

## MINUTES FROM GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2019

Venue: St.Nicholas Church Hall, Broadway, BH6 4EP 7.30pm

### Members Present 97

#### Committee:

Chair & Membership Sec	Avril Ogden
Vice Chair	Vacant
Treasurer	Brian Miller
Secretary	Vacant
Henra Mail & IT	Ed Essery
In-House Social Secretary	Miriam Monaghan
General Committee:	John Lambon
	Lester & Jennifer Ruckley
	Clifford Lux

Hon.President/Previous Chair	Tony Yates
Hon.Vice President/Previous Vice Chair	Tony Bayliss

These Minutes have been prepared by Avril Ogden from the voice recording of the evening.

**PLEASE NOTE** this is an abbreviated version for the website. If anyone would like a full version, this can be emailed to you on request.

**Chair (Avril):** Welcome to everyone. I hope you can all hear me. As some of you might know from our meetings last year, I've had a few problems with the microphone system. I've got a different microphone on tonight which hopefully will work OK.

Apologies for people who can't be here tonight have been received from Clifford Lux, Brian Miller, John Lambon, Lester Ruckley, Tony Bayliss and Ed Essery.

Thank you to Cllr. Eddie Coope who is joining me at the top table this evening.

A few quick notices.

Firstly, I'm glad to report that we now have a **new Treasurer**. His appointment was proposed and seconded at our January Committee meeting. Unfortunately he's on holiday at the moment so I'll introduce him to you all at the March meeting.

As most of you already know, the Committee for this season are nearly all new to the committee so we are still finding our feet a bit so please bear with us.

We do still need more people to help us on the committee, especially a Secretary.

In the absence of a Secretary, as with our previous meetings, I am recording everything on my voice recorder and will eventually produce some Minutes which will be put up on our website.

We are also looking for someone to join us who has experience with desktop publishing to help produce our Programme for next season.

There are lots of smaller tasks that need doing. For instance helping to set out the table and chairs at each meeting and make sure they are put away at the end.

If you can spare a small amount of time, please come forward.

I would like to thank Carrie who stepped up to help tonight with the signing in of members. Also David & Wendy who came to help her and also help put out the chairs. Also my neighbour Ray who always comes early and helps with the chairs.

So a quick update on our Christmas Social evening in December. This was attended by over 75 members. Your Committee had decided to re-introduce some entertainment and also re-introduce the raffle. So Paul & Friends entertained us with a good selection of music and most of us sang along. Who can forget the specially written song about Boy Racers along the Broadway, sung to the tune of Glory Glory Allelujah, in front of our PCSO. We also had some Christmas songs led by Chris on the piano accordion.

A lot of members came up to me to thank us for re-introducing the raffle and entertainment and I'd also like to thank all those people that brought along extra raffle prizes which was much appreciated.

The buffet table looked absolutely superb with a wide variety of food to share, not to mention the drink as well.

We did manage to get a few photos taken and we'll try and get some of these put up onto the website in due course, or into next season's printed programme.

Talking about our social evenings, we have our Annual Dinner tomorrow night which I, for one, am looking forward to. The day & date had been arranged by the previous committee and being so close to tonight's meeting, it was only possible to let members who'd given us email addresses know the details.

So I apologize if there was anyone who wanted to go but missed out but there was no way to let you know without an email address.

If you haven't given us an email address, and you do have one, we cannot update you with what is going on so if you do have an email address and didn't include it on your membership forms, do please let us know. You can send it to me using one of the addresses on our website or leave a note in the Comments Box.

We have also been sending regular articles to the Bournemouth Echo and also the Christchurch Times, so check these papers for notices as well, although we can't guarantee that they will print what we send. I sent notices in for this meeting but nothing has appeared but we have had articles printed in the past.

Apart from tomorrow night, our next social evening will be in June. We'd like to provide entertainment again and whilst we are quite happy to ask Paul again, maybe there are some musicians amongst the membership or maybe you know of other bands in the area that we can also consider. If not for June then we will also need someone for the next Xmas social in December.

