

HENGISTBURY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY 2nd MARCH 2022.
Venue: St.Nicholas Church Hall, Broadway, Southbourne, BH6 4EP, 7.30pm

Committee:	
Chairman	Avril Ogden
Vice Chair	Vacant
Treasurer	Brian Miller (Absent)
Secretary	Avril Ogden
Membership Secretary	Avril Ogden
Henra IT and Website	External
Meet & Greet	Hilary Baker
Socials - In House	Avril Ogden
Socials - External	Avril Ogden
Programme & Newsletters	Avril Ogden
General Committee	Deborah Bergson
Hon President	Tony Yates (Absent)

Apologies received from :
Cllr. Malcolm Davies

The following is a transcript of the evening, prepared by Avril Ogden from the voice recording made on the evening.

Welcome to you all. I hope you can all hear me OK? Can everybody at the back hear? As you know from the last few meetings, I've been having trouble getting a new microphone system to work properly. Hopefully we'll be OK tonight. We didn't do too badly last time.

So firstly, a few notices for you and a quick run-down on the format for tonight and future meetings. I'll be as quick as I can and I'll read from my notes here so I don't forget anything.

Mindful that the pandemic is still with us, and to try and make sure everyone stays safe, for the foreseeable future, even if restrictions have been removed by the Government, face coverings must be worn at all meetings. In addition, I have bought a stock of hand sanitizer and there is a bottle by the entrance.

As existing members will be aware, when I took over as Chair in Sept 2018, I introduced **Signing-In sheets** and everyone attending meetings is asked to make sure they sign in. This is especially important at present because if anyone is unfortunate enough to get Covid-19 or one of the variants, please let me know so I can email everyone who is at the meeting tonight and let them know.

For any brand new members tonight but also a reminder for everyone, the usual format for our meetings is the general introduction by myself followed by a report from our local Police Community Support Officer, who isn't here yet but hopefully will be by the time I've finished the notices, then our Speaker, then the Councillors, then Any Other Business & any final notices. There will be time for Questions & Answers after each item.

In the absence of a Secretary still to take minutes, I have this voice-activated recorder here and I will produce the Minutes from this and these will eventually go up on the website. Especially whilst we are all wearing face masks, please make sure you speak clearly so what is said can be heard by everyone.

If any of you have looked at the Minutes from the past few meetings which are now up on the website, you will notice that there are quite a few gaps regarding what was discussed, especially regarding questions put to our speakers. This is because, the audience members didn't speak loudly enough and the tape didn't pick up what was said. Also, when several people speak at the same time as has happened quite a bit, it's virtually impossible for me to decipher exactly what was said.

Recording our meetings is also very useful as a record in case of any disputes about what was said.

Last month we tried using our old microphone system in addition to the one I'm using here and this enabled us to hand a microphone to you when you wished to speak so if you would like to ask a question, please put your hand up and wait for David to hand you the microphone. I did notice last month that some of you just held the mic on your lap rather than putting it close to your mouth (*Laughter*)

A reminder also that there is a Comments/Question Box on the table here if there is anyone who doesn't like to

speak out at these meetings, they can put a message on the forms, a polite one of course! Also, it is an opportunity for you to let me know of any projects within the Henra-designated area that might be grateful for some funding as we are now starting to look at how best to distribute some of our funds.

I'd like to thank the members who came early tonight to help with the setting up of the chairs & also for the members who are helping to get everyone signed in.

There are now membership application forms again at both St.Katharine's Church and also in the foyer here at St.Nicholas Church. Interestingly, both leaflet holders that I'd purchased have disappeared so I've had to buy more. It seems even the Churches aren't safe from thieves !

Membership Application forms are also still available from Tuckton Library and also the Post Office in the Broadway, as well as on our website. If you have neighbours who are not yet members, especially any new neighbours, please tell them about Henra because until we can get organized properly again with people collecting memberships like we've done in the past, we're reliant on word of mouth.

POLICE PCSO Annette Long

So as Annette's not here, we'll go straight to our speaker.

EXTRA NOTE

Annette was called out to an emergency incident whilst on her way here tonight and actually arrived at 8.45pm just as I was about to lock up. She subsequently sent me an email which I am copying for you here, although the items mentioned were actually discussed at our meeting anyway.

Annette wrote:

Apologies once again for being unable to attend. I had hoped to mention a few points as below:

** You emailed me about thieves opening an unlocked vehicle in your road and stealing the 'car parking cash'. I do mention at each meeting to 'lock your vehicle and do not leave anything of value inside. I always mention not loose change for car parks – can this be re-iterated?*

** PC Dey has been monitoring the car parking situation at the row of shops on Broadway, following the comments at the last meeting about traders selling cars on the road. He has been in situ at various times of the day and night and has checked quite a few vehicles. All bar one were road legal and belonged to local residents. The one vehicle is noted and the relevant authorities have been made aware.*

Thanks Avril

Regards

Annette

SPEAKER

Our last presentation about Hengistbury Head Visitor Centre and the Nature Reserve was back in March 2020, literally a few days before the pandemic started so it will be lovely to get an update. So I'm very pleased to welcome Robin Harley of BCP Council. Like a lot of people in BCP he has a rather long title and his is no exception - Countryside Officer (Conservation), Community & Open Spaces. There will be time for questions at the end so please welcome Robin and his colleague Mollie.

Robin introduced himself and explained that he doesn't usually have any responsibility this side of Christchurch Harbour, usually looking after some of the reserves in Christchurch such as St.Catherine's Hill, Stanpit Marsh, Steamer Point amongst them. In March 2021 Brian Heppenstall got a new job and following other retirements within the Council, there was quite a big change, so Robin then came across the Harbour and started looking after Hengistbury Head which he considers a great privilege.

