

Highcliffe Residents Association - CIC

Minutes of Members Meeting 30th March 2015

The Meeting opened at 7pm, HRA Chairman welcomed Members and Councillors and apologies were received from Cllrs; Myra Maubey, Nick Geary and Colin Jamieson. Our good wishes were extended to Myra for a speedy recovery from her operation.

Extracts from Accounts for 2013/14 were made available as promised at the AGM, several members pointed out that some figures did not make sense, Chairman suggested that this was due to the way that Grants were not listed as income. (Contextual Note: It was resolved at the AGM to separate Grant supported activities in future Bookkeeping and Bank account procedures).

Treasurers Report.

Treasurer unable to be present, Chairman stated that Bank stands at 27,040.56 and new online bookkeeping system now in place.

Planning.

Highcliffe St Mark School application for permanent building works to include additional classrooms, Chairman stated that the School is undergoing a 50% increase in pupils and needs to accommodate the increased intake. Given that prioritisation criteria set out by government for allocating places is not geographical, transparency is sought on whether the local residents and neighbours of the School are expected to accept the additional noise and traffic problems for the benefit of local children.

Cllr. Lofts replied in his capacity as a Governor of the School, that the catchment for the school is predominantly Highcliffe but that under government criteria this extends to New Milton in the east and historically into other parts of Hampshire, from county border changes that moved Highcliffe in to Dorset.

Traffic.

Speeding in Lymington Road, Antony Gabb alerted us to a four car pile up on the approach to the Milestone roundabout. He observed that overtaking at 40mph is actually legal on this stretch of road whilst the other end of Lymington Road is restricted to 30mph. He asks that the Residents Association and Local Councillors support a campaign to introduce a 20mph limit through Highcliffe village.

Cllr. Jones explained that proof would be needed that speed rather than recklessness was the cause of these accidents, and to gain consideration for additional traffic measures, considerable evidence (statistical not anecdotal) would have to be gathered and presented.

The discussion moved to inconsiderate parking in yellow line restricted area of Chewton Common Rd. Parents dropping off children are breaking the law and causing disruption to traffic flow in Braemar Drive and Chewton Common Rd.

Cllr. Jones again provided an answer, explaining that enforcement is a civil matter for the Council, rather than a Police matter, even though an offence is being committed. He provided the name of a council department to be contacted for further action.

AOB.

Included lack of progress on repairs to the steps at the western end of Highcliffe beach.

Cllr. Lofts explained that funding was not after all available, (at our previous meeting an assurance was given of a summer target date for the reinstatement).

It was suggested that as a minimum, there should be clear signs directing Visitors to the nearest alternative steps and tidying of the barriers to the damaged site.

An email from Andy Beale the Tree and Landscape Officer for Christchurch and East Dorset Councils asked if any members had information regarding the vandalising of trees along the cliff top adjacent to the Courts of Beacon Drive, also the theft of two, recently planted pine trees from the recreation ground.

Cllr. Sally Derham-Wilkes speculated along with others, that it was possibly someone clearing their view.

Meeting closed at 8:30pm