

**FRIARS CLIFF RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION  
AMG MEETING ON 3 MARCH 2017 AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH HALL**

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr Claire Bath, Lesley Dedman, Mike Stannard, Patricia Whiffen

**PRESENT:** Cllr Trevor Watts, [new] Cllr Paul Hilliard, Steve Woolard Costal Engineer, Simon Lancaster of Christchurch Life Saving, Marianne Abley, Charles Clark, Jan Peters, Jane Buckley, Sandra Price, Lyn Lever and 42 other residents.

**CHAIRMAN WELCOME:** The Acting Chairman gave a warm welcome thanking everyone for attending the meeting despite the bad weather saying it was really good to see such a large turnout. Marianne started with an apology from the Committee that at the last minute we had to change our usual printer of the Forum Magazine for reasons beyond our control. This resulted in an unexpected delay in publication however we had managed to bring copies to the meeting. Editions will be delivered to households next week.

It was explained as this is the 2017 AGM there was a business part of the meeting to: 1. Give an update from the Committee from the last year, which includes the Treasurers Report and Chairman's Report. 2. Consideration of our annual subscriptions for the Association which includes publication of the Forum. 3. Election of the Chairman, the Officers of the Committee and Auditor.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes were approved by Jan Peters and seconded by Charles Clark.

**MATTERS ARISING:** To be covered in discussions on the other items on the Agenda.

**TREASUERS REPORT:** As Mike Stannard our Treasurer has had to be in Leeds this evening our Acting Chairman gave the Financial Report for 2016. The result for the year shows a deficit with expenditure exceeding income by almost £100. Subscription income was £1767 and was again down on the contributions in the previous year, the lowest in over 10 years. Our Friars Forum printing costs were almost covered by the income generated from advertisements placed in the Forum Magazine. So in summary we remain in a reasonably healthy financial position however we would like to see contributions from residents improving. We reappointed Jamie Donaldson as our Auditor.

In 2016 we held one social event, a quiz in March, which went very well and raised sufficient funds to make donations of £2470 to the: Citizen Advice Bureau for computer equipment: Macmillan Caring Locally: and the Defibrillator at the Life Saving Club.

Simon Lancaster of Christchurch Life Saving Club spoke about the defibrillator at Avon Beach. This came about as in 2015 someone was taken ill and a defibrillator was needed to help this person. The British Heart Foundation gave some money plus Christchurch Borough Council, the local Beach Hut Association and FCRA. We are pleased to report that the defibrillator is now in situ at The Beach Hut Café, Steamer Point. Simon wanted to thank everyone for his or her support.

It was mentioned that we are planning another Quiz in May/June and we are fortunate to have agreement from Highcliffe Golf Club that we may hold it at this great venue with little cost. We will be putting details on our website and also in the next edition of the Forum.

**CHAIRMANS REPORT:** Marianne gave a short Chairman's report, having been elected as Acting Chair in the autumn of 2016 she is finding that she is enjoying the role. This she feels is very much due to the following factors: this beautiful area we all so much enjoy living in and being part of: the warmth of Residents and the strength of community spirit: the great team we have on the Committee and their support: the feeling of partnership that she has found from a wide range of local businesses, local Councillors, community voluntary organisations and other neighbouring Residents Committees.

At our last Quarterly meeting on 2 December 2016 we had a high turnout of Residents and the feedback on the meeting was very good indeed. We encourage as many Residents as possible to attend our meetings as these are focused on being: Informative and providing a discussion forum: social and entertaining by using local speakers and meeting others: giving a regular opportunity to discuss current matters: interactive with members of our community attending e.g. Local Councillors, Police Support Officers and Local Businesses. FCRA is to represent residents in a balanced and informed way and continue to strongly support the community spirit.

The annual subscription charge to households of a minimum of £2.00 per residence however this has not been paid by some residents and this will result in a shortfall in our very tight budget.

**ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:** Charles Clark put forward Marianne Abley as Chairman and Cllr Trevor Watts seconded the appointment. Marianne accepted this role for 2017 for the period of 1 year. Part of the reason for doing so is that she has received such quality support from the rest of the Committee. She also intended to represent us at the Alliance of Christchurch Residents Association.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE:** All present FCRA Committee Members are happy to stand again. There was a warm welcome given to two new members Patricia Whiffen as Head Road Warden and Steve Gallimore who has kindly agreed to come on the Committee.

There are still some vacancies and FCRA would welcome Residents to come forward and join our friendly team.

**SPEAKER:** Steve Woolard, Costal Engineer for Christchurch and East Dorset Council, was thanked for giving up his time to come on a Friday evening to speak about the coastal defence scheme including the temporary concrete blocks and to answer any questions.

In 2016 the Valentine's Day storm caused a great deal of damage to the coast line and the beach huts at Avon Beach. Peter Hayward, tenant of Avon Beach Café, asked for advice on what to do to protect his huts. It is understood that there is a weakness in coastal defence from the shops towards Steamer Point. The suggestion was made by Steve Woolard representing Christchurch Borough Council (CBC) for concrete blocks be put down temporary with the cost being split by CBC with Peter Hayward. There had been no consultation or information prior to placing the temporary blocks along the promenade. It was stated that planning approval for this initial work was not needed and it was an Officer's decision.

There was a lot of concern about the blocks staying until the autumn when it has been agreed by CBC to commence work to raise the promenade. It was stated that this proposed scheme has had funding allocated to it by CBC of £120,000 however is subject to planning permission. Residents raised strong concerns that in the spring/summer period there will be a lot of people using the promenade. Taking into account the high usage of walkers, and also the beach hut tenants sitting outside huts there will be issues around access especially for mobility scooters, pushchairs and dog walkers. Steve Woolard said this is Peter Haywards problem to solve, as he is the tenant and he should make sure the pathway is clear at all times. There was concern about the cost and effectiveness of the scheme and if other agencies have been involved in the plans. Residents were concerned that the proposed permanent scheme would not in fact help the flooding and would only move the water to the back of the cliff side along Avon Run Road. It was also stated that beach huts would have to be moved after the summer into the car park, for the work to begin which would take approximately 6 weeks.

There has been a complete lack of communication between the Council and Residents about what is happening. It is stated that CBC would now put information board up. There were very strong representations that the temporary blocks should be removed and full consultation should take place prior to any coastal defence scheme being proposed, agreed and implemented.

The Chair welcomed the newly elected local Cllr Paul Hilliard to talk about his aspirations in this role. Paul said he is a frequent visitor to local beaches with his family, and would be keeping an eye on what is happening. What he sees as important is communication, honestly and transparency and 'with a new Leader at Council things should be better.'

Trevor Watts gave a short update about reorganisation of Dorset Councils and stated that there will be a report issued on 23 March on the outcome.

**A.O.B:** There are issues at the Pinebeach Nursing Home site where there have been incidences of vandalism, which the police have tried to deal with. Lesley Dedman the Local and County Councillor who has a minority shareholder of the building has asked that Residents be informed that it is hoped to board the building up to stop further problems.

Avon Beach Café Ltd/Noisy Lobster has registered an Appeal on the rejection of the planning application for the first floor extension of the Noisy Lobster. David Attwell who is the Chair of the Action Group, encouraged residents to write into the Planning Inspectorate even if they have made previous representation on the scheme. Details of how to do this are in the latest edition of the Forum on page 15; this must be done by 15 March.

Another matter that has raised concerns is the introduction of off-season charging in some car parks and the likely impact on on-street parking. Lesley Dedman has asked that we assure everyone that the County Council and the Borough Council will work together for a sensible outcome.

There is no further movement regarding the development of the MCA site.

Meeting closed 21.25

42 Residents, 3 Councillors, 7 Committee