

MINUTES FROM GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY 6th MARCH 2019

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

Members Present 67

Your Committee:

Chairman	Avril Ogden
Vice Chair	Vacant
Treasurer	Brian Miller
Secretary	Vacant
Membership Secretary	Avril Ogden
Henra Mail & IT	Ed Essery (Apologies rec'd)
Social Secretary (In House)	Miriam Monaghan (Absent)
Social Secretary (External)	Tony Bayliss (Absent)
Council Liaison	John Lambon
Meet & Greet	Jennifer Ruckley
Other Committee Members	Lester Ruckley Clifford Lux (Absent)

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.

- 1) Welcome to everyone on this very wet and windy evening.
(Check microphone working and everyone can hear ok)
- 2) Apologies have been received from Ed Essery.
- 3) 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.

For any first-timers here this evening, the format of our meetings is a few notices from me first (I'll be as quick as I can), then the Police will update us, then we have our Speaker, then the Councillors, then Any Other Questions. There will be Q&A's after each section.

- 4) Firstly, as reported at last month's meeting, I'm glad to tell you that we now have a new Treasurer. His appointment was proposed and seconded at our January Committee meeting and unanimously approved by all the committee. I would like to introduce you to our new Treasurer, Brian Miller. Please welcome Brian.
(Applause)
- 5) 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.

We do still need more people to join us as committee members, especially a Secretary.

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

There are also 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, helping with the signing in sheets at the start of each meeting. If you can spare a small amount of time, please come forward.

As those of you with email addresses will know, I put out an appeal last week for volunteers to help with the signing-in sheets tonight, and also setting out the tables and chairs as I knew several of the committee wouldn't be available. Thank you to the few people who volunteered and came along to help.

So thank you to Ray Neal, David Foster & Chris Adamson for setting out the chairs & tables. Also to Karen Neal, Hilary Baker & Bill Hoodless who were on signing-in duties in the foyer.

Can I also welcome back Bill Hoodless to our meetings after being poorly. Some of you might recall that Bill did a tremendous amount of work when we were under threat of the wind farm. Good to see you again.

I will also need help again at the April meeting as I know some committee members will be absent again.

6) For those of you with internet access, you'll be pleased to know that at last I did manage to finish the **Minutes from our October 2018** meeting and these are now on our website.

I've found time to write up the Minutes from our other meetings using the voice recorder but I just need to now find the time to type them up and get them put onto the Henra website. I'll get these finished as soon as I can.

7) We had another well-attended meeting in February, with 97 members present.

Our speaker was supposed to talk about the Inhabitants of the New Forest but unfortunately she had to cancel at the last minute but I'll try and book her again for next season.

We were fortunate that one of our members, **Janice Smith**, was able to step in at the last moment and she gave us a talk about her **Life as a Family Celebrant**. This was a very informative and interesting talk with lots of humorous stories.

8) The following evening was the **Henra Annual Dinner**. Again a good turn-out and a very enjoyable evening. Excellent food and excellent company.

Lester, one of our committee members, also my son Michael, both took some photos and I've made some photocopies of these which are in the folder that is in the foyer. If anyone would like copies, I can send these by email in .jpeg format. Just complete one of the Comments forms - there should be some by the photos, and write on which photo numbers you would like copies of. If you aren't on email, I can make some copies for you and bring them to our April meeting, or you can collect them from me at home.

Also a reminder that if you have anything you wish to raise or any comments or questions, don't be shy. Just write it down and put them on the forms and put them into the Comments box and they will get dealt with.

9) There is a small **change to our Programme Booklets**. Following the success of our December social evening, I'm now thinking ahead to our next social evening in June. We will be booking a band to entertain us again. In fact, I've just confirmed it with Paul who's here tonight. We will also do another raffle.

At our February meeting, I asked if anyone had connections with musicians who could entertain us but as nobody has come forward, I've been in touch with Paul and Friends who played for us in December and we're happy to book him again.

