

HENGISTBURY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY 6th OCTOBER 2021.
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	

Hon President Tony Yates (Absent)

Apologies received from :

Cllr. Eddie Coope – On holiday

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

I hope you can all hear me OK? I'm having to use this hand-held microphone as my other transmitter decided it was going to pack up this morning. So I've got to use this one and it's not as convenient. So, welcome to you all. Our first meeting since March 2020. It seems such a long time ago, doesn't it? A few notices for you and a quick run-down on the format for tonight and also for 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, for the foreseeable future, face coverings must be worn at all meetings. In addition, I have bought some bottles of hand sanitizer and there is one 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 and if anyone is unfortunate enough to get Covid-19, please let me know so I can email everyone who is at the meeting tonight and let them know.

So especially for any brand new members but also a reminder for previous members, **the usual format for our meetings** is the general introduction followed by a report from our local Police Community Support Officer, then our Speaker, then the Councillors (neither of whom have turned up tonight), then Any Other Business & any final notices. There will be time for Questions & Answers after each item.

In the absence of a Secretary to take minutes, I have a **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. Recording our meetings is also very useful as a record in case of any disputes about what was said.

As you are aware, there is now a **Membership Application Form** available on our website. Several people have told me that they can't complete the form as they don't have a printer. For future reference, you do NOT need a printer. The form has been set up in such a way that you just complete it then press the submit form button. If you still prefer the old way, then application forms are available at Hengistbury Post Office, Tuckton Library and I was going to say both our local Churches but when I came in tonight I noticed that they'd removed all the membership forms so I'll

have to sort that out.

It's been somewhat difficult to get people to renew their memberships this year simply because I've had to rely on the past couple of years' membership lists to contact everyone. Some people complained that nobody had been to collect their subscriptions as in previous years, obviously they didn't realize that there was a pandemic. Whilst I had quite a number of people who volunteered to deliver leaflets, nobody, quite rightly, was willing to knock on doors. Once the pandemic is completely over, I'll look into the possibility of contacting non-members but until then, I'll have to rely on you all to tell people about Henra, especially new residents in the area.

As of today, the membership list is almost up to 1000 members again so not too bad considering the current difficulties.

I'd also like to apologize to those of you who had difficulty paying their memberships via a direct bank transfer and/or Standing order. Last year, our Bank quite often refused to accept the name of Henra as the payee and just to make things more difficult, this year they only wanted to accept Henra rather than Hengistbury Residents Association. It seems we can never win with them!

I must also apologize that **our latest brochure** hasn't been made available to you yet. The delay was caused partly by pressure of work but more importantly because I was kept waiting by people who had said they would contribute an article, some of which never materialized, and also by a couple of advertizers that pulled out at the very last moment and I then had to secure more advertizing in order to cover the printing costs. Anyway, the brochure this season is actually increased in size again, from 32 pages last year to 40 pages this time. I hope you will think it's worth the wait and I'll be emailing everyone shortly to let you know when they are available.

Please look out for an email from me in the next couple of weeks as the **Password for the Members' Area of the website** will be changed. All unpaid memberships will then have their email addresses deleted. In the meantime, please be sure to periodically check the Members' Area for any notices.

I did manage to eventually get all the **Minutes** from October 2018 onwards typed up and put up onto the website along with two lots of Annual Reports replacing the two AGMs that had to be cancelled due to the pandemic.

A reminder 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 and wants to ask a question or make a comment.

Finally, for the moment, I would just like to introduce our **newest Committee member, Hilary**, who's in the front row here, who has kindly agreed to look after our speakers. So welcome Hilary. (Audience clapped and cheered) Phew!

So now we come on to our first item and our Police report.

POLICE PCSO Annette Long & Sgt. Paul Squires

Annette introduced herself and apologized that she wasn't dressed in her uniform but as a lot of us already know, she quite often comes to our meetings even though it might be her day off.

I've come along because it's your first meeting and also I'm here with my new Sergeant, Paul Squires, also not in uniform but he's been working all day and went home, put the kids to bed and changed clothes before coming along tonight. He's left his wife finishing off.

So to introduce Paul – he's been with us 7 months now. He's in charge of this part of the Boscombe area.

Paul – is it really that long?

Paul – I just heard you speaking about you normally having 90 or so at these meetings, so this is a fantastic turn out. To hear you've got a thousand members is just superb. As Annette said, I've been with the Bournemouth Police team for 7 months now. Neighbourhood policing has been a bit of a change for me in that the demands are different. They are no less important. Just a different pace. Fortunately I have Annette here who's worked with me in all that happens in Southbourne, especially the problems with **the motor bike noise**. I've been surprised with how effective you guys are. We're up here most days trying to educate the young people. Normally, they're late teens/early 20s. They're not here to cause trouble for you as residents but they're very much doing it at an anti-social hour. I know I need my sleep so realize how much it must impact on you. It's important that they are aware of the impact it has on you. They think they're not really doing anything wrong except riding around on their bikes. We're doing it the slow way – that's talking to them, talking to the Council and hopefully the Councillors are talking here. Hopefully

we can catch them and administer a warning. Should it continue, then we will prosecute them for any road offences.

