

Minutes of BPC CRA General Meeting held on 12 June 2024

Present: John Gunton (Acting Chairman), John Harkness (Planning Officer), Roy Pointer (Exec member) Gavin Wright (Ward Councillor) and 15 members

Apologies: Peter Schroeder, Vicky Moss, Stanley Peters, Jackie Heap, Andrea Charman and John Challinor.

1.0 Minutes of Previous meeting.

JG apologised that no minutes had been posted from the Jan/February meeting and part of the reason was that the Association no longer had a Secretary. We now have a Secretary, Andrea Charman, and going forward minutes of the meetings should be posted on the website.

2.0 Membership Secretary

The Association urgently needs someone to take on the role of Membership Secretary. The Association cannot operate without one and those present were encouraged to consider volunteering. Anyone who is interested is asked to contact our Chairman or any member of the Exec committee. There is no commitment in enquiring and the role will be more fully explained. A trial period could even be considered at the end of which a decision made as to whether you want to continue. Please do give this your urgent attention.

3.0 Planning Report.

JH gave an overview of the latest applications and appeals. His report is available on the web site. John answered several questions from members including the application for subdivision of a plot and new build in Chester Road. JG thanked JH for his report and the work he does for the Association. It is much appreciated.

4.0 Ward Councillors.

JG welcomed Gavin Wright, our recently elected Councillor for the Canford Cliffs Ward. Gavin takes over from May Haines. JG stated it was good to see Gavin at the meeting and looked forward to a close working relationship between him and the Association.

5.0 Car Parks' Update.

5.1 Beach Road

JG summarised the report from the Barrister who had been asked to give an opinion on the Council's proposal to develop part of the Beach Road car park. The opinion was not optimistic about the Association being able to successfully challenge the Council's proposal, particularly following the Council's appropriation of the site. The conclusion was that the Council has wide ranging powers regarding its use of the site and the most any covenant holders could expect was possible compensation. The covenant holders could possibly delay the sale and development but had no powers to stop it.

RP then gave a wider view of the opinion and summarised the history of the site. Based on the barrister's opinion RP did not think it was worth the Association taking any further action but this was obviously for our Exec to decide.

(For info: Later in the meeting a member asked how the land had got into its current state. In the past it was frequently used and she could remember having picnics there. RP reminded the meeting that the issue with the car park had been going on for around 30 years and the car park had suffered from the council's neglect of the site. He believed the Council had always wanted to obtain funds from the sale of the land and had therefore not only neglected it but also not encouraged its use by lack of signage)

GW added that the site had always been identified as potential development land but that the previous administration was going to offer it for sale with planning permission so as to get maximum value. The current administration is proposing to sell the land without planning permission.

5.2 Penn Hill Car Park

A question was raised about this car park. This car park has been identified by the Council for potential sale and development. GW stated that any possible sale was only in its early stages and the topography of the site meant that a large area would be difficult to build on. He will keep an eye on this.

6.0 Treasurers Report.

JG once again recorded the Association's thanks to Jackie Heap for her work as Treasurer and was pleased to report that Stanley Peters has agreed to take on the role. The finances of the Association remain healthy and the bank balance at the end of May was 43k. The final bill for the legal advice on the Beach Road car park is still outstanding and there is also the net cost of the 2024 winter edition of the magazine.

7.0 AOB

Under AOB members raised various issues including;

1)The need for additional lighting and CCTV on the beachfront. Concern was expressed about the recent stabbing on Bournemouth beach and the drug related incident a few months ago outside Bournemouth and Poole College. GW agreed to look at what future plans there are from the Council regarding the beach front but the recent relaxation on camping on the beach was not likely to help matters. In connection with this, GW mentioned the intended development of the pavilion at Sandbanks and the allowing of overnight stays in the beach huts. It may be that having people around at night in the beach huts could reduce the incidents of anti-social behaviour.

2)The demise of the Beach Road car park over the years (detailed above).

3)Traffic in Poole Park. GW reported that the council had ignored the feedback in which the vast majority of those who responded did not want the restrictions to cars trialled by the Council to be made permanent. What was the point in asking for feedback if the Council did

not act on it? A member noted the 'wishy washy' report issued by the council regarding justifying the closure of certain entrances and exits from the park and that there was a lack of any numbers and analysis.

4) A member, John Pearce, wanted to let members know that there is the British Beach Champs event happening 19th -21st July. Great fun and family friendly. There is also The Dorset Sports Awards happening on 19th July.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Association will be at 7.30 on 14 August 2024

JG thanked all those present for coming and also reminded members that we live in a beautiful area and to enjoy it. We are fortunate.

The meeting closed at around 8.45pm

Approved in meeting on:

August 14, 2024

Signed *Peter Schroeder*