I did send out an email recently advising members about a change to the Programme. The March and May meetings have now been swapped around. The speaker booked for May will now be at our March meeting and vice versa.

The speaker for March will now be Howard Nichols whose presentation is called A Lifeboat on the Road, the humorous story of his working life with the RNLI Lifeboats in the UK and Ireland.

The May meeting will now be a presentation by Bournemouth in Bloom and will also be our AGM and election of your committee for the forthcoming year.

**POLICE** - I received an email yesterday from our PCSO Annette Long who sends her apologies but is unable to attend tonight as she has just had an operation. She and her Sergeant have been unable to find someone else to come along. So she will have to update us at our March meeting.

I did report something to her a couple of weeks ago and I sent out a note about it on email to our members. For anyone who didn't get an email I'll just tell you what happened.

I received a phone message on my mobile phone answer phone from a female who sounded either American or Canadian and it was obviously an automated message.

The caller said "This is H.M.R.C., Officer Clare Williams" and gave a phone number.

The message then went on to tell me, in quite a threatening tone of voice, "Do not disregard this message. If we do not hear from you or your solicitor, get ready to face the legal consequences".

She then gave a "Hot Line" phone number (different to the previous one) and the same message was then repeated.

I did look up the phone numbers on the internet and both numbers were reported as being scam numbers.

So just be aware. Needless to say, don't phone them back.

I don't know if Eddie (Cllr. Eddie Coope) has anything else to add about what's been going on in the area recently?

Cllr. Coope then reported that there had been a lot of break-ins during the Christmas period, mainly to sheds and also local car thefts. Avril mentioned that Annette had also told us about this at our December meeting.

Cllr. Malcolm Davies then said that there is another similar scam, again an American or Canadian, telling us that they are our IT provider and to contact them immediately. Again, this is a scam.

Cllr. Davies then gave an example of someone who had been scammed in this way and given out a lot of their private details.

The thing to remember is that people like the Inland Revenue would never phone you.

Avril mentioned that probably most people who are on the internet are fairly savvy about these type of scams but maybe those who aren't on the internet are more susceptible to being taken in by something like this. Generally, everyone should just be very careful as there are a lot of scams out there.

The audience were then invited to tell us about anything else they'd come across that the Police would normally have told us about - nothing else was reported.

The next item will normally be our **speaker**.

Tonight's presentation was going to be by Suzanne about the Inhabitants of the New Forest, both human and animal. Unfortunately Suzanne emailed me a couple of days ago and was unable to make it here tonight. I'll try and book her again for next season.

I'm pleased to be able to tell you that one of our members has stepped up to help us out.

So I'm delighted to introduce **Janice Smith** to you and she's going to talk to you about the **Life of a Family Celebrant**.

Over to you, Janice.

Janice commenced her talk by saying that she was expecting a mass exodus when the audience realized that they weren't going to hear all about the New Forest ponies. Laughter.

Janice then told us a little about her own family and how they came to be in Southbourne, where she has remained since a very young girl. She then gave us some background information on how she became involved as a Celebrant and detailed how Celebrants came about in the UK.

She had lots of jobs, a very varied career, from working in the Town Hall, from the Rates Office to the Tax Office, to doing what she does now. The reason that she got here now is quite a personal one. She told us about a friend whose son died and they had a Celebrant at the funeral and told her that she'd be really good at doing what that Celebrant had done. Her first reaction was "No - I don't do dead people". Over the course of the next year, so many things cropped up to do with her life and she started to think that perhaps someone was telling her something.

She has done various courses and lots of counselling, lots of public speaking. To cut a long story short, her friend's son died on Christmas Eve, then her niece died and she spoke at her service in St Katharine's Church. She'd been head girl at Twynhams, she'd gone to St.Katharine's and afterwards the funeral director told her that was probably one of the best tributes he'd ever heard.