So please make sure you put Wed 5th June in your diary. It will be a short business meeting followed by the social. Please bring a small amount of food to share. Henra provides the liquid refreshment. It will also be our last business meeting of the season, followed only by the boat trip and BBQ in July.

10) **BH Coastal Lottery** - For those of you who weren't at our last meeting, you won't know that I registered Henra with the BH Coastal Lottery. There are some leaflets on the chairs if you haven't heard about it. If you aren't on the internet, it's possible to register your details and order tickets by phone and I've written the dedicated phone number for this on the leaflets. A few of you have bought tickets over the phone and said it was very easy to do.

Briefly, for every £1 ticket purchased through the "Support Henra" section, 50p of the ticket sales comes back to Henra which we will then be able to use to support causes local to our immediate area. The draw is held every Saturday and you could win up to £25,000

Thank you to all those who purchased tickets in time for the first draw which was last Saturday. For those of you who've already supported Henra when buying their tickets, thank you and good luck in the forthcoming draws.

You'll be pleased to know that three of our Henra members won prizes in the first draw - sadly I wasn't one of them ! The odds at the moment are about 1 in 50 of winning something. Nobody actually won the top prize last week, so good luck next week.

11) A reminder that if you haven't given us an **email address**, 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.

12) I 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 week but nothing has appeared.

13) **POLICE** - Please welcome our PCSO Annette Long who will now update us with what's going on locally

Annette introduced herself and apologized for not being in uniform but she is office bound for the moment following a wrist operation. She said she'd been checking to see what has happened during the past month and there have been a couple of incidents.

There has been a bit of a spike in the scam calls especially to the elderly. Although she doesn't believe the elderly are specifically being targeted, they do seem to be the ones who take things at face value. Last time Annette talked about a similar scam where the scammer told the man he had to pay a large sum of money (£453) and if he didn't pay, he would be arrested.

One of the calls was from someone saying they were from HMRC also saying that if they didn't send in the money, a warrant would be issued for their arrest.

Another strange one was supposedly from the Royal Bank of Scotland. Someone received a text with a phone number for them to ring. They were told that someone had been trying to access their account. They then sent the person a text and got the person to give them their codes telling them that they wouldn't be able to access anything on line for 2 hours as they'd need to set up a new password. They had £130 taken from their account.

A comment from the floor - someone I know had a caller to their house saying they were collecting for the NHS. Please don't sign up to anything, especially any direct debits.

As a rule of thumb, if something seems a bit odd, or too good to be true, it probably is.
With scam callers, just don't engage in any conversation.

Comment from floor – With callers to the door, Dorset Police were giving out some yellow stickers which stated “If you do not leave my premises you are breaking the law”. Is there any way Bournemouth Police can do something similar.

Cllr. Coope reminded us about the notices that can be obtained to put in our windows about not buying from doorstep sellers, and other similarly worded notices.

Various other comments from members about different scams they had been subjected to.

Cllr. Davies mentioned that the Inland Revenue will never telephone or email you, they will only ever contact you through the post.

Annette reminded us – don't talk to these type of people, don't engage with them, they'll usually go away. Once you start talking to them, they'll think they've got you hooked.

Finally, Annette said that the Police are aware of an increase in people begging, especially in Southbourne Grove. Cllr. Coope mentioned about someone begging outside Tesco in Tuckton. The Police will look into this.

Thanks to Annette (Applause from members)

14) SPEAKER - Howard Nichols - The presentation is called “**A Lifeboat on the Road**”

Howard is going to tell us about his humorous working life with the RNLI Lifeboats in the UK and Ireland.

Thanks given by Cllr. Eddie Coope for a very humorous, interesting and informative presentation.

15) COUNCILLORS

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.

I would like to introduce the Councillors - Eddie Coope, Malcolm Davies

We got through a tremendous number of letters and questions at our previous meetings. I have only had **one advance question** for tonight about the cars parking on double yellow lines outside Tesco, also in the loading bays. I have already notified Cllr. Eddie Coope about this and hopefully he can provide some help on this ongoing problem.

