

**HENGISTBURY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
**MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 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 :**

None received

**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? I've been having a problem with the microphone system and in the past couple of weeks have ordered three new systems, none of which I could get to work. Thank goodness for Amazon Prime deliveries!

Anyway, this is only our second meeting since March 2020 so thank you for keeping your support going.

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, for the foreseeable future, **face coverings must be worn at all meetings.** Obviously except for the speaker or like now, as I'm speaking. 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.

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, 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 they should be at

both this Church and at St.Katharine's as well but I've noticed tonight that they've all disappeared again so I'll look into that.

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 not taking into consideration that we have been in the midst of 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 rely on you all to tell people about Henra, especially any new residents in the area. As of today, the membership list is almost up to 1000 members 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** was late being made available to you. 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 meaning 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. For those of you who now have their copy, I hope you think it was worth the wait. A couple of members have offered to deliver some of the remaining brochures and these will be done in the next couple of weeks. Then I can get rid of some of the boxes in my hall.

Emails were sent out a week or so ago to advise that the **Password for the Members' Area of the website has now been** changed. All unpaid memberships have now had their email addresses deleted. Whilst there are still problems with Covid, please be sure to periodically check the Members' Area for any notices.

I did manage to eventually get all the **Minutes** from October 2018 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. 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.

So that's it for the moment so can we now please welcome our Police representative, Amber Campbell

**POLICE PCSO Amber Campbell (replacing our usual PCSO Annette Long)**

(7.35pm) Amber introduced herself and mentioned that she would normally cover the Pokesdown area. Someone from the audience immediately complained that they were unable to get a response when ringing 101. It was quite difficult for Amber to respond due to the angry audience member and other people joining in (the tape recording couldn't pick up everything). Amber mentioned that it is important to log any complaints which will then be recorded against your name and dealt with appropriately. I, (Avril) pointed out that any complaints received eg motor bike noise, are passed on to Annette so she is aware of what is happening.

Then the problem was raised by a member living on the corner of Broadway & Harbour Road, where an excessive number of e-bikes & scooters are parked outside their property.

The ongoing problem of boy racers was raised again, particularly the noise aspect and the fact that they ignore the gate at the entrance to the Head and they race down to the Hiker café. Amber said it was important wherever possible, to get the registration number of the bikes that were causing a problem so the Police can follow the complaints up properly. With a registration number, the Police can talk to them, even if not at the time of the actual incident. The possibility of speed cameras along the Broadway was discussed and Amber also suggested that pictures of speeding bikes could be taken on mobile phones. Also discussed were noise cameras and how speed cameras were funded.

It was very difficult to pick up exactly what was being said as too many people were talking at the same time. Thanks to Amber

## SPEAKER

(8pm) So now to our speaker for this evening. I am pleased to welcome **David Sidwick, our Police & Crime Commissioner** to tell us what he's been up to since he took over the role and what his plans are for the future. So please welcome David.

David started by saying that he's listened to the questions to Amber and that he would be addressing them this evening and will give his view on them as well at the end.

He started by saying that he would like to give us his vision of the Police & Crime in Dorset. David told us about his life and that he's always lived here, curiously almost here, between the Commodore and the Spyglass & Kettle so he's not completely immune to motorbikes screaming down the cliff top on their way to Hengistbury Head. He explained that he was in the pharmaceutical industry for 20 years then started his own company in Bournemouth (up to about 2017). He explained that he started to get grumpy about what was happening and the first thing that happened was that someone tried to defraud him so what he did was to phone 101 and 45 minutes later eventually got through to somebody who was less than excited about what he was trying to tell them. Then there was a shoplifting incident in his High Street and didn't like this anti-social behaviour. Eventually, his wife said to him to stop being grumpy and do something about it.

For 3 years, he campaigned to be the Police & Crime Commissioner. The first year was spent trying to find out exactly what the PCC actually did and secondly to go out with other PCCs and thirdly to convince people that he could do something about it. The second year, Covid got in the way.