Nobody down here knew what a funeral celebrant was. If you have a funeral, you have a Vicar or a Priest or maybe you might have had a humanist. A funeral celebrant cuts a middle line. Janice doesn't believe anything in life is that straightforward as to whether you want religion or not. Her role is to help anyone who is recently bereaved to have the best experience possible at that most difficult time. It was quite obvious that Janice loved her job as a Celebrant and although it is hard, it's a fantastic job, with lots of funny moments even though they might not appear funny at the time.

As well as funerals, she officiates at weddings and baby naming ceremonies. She can't officially marry someone but there are lots of people these days who don't want to get married in a church, they don't want to get married in a licensed venue, they might want to get married outside, for instance on the top of Hengistbury Head. So they go and do the legal part at the Town Hall and they can then have a ceremony with her wherever they want it.

Janice then gave us some funny stories concerning weddings.

So many people that she meets no longer go to Church except maybe for a christening, wedding or funeral.

Baby naming ceremonies are quite a new thing, an alternative to christenings. One of the reasons for that is that they can have whatever they want, they can make their own promises to the child, we perhaps have two families that are coming together and both have children so we have a commitment ceremony for all of them together and it's completely individual.

By far and away, the most services that she officiates at are funerals. In the ten years that she's been doing this, she's now officiated at over 2000 funerals. Janice says with humour that "I'm just about getting the hang of it!!"

Again, funny things happen, that don't seem quite so funny at the time. She then gave us some more funny stories. The grave that hadn't been dug big enough, the wrong song played at the funeral - instead of Somewhere over the rainbow, they played Ding Dong the witch is dead". Two of the most popular songs now are the Match of the Day theme tune and Always Look on the Bright Side of Life..

(The funny stories are transcribed in more detail in the full transcript.)

Janice urged us to write down some ideas of what we would like and talk about it with someone so they know your wishes. She pointed out that we're very fortunate in this area in that there are some fantastic funeral directors locally but she's not affiliated to any of them. One of them did tell her once that she was a "funeral tart", she would go to anybody who paid her! He did mean it in the nicest possible way.

You need to shop around. Be aware that you can shop around. You don't have to go to the first one. Ask them how much it's going to cost. Ask them what you're going to get for that money.

Janice then asked if anyone had any questions about funerals, weddings, naming ceremonies or anything else. (I have abbreviated some of the questions and answers for the purposes of these Minutes)

Q - Do you have to have a funeral director?

A - No

Q - How would you transport a body then?

A - Back of a van? Janice then told us another funny story as well as how to do everything yourself.

Q - What is the difference between a Celebrant and a Humanist.

A - A humanist, in theory, won't do God in any way shape or form. (Janice then provided more detailed information)

Q - Do you work with ordained priests or ministers or are you totally on your own

A - It tends to be totally on our own, mainly because they don't like us. (Janice then provided further information)

Q - How do you go about getting business

A - Because I've been doing this for so long now, about 80% come to me direct from families that I've worked for before, or they go into a funeral directors, the new work tends to come through funeral directors. (Janice then gave further information)

Q - What sort of training do you undergo

A - To be honest, the training was the biggest waste of £2500 I've ever spent. (Janice then went into some detail about her training and also gave information about Bournemouth Crematorium and how it all works.)

Tremendous applause from the audience.

**Vote of thanks from Eddie Coope** - I think I can speak on behalf of everyone that it was a bit of an eye opener and a lot of behind the scenes information and a lot of humour. Certainly you've brightened up a wet, cold and windy winter's night so once again, thank you very much

**Avril** - So the next thing on our agenda is the **Councillors**. Apologies received from Rob Lawton who is unable to be here tonight.

We got through a tremendous number of letters and questions at our November meeting so there are only a few questions for tonight that I have already notified the Councillors about.

I have found at previous meetings that my voice recorder isn't picking up the questions that are asked, especially from the back of the room. Also, as the Councillors usually have their backs to this table, their responses aren't being picked up either.

So could I please ask everyone to speak up. If I switch my small microphone off, we can use this hand held mike which can be passed around.

