

## GENERAL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2018

**There were 115 Members who signed in for the meeting.**

**Note - As these Minutes are being prepared by Avril, it is mostly written as a transcription of the tape recording**

### 1) **Welcome & Introductions of Committee**

**John Lambon** started by welcoming both past and new members and introduced Avril to the audience. He reported that Avril had stepped into the breach as Chairman and has “worked her socks off over the summer”. Avril was formally elected as our Chairperson at the Committee meeting held in September. This post is in addition to her role as Membership Secretary. John mentioned that last week he thought he’d have to call the Police as he couldn’t get any response from her and later found she’d been bedridden for 2 weeks. She’s made it here tonight and she’s going to look after us. The floor is now hers so please welcome our new Chairperson.  
(Applause from Audience)

**Avril** - Welcome to you all for the first meeting of the season. My apologies if there aren’t enough chairs. Also I’m having a few teething problems with the microphone system.

**Apologies** have been received from some Committee members who can’t be here tonight:

Ed Essery (He is our new WebMail/Website Manger)  
Tony Bayliss (on holiday) (Out of house Social Secretary)  
Lester Ruckley (prior commitment)  
Monica Francis (Treasurer)

So firstly I’d like to **introduce the other Committee members who are here tonight** so please make yourselves known as I mention your names.

Chair & Membership Sec	Avril Ogden (that’s me)
In-House Social Secretary	Miriam Monaghan (not present)
General Committee:	John Lambon (sitting next to Avril)
	Jennifer Ruckley (looking after our speaker)
	Monica Seeley (inherited from previous committee/Not here)

In the **absence of a Secretary** to take minutes, I have bought a **Voice Activated Recorder** and I will try and produce Minutes from this. These will eventually be put up on the Members area of the website.

Whilst we are still getting everything up to date, the old **password for the Members area** on our website will remain the same. Any existing members that need the password now can apply to me via the email address on the website.

Once the membership list is completely up to date, we will then be changing all the passwords and will notify all those that provided us with an email address.

2) I will now give you a brief explanation regarding **what has been happening in the past two years**. As previous members will already know, several committee members resigned in 2016 through ill-health and various other reasons. Problems were experienced in trying to get a new committee together and thus no subs were collected since 2016 nor programmes issued although meetings did continue each month.

**Some years back, Henra did a special offer** of paying for several years membership at a reduced cost. All those that had taken advantage of this had their membership extended by one year to compensate but I could only let those people who had provided an email address know this. It wasn't cost effective to try and let the members know who we didn't have an email address for due to the cost of postage or time delivering letters.

In May 2018, I took on the role of Membership Secretary. In addition there had been changes to the **Data Protection Rules**. As a result of this, I introduced a **Membership Application Form** - this was combined with a general leaflet which could then be used to put through every letterbox within the Henra-designated area.

Everyone was asked to complete this form so as to make them aware that we are holding information on computer but also it was necessary to comply with the new Data Protection Rules which came into force earlier in the year.

One thing I wanted to try and do as Membership Secretary was to attempt to increase the membership, bearing in mind that nothing had been done for 2 years. I also wanted to make sure that everyone living within the Henra-designated area was made aware that Henra existed.

As Membership Secretary, I can happily report that **over 3500 leaflets/membership forms** have been delivered to every property in our area and early indications are that we have **managed to increase the membership by over 50%**.

A massive thanks should go to all the people who volunteered to help deliver these leaflets and collect the subscriptions. I started with around 9 volunteers and ended with over 40.

A round of **Applause**, please, for all those that helped.

Everyone who provided an email address will eventually receive an acknowledgement from me - this is delayed due to my being ill for the past 2 weeks. Anyone who hasn't already completed a membership form, even if they pre-paid, will be contacted within the next few weeks - or if present tonight, can complete one here.

If there are any new members tonight, or anyone who has brought along their membership form & subscription, please see Ross at the end of the meeting. Ross - please make yourself known.

Something I have just introduced starting tonight - As you arrived tonight, you will have been asked to **sign in** with your address and the number of people from that address who are present this evening. I need to get an idea of the actual numbers here.

3) As John has already mentioned, due to the problems forming a committee, about 3 months ago, I put myself forward to act as Chair, simply because it was looking increasingly likely that Henra could fold altogether and that would have been a real shame. **My appointment as Chair was supported at the time and then at the Committee Meeting held a couple of weeks ago (Sept 20<sup>th</sup>), this role was confirmed.** So you're stuck with me at least for this current season.

After a lot of hard work over the past few weeks, we now have a strong Committee who are committed to doing their utmost to continue the work that Henra has done in the past and to keep the members informed and advised of matters affecting them.

**We do still need more people to join the committee** and would welcome new people to come on board, not just for specific roles but also for general roles. Simple things like helping to put the chairs out. If there is

anyone here who would like to be considered, please indicate this by using one of the Comments Leaflets and putting in the box. If you have any particular skills, do let us know.

**4) Format for these meetings** - I don't propose to change the format of Brief Introduction, Police, Speaker, Councillors, Any other business. With Questions & Answers after each item.