It was interesting to hear that as PCC, he could actually hire and fire the Chief Constable but that wouldn't solve anything. It's about having a professional relationship and creating a Police & Crime Plan that he then has to work to and make sure there are enough resources. That's why he takes a very keen interest in the money side as well. Also, he has his own commissioning budget which he can use for doing good things across Dorset, the largest amount of that is for Victim Support.

He then thanked all those who voted for him on May 6<sup>th</sup> and even for those that didn't vote for him, he reiterated that he is working for everybody now.

He told us that one of the first things he did was to make a 100-day plan – the main priority being to make Dorset the safest county in the UK by cutting crime and anti-social behaviour. They did 50 things, some of which had an impact straight away, others which will take a little longer and will come to fruition in the future. He mentioned that he had become aware that previously, anti-social behaviour had not been a priority. There was a big difference between what the Police were telling him and what was actually happening.

Working together with the local Council, there were no major incidents despite the influx of over a million people to the beaches in the summer, the balance seemed to be right, if not perfect.

He mentioned about putting together a Community Fund for communities that were suffering from anti-social behaviour, they could ask for between £100 and £5000 if they could show that they wanted to drive down anti-social behaviour and could show the project to do so, they could go to him for funds. That may be something Henra could think about for the next round of funding.

He talked about the Community Trigger, something the Council & Police will do to take action on anti-social behaviour in our area. More information is on his website.

He also wanted to address the things that people wanted and the most important thing in his postbag was e-scooters, this being way above everything else. They tried to educate the riders first but then they started seizing the scooters. And not just to seize them but to make a noise about what they were doing.

David then talked about the two types of e-scooters, the Beryl e-scooters which is a pilot project to be used on the roads and not the pavements and not to have two people on them. If you see them being mis-used, they all have a registration on the back so please tell Beryl Scooters about it. Otherwise, the e-scooters are illegal and can only be used on private land. All the retailers in Dorset have been spoken to about this.

Everyone the PCC have spoken to says they want to see the Police more visible in the community and this is what they will do. He explained about training a Police Constable and although the training takes 3 years, they can be out on the streets working after 38 weeks. Also being looked at is increasing the "Specials". Also a "cultural change" taking in things like the reporting system, reporting back to residents after something has happened to them, a whole lot of things to bring the Police back in touch with the community. The third priority is the really funky stuff, like drugs, violence, domestic abuse. Whilst we have a lovely area here, there are places in Dorset that are really struggling. We want to make it a hostile environment for these things, especially drugs. We want to educate the

young people about the dangers of drugs, especially long-term effects. David has also asked his office to do a domestic abuse review as this is something much more prevalent than it used to be. One of the things discussed was the increase in stalking, not only in person but on line as well, worse since the pandemic. David also mentioned rural policing but didn't expand as it didn't really apply to our area. The main priority is to put communities and victims first. David has also taken on the Chair of Dorset Criminal Justice Board. All the finances are being reviewed so everything works better for the public.

One of the first things David did was to appoint a new Chief Constable who was well versed over the needs of the Dorset residents and various aspects of policing. David then talked about all the things he wants to do over the next few years. Also about the various crimes that have taken place over the past year. He also talked about what steps have been taken regarding the anti-social behaviour particularly the bikers. He talked about the various options regarding CCTV and noise cameras and whether we could use them in Dorset. He is very keen to address the problems we have, especially in Broadway. David then asked Eddie Coope to look into an email I (Avril) had received regarding the parking of motor homes in the area. Generally, parking is a problem of the Council not the Police. David then invited questions from the audience which mostly covered e-scooters, anti-social behaviour and so on. Unfortunately the tape did not pick up most of the questions as people were speaking too quietly.

Thanks

## WARD COUNCILLORS

(8.50pm) So the next section is our Ward Councillors. Just in case there is anyone here who doesn't know who our local Ward Councillors are, I'd like to introduce you to Malcolm Davies and Eddie Coope. If you have any questions, please make sure you speak clearly and loudly as the tape doesn't pick everything up.