(My tape was crackling a bit here and didn't pick up a member's question but I think the next piece was about rogue tradesmen)

You're very fortunate with this area you live in and don't get so many people knocking on doors and things like that, you get that anywhere, but these people target people living alone where they might not have members of family to rely upon. I would say that it's best if you never accept any workmen who just come to the door. Don't accept them, don't get any work done. If they pressure you, call the Police on 999.

Annette – the pandemic didn't stop for us. We continued. You weren't allowed out but we had to.

Paul – **Various scams**, pretending to be from the tax office, Royal Mail, parcels you haven't collected – mostly it's just a fishing/phishing exercise. Unfortunately every now and then someone will fall for it. It's a shame that these days you can't trust people.

Annette – Our Councillors aren't here tonight, are they? We've been speaking to them a lot about Hengistbury. We've also been speaking a lot to the new PCC and the frustration on you guys as residents

Avril – He's actually coming to our meeting next month

Paul – He, himself has suffered with noise issues and is very keen to know what the Council are doing. I know they have a budget within the PCC world. I'm not promising anything.

General talk about the PCC liaising about the noise issues.

Paul – They do all want to hear what you as an organization have to say.

I know you guys are in regular contact with Annette. We do deal with all the questions that get put to us as quickly as we are able.

General comments from members & responses from Paul & Annette (tape couldn't pick everything up)

Annette – So it's lovely to see you all again. Thanks very much everybody. (Clapping & cheering from audience)

A member then raised the question of the **e-scooters** and what's being done about the inconvenience and danger to pedestrians in particular, and whether they were illegal.

Paul - We're very aware of e-scooters in general. To be honest, it's a massive political issue. The local council is looking at what is being used, how much they're being used. You're right, the private ones are illegal. Some of them are capable of going at quite high speeds. We've seen some that can do 50-60 mph. We have some, what we call, days of action, within the Bournemouth area and we try and educate the offenders. If they are stopped a second time, we can take the scooter from them. I know that cyclists are also a problem round this area. As a Force, we are looking at the whole situation with both bikes and scooters.

General talk from audience but tape couldn't pick everything up), mostly about the legalities relating to the e-scooters and e-bikes, what the Government legislation was and how it might be changed in the future.

Thanks to both Annette & Paul. (Clapping and cheering from the audience)

Avril – You can all have a good go on these subjects at our next meeting as I've booked for David Sidwick, the new Police & Crime Commissioner to come along.

SPEAKER

Some of you might recall that **Steve Roberts**, our speaker for this evening, gave us a really rousing talk back in April 2019 about Dad's Army and he was booked to come to us last year to talk about Harry Selfridge but sadly we had to cancel due to the pandemic. I'm pleased to welcome Steve back again and the subject of tonight's talk is **Mr.Selfridge - Fact & Fiction**. So over to you Steve.

We then had an extremely interesting and informative talk about the real Harry Selfridge and the TV series, what they got right and what was fiction. There were numerous local connections.

I won't put any details of the talk here as I might well try and book this talk again for our next season, when hopefully we won't be restricted to numbers and hopefully the pandemic will be over and done with.

Steve also brought with him some supplies of his book "Lesser Known Bournemouth" and gave us the opportunity to purchase copies at a reduced price of £10 instead of £12.

(Clapping and cheering by audience)

WARD COUNCILLORS

Normally the next section is the Councillors but as you've probably gathered, neither of them have turned up. I knew Eddie wasn't coming as he'd sent me an email to say he'd be on holiday but Malcolm was supposed to be here tonight. He was supposed to come early and help me to put the table and chairs out but he didn't turn up.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

So, as you can see, I'm flying solo tonight so is there anything that people want to raise? I have got an email from Eddie giving me his views on one or two things that might crop up. Is there anything that anyone wants to raise?

No? So just a few final things then.

First of all then, thank you to everyone who has purchased tickets in the **BH Coastal Lottery** via the Henra page. There have been quite a number of you who have won free tickets and quite a number who have won financial prizes. It might be of interest to you to know that 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 have only been a couple of £250 prizes. Most of the prizes have just been £25 or free tickets. So there's no reason why a Henra member shouldn't win one of the big prizes?

As you are probably aware, 50% of all the ticket sales comes back to Henra and we will shortly be looking at ways to offer some financial support to organizations within our area.

So if anyone has an organization or project that you know about and would like us to consider, please make a note and place in our Comments box or send me an email and let me know what it is then we can decide on how best to distribute the funds. We are getting quite a bit of money each month from the lottery which is obviously going to really help us to help people in the area but it is going to be confined to the Henra area. We're not going to go to national organizations. We just want to keep it to the Henra area.

Just one final thing, I would just like to say how **disappointed** I was recently when I asked for volunteers to oversee various things. - my request was sent out to over 1000 emails and I only received two responses. I have to say that if you want Henra to continue, it is imperative that people step forward and get involved, otherwise the future of Henra may be in doubt as I can't carry on doing everything on my own.

So does anyone have any further questions or anything they want to raise? (No comments from audience)

As I mentioned earlier, our **next meeting** is on Wed 3rd November and our speaker will be David Sidwick, the new Police & Crime Commissioner for Dorset. No doubt we'll have a lot to talk to him about especially the boy racers is one of the things I know he's really interested in. I've been in correspondence with him on that.

So unless there's anything else, I hope to see you all next month - and don't forget your face masks.

So get home safely everyone and stay safe.

Meeting Closed at.....9.15pm

Total Number of People present at meeting 27