As yet, the only issues raised to me since the last meeting are as follows:

(i) **Parking problems in the slip road** outside the shops in the Broadway (I've already spoken to Eddie about this)

**Eddie** - I think this was brought to our attention back in early Autumn and I went and saw our Highways Department and they were going to change the signage there to stop people parking there all day. That all went through and the signs were due to be put up in the middle of November. At the end of November, when the change hadn't been made, I followed it up with the Highways Officer and he said they had been done but that the wording was wrong so they've had to go back to be reprinted. They said they'd be ready by the middle of January. When I went in about 10 days ago, they're still behind but I'm hoping that within the next two weeks, the new signs will be up, certainly before the next meeting. The restrictions will then be for 2 hours parking, the whole year not just May to September. So watch this space. But I did get the pot holes filled in !!

**Malcolm Davies** then added that the junction of Belle Vue Road with Seafield also has a parking problem so I've been to the Transport Department about that also.

**Eddie** also reported that one of the senior workers in the Transport Dept, only 40 years old and had a massive seizure and died, so they are trying to catch up with his work.

(ii) Adding the word “**Shops**” to the road sign at the end of Broadway at junction of Belle Vue Road Any update on this Eddie?)

**Eddie** - I think I’m going to have to take that up with someone else. It was promised that the coastal bits were going to fund it and try and get it through but when I tried to chase this up recently, they seem to have spent most of their allocation this year because they put most of their money into putting winter flowers into the baskets in Tuckton. I’ll keep chasing it.

(iii) The only new item is a letter received asking that at the next Henra meeting we “bring up the question of the **oil exploration** in the bay by a company renowned for serious leaks?”

As the test rig is now very prominent in the Bay, perhaps the Councillors would like to tell us exactly what is going on.

**Eddie** - It’s what it says, as reported in the Echo. It’s been there a week and will be there for three weeks. I think they’ve just applied for an extra two weeks because of the weather. They’re doing a test bore to see whether there is enough oil there to extract. They’ll be moving off in three weeks, or five if they get the extra. If they do find oil then that will be piped underground from when they do the actual bore to Wytch Farm. What they’ll do if they find it is to cap it off, pipe it then it will go straight into Wytch Farm.

**Malcolm Davies** then gave us further information about the technology involved.

He also informed us that John Beesley, leader of Bournemouth Council, did lodge a complaint but it comes under the jurisdiction of the Crown.

Q - What will happen to the waste which can be very toxic.

A - Eddie Coope, admitted he was not an expert but reminded the audience that with modern technology now, the likelihood of spillage should be minimal. If there is any spillage, it would be capped off as soon as possible. Eddie explained that he used to work in that industry out in the North Sea so he understands about pipe lines etc. Drilling and piping now is all done from the shore

Further discussion about Dorset wild life and how much it might be affected.

Eddie - A hydrographic survey was done a couple of years ago. I think we all know that the Bay is quite rich in oil and gas, as we know from Wytch Farm, and this is an extension of Wytch Farm anyway. If there is oil there to be extracted then it will be good for us. From what I’ve learnt and read, I think there would only be very minimal impact. Eddie pointed out that with having the oil rig in the Bay at the moment, it gives us an idea of what it might have looked like if the Navitus Bay Windfarm had got the go ahead. 160 or so wind turbines out there would definitely have been a blot on the landscape, not to mention that it would have been in the flight path of migrating birds, and in the fishing lanes.

Further general discussion about the impact if the oil rigs are there permanently.

Q - We seem to be overwhelmed with the number of **gulls** at the moment. Is it possible to put up notices to ask people to stop feeding them?

A - (**Malcolm**) It’s the same problem with the pigeons

- (**Eddie**) Bridport or Weymouth put up a notice banning but how can you regulate it? You can put up polite notices but there isn’t an Enforcement Officer. It’s the same with dogs, you need to have someone else with you to witness it, then when you take it to Court it’s Council Taxpayers’ money.

Q - What is happening with the **disabled toilets** in Tuckton

A - (Eddie) It is permanently closed due to vandalism, three times I think, also attracting drug users, It costs the Council £75,000 each time.