Some people don't like to speak out at meetings, or maybe don't get the opportunity to, so the only change will be the **introduction of a Comments/Question box**. Or you can Email/Write to me with any questions. Every form that gets put into the box will get dealt with, provided there is an email address given. All questions will receive a response, either direct from me or will be raised at the next meeting. Nothing will be ignored.

For tonight, I already have several questions that have been submitted and these will be raised either with the Councillors or under Any Other Business later on.

I have been given the loudspeaker/microphone system by the past Chairman and will endeavour to get it working correctly..

I don't want to hold up the Police or the Speaker so I'll mention anything else of importance later on.  
(Time now 7.45pm)

#### **5) POLICE REPORT**

**(Designated Officers are: PC 1892 Aaron Dey, PCSO 6754 Annette Long)**

Our PCSO Annette Long advised that there is a new Inspector at Boscombe (Inspector Marley). She reported that there had been some anti social activities especially around the St.Katherine's Church area. There had also been a few car crimes in Southbourne with car door handles being tried resulting in the theft of wallets, phones, loose change etc. and advised us to always make sure our cars are locked and valuables etc kept out of sight.

The main problem recently has been an increase in fraud and scams and she cited one case of a lady who lost £20,000 after being persuaded to open a savings account.

Annette also reported an ongoing problem with people begging and sleeping rough and pointed out that very few of these are actually genuine. We were asked NOT to give them sandwiches etc as they just sell them on. If you do want to buy them food, give them hot food as it has to be eaten immediately. The Police are working tirelessly to try and resolve this problem of begging and sleeping rough.

Someone from the audience mentioned the joy riding in Hengistbury Head and Annette said the Police would look into it.

She also explained that the Police now have video cameras on their person which should come in very handy.

Annette also reminded us that the Non-Emergency phone number is 101.

Finally, if you wish to report a crime, do NOT report it via Facebook.

There being no further questions from the floor, thanks were given to Annette with **applause** from the audience.

#### **6) SPEAKER - Patrick Kempe - Lorenzo & His Lucitanos**

We were treated to an enthusiastic presentation from Patrick with still photos and some video clips about one of the world's top display artists. From the presentation and later via questions from the audience, we also learnt that Lorenzo was born in 1977 and Patrick got to know him when they met at Lorenzo's farm in the Carmargue and he offered to help and it went from there. He has worked with him now for over 20 years. There is a registered Vet at each display. The Lucitano horses are very intelligent and it only takes them about a year to learn the routines. Each horse has its' own character and, yes, Lorenzo sometimes has horses that just don't

want to learn but he never sells or passes on any of his horses.

Thanks were given by John Lambon who mentioned that Patrick has opened the Henra season with a “class act”.

An enthusiastic round of **Applause** followed.

## 7) **WARD COUNCILLORS** - Eddie Coope, Malcolm Davies & Rob Lawton

Normally our three Ward Councillors would update us next with an opportunity for questions and answers after but sadly none of them were able to come along tonight.

So I'll start with a couple of letters/emails I've received.

I had a letter about neighbours not keeping their gardens to an acceptable standard and also possibly using their premises for commercial activities involving a lot of noise. Henra cannot get involved in this type of thing. I will reply to the person who wrote me but I feel it is best resolved by speaking with the neighbour or in the case of noise, to the Council.

Coincidentally, I also received a communication from someone wanting me to make members aware of a mediation service they offer. Advertizing ones' services isn't really suitable for Henra meetings but I advised them that they would be welcome to place an advert in our next programme.

I will actually pass on the information about this service to the person just mentioned who was complaining about their neighbours.

Laughter & Applause from the audience.

I do have several more questions but these will now be raised at the November meeting instead as most of them relate to things that Cllr. Eddie Coope would deal with.

## 8) **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Some past members who have read their Programmes may be wondering why Cllr. John Beesley isn't down as a speaker.

**John Beesley** will not be attending any Henra meetings this season. I have been in touch with him and he says it's not possible until after the local elections and has invited me to contact him again for next year's programme, assuming he gets re-elected.

A member asked about the review on the **Tuckton Roundabout** which is due in October, especially regarding the terrific problems from Wick Lane. I said I was not aware of the specifics but that I would contact Marie at the Council and John Lambon said he would alert the Councillors. (Note - I emailed the Henra member a few days later to advise that I had actioned this)

John Lambon has agreed to act as the Henra Liaison Officer to the Council and said he would get in touch and report back.

Another Henra member wished to express their thanks to **Henra Mail** for the Email information being regularly updated regarding the Tuckton roundabout, especially the lane closures. Avril promised to email the person(s) concerned.

Avril asked - Does anyone know why the **Henra table cloth** has 1977 on it? Is there a 1954 cloth? Perhaps one of the longer-standing members might know?

Nobody, including previous committee members, seemed to know.

A reminder was given that this coming Sat and Sun some of the roads around here will be closed due to the **Bournemouth Marathon**

**Our next meeting is on Wed 7<sup>th</sup> November** and our speaker will be Ed Essery from the National Coastwatch Institution Charity regarding the efforts undertaken to re-open the Coastguard lookout on the top of Hengistbury Head as a manned lookout for 364 days of the year.

There being no further questions, the meeting closed at 9.25pm

Minutes prepared by Avril Ogden  
HENRA Chair & Membership Secretary