At the end of October, I received an email from Eddie to say that **Bournemouth is thinking of going for City Status** in the Queen's Jubilee year (in 2022) so he would like to explain about this and get your views.

Eddie – this only came about last week to see if we were in favour of Bournemouth putting a bid in to go to City status. A vote was taken and it was 75% to go for it. It would be good if people here could let me know if they are in favour so I can feed it back. Do you think we should go for City status. One of the main advantages is that if Bournemouth became a City, we would get bigger grants from the Government which would give us more money locally to do certain projects but that could open the gates for more development.

One member then asked if Eddie was referring to Bournemouth only or the three towns of Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole combined.

Eddie – It went out to all three and the feedback was that Christchurch probably don't want it so it's now gone out to the three separate towns and all three will take separate votes on it. So each of the three towns, if they want to go for City status, they can but if the feedback is that most people want BCP to go for it then we'll put in a joint bid for BCP. There followed a general discussion as to whether there should be a joint bid or separate bids for each town.

Eddie advised that there was a standard form sent down from Central Government with the various criteria for City Status.

As one member pointed out, we can't make a decision just like that with no real knowledge about what would be involved and what benefits there would be.

Avril – Can we get some information on this and then I can email the members with details so we can make an informed decision.

Malcolm – Time is of the essence as the closing date is the end of this year.

Eddie – It was only this last week where we had a face to face meeting where we could discuss it. From the Councillors that were there, about 75% voted in favour.

Quite a heated debate followed, the general consensus being that we can't make a decision without details about what would be involved.

Eddie asked for a show of hands for those in favour of going for City status for Bournemouth alone. Most wouldn't vote one way or the other due to lack of information.

Then Eddie pointed out that Avril has arranged for Andrew Emery to come and talk about the Planning Application for the **Southbourne/Bistro on the Beach scheme** so it will be good to get the feedback on that which he stated that at the moment “was going fairly well”.

Obviously, you all know about the Planning Application for **Southbourne Crossroads**. Someone from the audience shouted out that everyone seemed to be against it. Eddie pointed out that it will go to the Planning Board and if you are all against it, you need to write in. Eddie mentioned there were around 700 objections already. Double the amount that objected to the development of the Café at Mudeford Spit and that got over-turned. The Crossroads development is in a similar situation, it's on council-owned land. It will have to go to the Planning Board and go to the Council Chamber with at least 50 residents attending. There was then some discussion between Eddie & Malcolm about the dates and various reports that were due in. Eddie mentioned that he would give feedback that the majority of the residents at the meeting tonight are against the development of the car park.

Eddie mentioned that there were a couple of new signs put up on **Tuckton Bridge** in the past couple of days telling cyclists that they need to dismount and not cycle over Tuckton Bridge on the pavement. General talk about the signs. Someone had told him that **one of the signs was telling pedestrians to give priority to cyclists!** If that's the case, they've obviously got the wording wrong. You'll notice that the **new lights** have now been put up on Tuckton Bridge but one half of the bridge is not working and the feedback on that is that Eddie doubts they'll be up and running this year because they have to get a barge as the cable is under the bridge. Also the painting is in the wrong colour and we can't get that done as we have to inform DEFRA, the Environment Agency and various others because we'd be in real trouble if they spilt the paint and it went into the river. Eddie said he'd offer to do it himself if they gave him a step ladder but then he'd come up against Health & Safety!

**John Lambon then mentioned some of his concerns regarding the Bistro/Southbourne Beach development**, particularly regarding the luxurious lodges dominating the development. John then put forward many various points having mentioned that he was an architect and understood all the plans that were being proposed. He raised many points that would appear to be justifiably against the proposals including the height of the beach huts, the seating outside the Bistro and other things.

Eddie's responses to John's points clearly showed that he (Eddie) was in favour of the development. He also seemed to justify the beach lodges and the rentals they would generate as this would then pay for the overall scheme in 5-10 years time, mentioning the lodges at Boscombe and the income generated from those. Eddie maintained that around 700 people have already gone on line and said what a wonderful thing the development will be.