When Tuckton Tea Gardens is redeveloped, there will be new toilets going in there.

We don’t know what the Council’s long-term plan is for Tuckton. At present, it’s closed and not costing the Council any money. We’ll look into it further.

Further discussion about Tuckton Tea Gardens and who owns it. The Council owns the land but they pay rent for the building. It’s thought that the work would begin in the Spring but it now looks as though it will be next year.

Q - What facilities are made for lots of drivers, workers etc as there are no facilities to park and go to the toilets.

A - The bus drivers/taxis always used to use these toilets but we can’t keep spending money to put them right every time they are vandalised.

Q - What about installing CCTV

A - It’s not possible due to new legislation. CCTV can only be used if monitored by the Police. Local Authorities now have their hands tied as to where they can use CCTV.

Further discussion about whether it would be feasible to keep toilets open at certain hours, eg daylight.

Q - Is there any news on the Broadwaters site

A - As far as we know, it's gone back out to tender

Q - Is there any further news on the Caravan site?

A - Nothing heard about that recently either.

Discussion about what has been happening on the site.

Q - Are there any regulations regarding drone flying

A - Yes, - it's a SSSI area and you are not allowed to fly these anywhere within the Hengistbury Head area or along the beach.

Q - What are the penalties

A - There are bye-laws and the culprits can be taken to Court - but only if they can be caught. They come under the same bye-laws as for model airplanes. If you are on the headland and see one on Hengistbury Head or on the beach, report it to the Coastguard Station.

Q - After all the money that was spent and all the upheaval, has anything improved regarding the Tuckton roundabout? It seems to me that it's more dangerous now than it ever was before.

A - We agree it's dangerous. Despite all our arguments, it was still pushed through. The original plan was horrendous. General discussion especially about the road markings from the Wick Lane section. Officers have been down to check on traffic flow but not at times when it's really busy.

General discussion about the road layout.

There were no further questions raised.

### **Final Remarks from Avril**

Reminder for people to sign in.

Hot off the Press this morning - Henra are now registered as a good cause on the **BH Coastal Lottery Site**. Lottery Tickets cost £1 each and draws commence on Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> March. For every £1 ticket sold via the Henra page, 50p will come to Henra. You could win up to £25,000 each week. We need to sell 50 tickets in the next couple of weeks in order to remain as a qualifying cause. So we hope some of you will support us. A glitch that I came across this morning was when I went on the website this morning to buy £5-worth, thinking that £5 would be registered against Henra, because it's registered as one week at a time, it's only registered as one ticket but presumably on the second draw it will then register that we've had two tickets and so on.

Someone asked me earlier on about what happens to the people that don't have an internet connection so how does one go about getting tickets. I will write to them tomorrow and find out but I seem to recall that there was a phone number on there and you can actually register by phone. So I'll check that out.

It seemed to me that it would be quite a good way of raising a few funds for Henra and once we've built up some money, we can then help other people with various causes within the Henra area, so hopefully some of you will buy some tickets.

Someone asked who is running this - I confirmed it is run by Bournemouth Council but diverted through a lottery company. I did read through everything before signing up - sometimes these sort of things can be a bit confusing when you first start. At the moment, there's not that many other causes registered. The money comes directly into the Henra bank account once a month. We will get 50p for every ticket sold, 10p goes to the general causes in Bournemouth, some of it goes to the admin side. It's all explained on the website. The company guarantee the prizes each week. So we'll see how it goes and hopefully we'll be able to raise some extra funds for Henra.

For next year's Programme, we're considering doing a "**Past & Present**" section so if anyone has any old photos from yesteryear of Southbourne, Hengistbury Head and Tuckton, especially if they have the same view in the present day, do please send them to me.

Next meeting will be Wed 6<sup>th</sup> March - Speaker, Howard Nichols - A Lifeboat on the Road.

Eddie Coope then reminded us about his Summer Fireworks, Sat. 20<sup>th</sup> July.

Meeting finished at...9.05pm