I won't transcribe the complete presentation here but if anyone would like a copy of the voice recording, just let me have a blank CD or DVD and I'll copy it for you.

There were various Questions & Answers after.

WARD COUNCILLORS

The next item is our Ward Councillors. Malcolm sends his apologies - he's actually away on holiday but all being well, he'll be here again next month.

When I checked the BCP Planning website again yesterday, I didn't see any additional, new applications that would affect us all and there didn't appear to be any more information about the current applications that I reported on last month and the information on these is all up on the Henra website on last month's meeting Minutes so you can check or you can look at the BCP Planning website.

Our other Ward Councillor if you don't know, is Eddie Coope and he's sitting in front here, and I'm sure he will be able to answer any questions you might have. So I'll now hand over to Eddie. You're on your own this month! (Laughter)

If you wish to ask a question, please raise your hand and wait for David to hand you the microphone.

Eddie - As Annette wasn't here, can I start with a report that we have had many car break-ins recently especially in the Tuckton area. Targeting gangs, what they're doing is going round and pinching peoples' catalyst converters which is an expensive business. These are newish cars and they're actually on peoples' drives and they're going round at night, it's virtually just a 2-minute job, they put something underneath, a couple of cuts and then they're away. Most of the victims have been inside their property when it's been done. Two weeks ago it was mostly in Tuckton but we've had a couple on the Head recently, plus a couple of minor break-ins as well.

Avril - I actually reported to Annette about break-ins, we actually had one in our road. It's quite quiet where we are. They were presumably looking for cash.

Eddie - If anyone does have any issues, if they could let us know. I've got a meeting about this next Monday.

Eddie - You've probably all been updated on what the local Council is doing regarding the Ukraine crisis. You've probably heard that we've opened a vacant shop up in Castle Point and within 2 days, it's absolutely full. They'll be loading up and taking everything to help in the next day or so. The local authority and other individuals are doing their bit so get involved if you would like to.

Eddie - Just a couple of updates -

As you know, I actually said at the last meeting that the demolition of the Bistro would take place just after half term but it actually took place just before half term and during half term. That was because they got the go-ahead and the people could do the demolition. That means we can get the site cleared quicker, hopefully, and by Easter of just after, we should have a new pop-up facility there ready for the summer season. So, watch this space, and we'll try and keep you updated but hopefully, that's progressing quite nicely.

On the Crossroads, the planning application for that has now been moved back a week from 8th March and will now be dealt with on the 17th March.

Avril - I noticed that when I drove past the other day that some of the car park was being dug up. Is that anything to do with the application?

Eddie - I don't really know but I think it's to do with the application. I'd like to think that we're going to re-tarmac it, let's keep our fingers crossed and see what happens on the 17th.

July 12th if you didn't already know, is the opening and unveiling of the new Charles Rolls Heritage Memorial at the Hungry Hiker so all being well that will open on 12th July. That's the date that we've got.

You raised with Robin about the Centre, hopefully for Easter, you probably know more than I do, the more people that write in either to Robin or myself saying that we need more staff, then it's more power to both our elbows.

There were a couple of questions about the heavy transport going up and down the Broadway. You've probably seen that they're using a temporary car park because the car park by the Hiker Café is being re-surfaced, I reported this last month. That's why the heavy traffic is up there, obviously going backwards and forwards.

Avril - So with no other questions from the audience, I just have a few more final notices. It looks like we're going to have an early night tonight. (Laughter)

Any Other Business

Firstly, thank you to everyone who has purchased tickets in the BH Coastal Lottery via the Henra page. Quite a number of you have won free tickets and some have actually won money as well. In the 2 years the lottery has been running, nobody has yet won the weekly prize of £25,000 and I don't believe anyone has won a £2000

prize yet either. I think there were a couple of £250 prizes over the 2 years but really not very many. So why shouldn't a Henra member win one of the big prizes?

As you are aware, 50% of all the ticket sales comes back to Henra so this is obviously helping our funds and we will shortly be looking at ways to offer some financial support to organizations within our area, so if anyone knows of anyone that needs some funding, please let me know and also ask them to put in an application.

I also want to say yet again, how disappointed I was last year when I asked for volunteers to oversee various things. - my request was sent out to around 1000 emails and I only received two responses.

I have mentioned this at all our meetings since for the past couple of years and I have to say that if you want Henra to continue, it is now imperative that people step forward and get involved because the future of Henra is now in doubt as I just cannot continue to do the majority myself any longer.

As you might recall, our booked speaker for our April meeting was originally going to be Andrew Emery to talk to us about the Southbourne Beach & Bistro renovations but as I managed to get Andrew to come along to our meeting on 1st December, I have now cancelled his proposed talk for April.

I am currently trying to organize a replacement speaker. Hopefully it's going to be the Fire Service but I'm just trying to get in touch with them. I will notify everyone once that's been finalized and I'll also put something up on the website.

What do you think about the brochures over the past three years that I've done? Having increased them from 8 pages, up to 20, then 32 and my latest effort was 40 pages. Are you happy with the general format and content? (*Lots of people in audience said Yes*) If there is anything you would particularly like to see in the brochure, please let me know. What I thought might be nice was maybe some photographs of the olden days of the area, if anybody has got anything. You might recall that a couple of years ago, I did one of Bournemouth Pier, if I remember rightly it was from around 1880. It's difficult to get hold of photographs so if anybody has anything that they think might be of interest, let me know and I can put it into the brochure.

Does anyone have any further questions or comments before we finish for the evening?

So thank you to those of you who are going to stay and help to put the chairs away. Please make sure that the red ones are put up on the stage here otherwise I get my knuckles rapped.

So get home safely everyone and see you in April. Don't forget to keep checking the Members' Area of our website for notices.

Meeting Closed at.....8.40pm

Members Present...45