EC – After the meeting last month, I did notify the officer in charge within the Council and the Town Hall that a lot of people were still concerned about the parking and also about Tuckton Bridge. I did ask him to get back to me before this meeting but I haven't had anything back. I think at the last meeting it was said that someone from Henra was going to pursue this.

AO – John Lambon was dealing with this but I'm not aware of whether there has been any progress.

JL – They were assessing this. I haven't had anything for several months.

EC – To John, please write in and pursue this on behalf of Henra.

Q – From Jenny Ruckley – How much further is the hedge in Wick Lane going to be allowed to grow. This was raised at the November meeting. It is extremely dangerous for both walkers and cyclists.

A – EC – I was down there today. Could you please send me an email and I'll send it on to our officers again. I visited the site just before Christmas with one of our officers and pointed out that the yellow lines actually go under the hedge.

JR – Explained again how dangerous it is and gave further details.

EC – Although it doesn't belong to the Council, it's overgrowing onto the Council highway. I will chase it up again.

Further discussion with other members and EC

Q – A member mentioned the tumulus in Wick Lane which is dangerous and overgrown. Can the Council do anything about this.

A – EC - That doesn't belong to the Council. I believe it's owned by the Church (Druitt Trust?, in Christchurch). It's up to them to maintain it.

Q – A member said that there was a rumour that Solent Mead Golf Course is being sold.

A – EC – I think you've got it wrong. It's not Solent Meads, it's across the water by Christchurch, part of Two Rivers Meet where they're proposing a big development which will be a bit like a country park, a bit like Moors Valley but on a smaller scale.

Q – What about the Noddy train? The accident was last October – how long does it take to get it sorted?

A – Malcolm Davies - the issue is that this is a private road. As you know, the Police were involved but there can't be a prosecution as it's a private road. As it's private, the train only has brakes on the front, not on all the carriages. You couldn't take a vehicle like that onto a public road.

To try and get the service going again as quickly as possible, the only option is to bring one of the smaller trains up from the town/beach because they go onto our roads and have brakes on every carriage. Hopefully, before the season starts, we'll be able to get one of those into service.

Further discussion about the Police and the fact there will be no prosecution.

It was also pointed out that even the jeep wasn't running. Also people had bookings over Christmas and New Year and the train wasn't running, the jeep wasn't running, nor was the ferry running.

Both the Noddy trains cannot run until after Health & Safety have finished their inspections & reports. No trains can be run until that has been done.

Further discussion about options and also about how much money is being lost by the lack of service.

16) Any Other Questions

None raised

Eddie Coope mentioned that technically this would be the Ward Councillors last meeting as next month they will be in “election mode”

Eddie also wanted it put on record, **thanks to Cllr. Bob Lawton** who is obviously not re-standing in this Ward as we are going down from three to two Councillors so you’ll have to put up with the dynamic duo of myself and Malcolm, depending on the election results, of course.

Malcolm mentioned that last night was an historic meeting as it was the very last Council meeting for the old Bournemouth Council. A sad time for us.

Malcolm also mentioned that Eddie Howe had been given the freedom of the town.

One member said that as he had the freedom of the town, what else does it entitle him to apart from being able to drive his sheep through the town. (Laughter)

Eddie closed by saying that they very much hope to be at the Henra meeting next month as Councillors, but in any event as members. We won’t desert you.

17) Final Remarks

As mentioned at the last meeting, 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.

The speaker for April will be Steve Roberts whose presentation is called Dad’s Army - Fact or Fiction. The presentation compares the real Home Guard to the TV series. A humorous look but also trying to set the record straight.

As previously advised, the May meeting was swapped with tonight’s meeting and will now be a presentation by Bournemouth in Bloom and will also be our AGM and Election of your Committee. Do please come forward if you would like to join us on the committee. Hopefully the present committee will all agree to stand again and if you’ve been happy with what we’ve done, you’ll vote us in again.

So if there is nothing else, we’ll close for tonight. Thank you all for coming and get home safely. See you in April.

Meeting finished at 9.25pm