funds available from insurance, grants, national churches trust, Diocese of Winchester, church buildings council.

The proposal was to offer donation of £1,000. Proposed: Peter Skeggs, seconded Steve Gallimore.

Residents discussed ASC and the consensus resulted in further discussion being required and was therefore extended to the EGM in December. We need to put the discussion agenda on FCRA website. Ideas included: a community space in ASC, something we can "see" as FCRA funded etc. Anne Jacobs is planning to sell a book on History of Church for ASC funding.

Next meeting

This will be an extraordinary meeting (EGM) to discuss money and FCRA future.

We will invite the Life Saving Club and think about supporting them in some ways, such as a prize for the best newcomer etc.

AOB:

1. Heritage – Nuala Clarke can we chase up? **ACTION: PDJ/LH**
2. Cycling on Promenade - By-laws. BCP were going to produce rules. **CPH** no progress with Mike Greene. Incidents have been reported re scooters, bikes and caravans on car parks.
3. Cracks in pathways in nature reserve following tarmac, past the gates and into the nature reserve getting wider. **ACTION: CPH will have a word with the warden.**
4. Request for a hot shower outside the toilet block behind The Beach Hut Café raised. **CPH** - we will progress with BCP as Bournemouth has more showers than we do. Complaints about the toilets cleanliness being worse than Southbourne. Lifesaving club, local open water swimmers, swimming groups, tourists using facilities summer and winter. **ACTION: CPH will bring up toilets cleanliness and lack of capacity.**
5. The Noisy Lobster – has the size of toilets changed, i.e. reduced in size. Did the company obtain consent under terms of lease and planning?
6. Watering hedging and working residents party volunteers but would BCP take rubbish away in designated slot? Commitment every 3-6m, trim things back so looks tidy. Improve an area. Public liability insurance was raised and resident mentioned cost of £167 for Druitt Gardens. **ACTION: Send a request to CPH to follow up with BCP.**
7. Millennium Path from Gundimore beach was swept by **CPH, CLD** and **Cllr Andy Martin** and took 2.5hrs, and will need sweeping again. **CPH** and **CLD** liaising with the BCP Seafront manager to request some plastic matting for disabled access.
8. Notice re Paddle Steamer Waverley – sailing round Isle of Wight can be booked now.
9. Railings to the slipway, end of Southcliffe have all fallen over, danger at night – **CPH** confirmed reported.

Meeting closed at 21:00.