**Note from Avril** – Subsequent to this meeting, I checked on the Planning Website on 18.11.21. and **there have only been 9 comments made about the Southbourne/Bistro development (not 700 as Eddie stated)**. One comment was my own on behalf of Henra requesting an extension to the deadline for comments, one comment was in favour of the development, the remaining seven comments were against the development. So 700 comments as stated by Eddie is a gross exaggeration.

Eddie went on to say that the Bistro building had been condemned and if not demolished, would fall down soon anyway. Then if the planning doesn't go through, we wouldn't have anything there locally.

John Lambon kept trying to raise various other points but Eddie kept interrupting him.

Eddie then mentioned that I (Avril) was invited to an open meeting about a month ago but that I didn't attend. I pointed out that that particular meeting was being held on zoom only and I didn't have that facility. Eddie mentioned that apparently, a lot of people at that meeting had asked the same questions as John about how the development would be financed.

Audience members also mentioned about who would run the new restaurant and Eddie said it would go out to tender. I (Avril) mentioned that someone had told me the other day that the existing owners had already been given notice to leave. Eddie said they wouldn't leave till next Spring. I pointed out that they'd been told to leave immediately and Eddie said it was news to him.

Further discussion between audience members and Eddie regarding the Bistro and that it would be demolished fairly soon and something temporary in its' place for next Spring. When Andrew Emery comes next month, these are the sort of questions that can be raised. Hopefully Andrew will do a presentation about the development and explain about disabled access. The original plan was to put in a glass atrium from the sunken car park and the feedback was

good but that got rejected by the planners and they reduced the 3-storey down to 2-storey.

John disagreed and pointed out that the levels have been reduced from 5 down to 3, not 3 down to 2.

Various other questions and comments from the floor.

### **Any Other Business**

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 some money. 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. 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 and we will shortly be looking at ways to offer some financial support to organizations within our area.

So another reminder for you, if anyone has an organization or project that you would like us to consider, please make a note and place in our Comments box.

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 around 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. I can't do everything on my own. I've been doing it for two years on my own.

Those of you who read the emails I send out, will know that there will be a change to our Programme for our December meeting. Due to the layout of the hall here, it won't be possible to distance the tables properly so I've decided to cancel our December Social meeting. It's also a bit difficult to eat and drink with masks on! I have cancelled our entertainer, Curly the Busker, but all being well, he should be with us again at our June social. I will look into the possibility of arranging an additional social meeting, maybe something like an afternoon tea somewhere, after Christmas.

Anyway, our December meeting will **definitely** be going ahead and as you know, I have managed to arrange for **Andrew Emery from BCP Council** to come along. Andrew has the rather long Job Title of Resort Development & Strategic Planning Manager Destination & Culture. (Phew). Like myself, a lot of you have expressed concern over the proposed development of the Southbourne Beach front including the Bistro on the Beach, the proposed new overnight stay beach huts, new toilet block etc.

On a personal note, I have already submitted a Comment to the proposed planning application asking that the date for comments and objections be extended but whether this will be noted or not, who knows?

So, **our next meeting** is on Wed 1<sup>st</sup> December and our speaker will be Andrew Emery from BCP Council. I hope to see you all then - and don't forget your face masks.

Does anyone have any further questions or comments?

Thank you to those of you who will help to put the chairs away. Please make sure that the red chairs are put up on the stage here otherwise I get my knuckles rapped.

So get home safely everyone and see you next month

Meeting Closed at 9.35pm

Members Present 57

**Extra note - 19<sup>th</sup> Nov.2021** – There were 4 people who came to the meeting who were definitely not members. I have contacted them all but only one has subsequently paid a membership fee, the other three have ignored requests. People coming along to our meetings who are not members seems to have become a regular occurrence. If this continues, we may have to resort to issuing membership cards! For those members who invited these people to come along, please note that we do not offer try before you buy, nor buy one get one free!