



## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BRANKSOME WEST RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

**Heatherlands First School**

**Library Road Parkstone Poole BH12 2BG**

### Meeting 6 April 2011

<b>Attending:-</b>	
<b>Chairman,</b>	Vic Humphries
<b>Secretary</b>	Jacqui Wilson
<b>Planning Officer</b>	Colin Jones
<b>Treasurer</b>	
<b>PR &amp; Recruitment</b>	
<b>Committee Members</b>	Trevor Wyatt, Ruth McCullough
<b>Apologies</b>	Diane Wyatt Jill Coombes
<b>Guest</b>	Cllr Phil Eades

### 1. Welcome and Introduction

Mr Humphries welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Cllr Phil Eades for attending. Cllr Eades was here to advise on the council budget cuts backs for 2011 with a non party political view.

### 2. Council Changes

We are all aware of the Government need to make changes due to the deficit within the country's budget and there has already been an increase in the VAT Capital Gains Tax and personal allowances. There has been a lot of publicity regarding the cuts to local government. Borough of Poole is subject to 14% cut in its allowances from central government for the current financial year. BoP has decided that it will not be recruiting any new personnel and that there are only 33 compulsory redundancies from a staff of approx 1500 which is encouraging.

There will be no rise this year in council tax and this has been made possible from funding from the Coalition government. Any council freezing council tax at 2010 levels will receive a grant equivalent to a 2.5% increase.

There will be no cuts in the allowances given to Schools. The pupil premium could be in an extra £800,000 for Poole Schools.

Cuts will affect social services with a change in people requiring moderate care and this has been increased from £6 to £70 per day which will have a damaging effect on their care needs.

Beach huts charges are to increase by 15% and car parks fees are due to rise. There will all be a charge to all green bin holders from next April.

Pensions over the next few years the basic pension is set to from £97.65 to £140.

Income Tax 2470 additional Poole residents will be lifted out of income tax and a further 62,000 will pay approx £200 less from April 2011.

#### Questions and Answers

Question	Answers
<p>Mr Jones Is BoP proud of its nil percentage increases in council tax?</p>	<p>The government offered a 2.5% increase to all councils who achieved a freeze on council tax</p>
<p>Mr Humphries Are there any plans for the Gasometers on Yarmouth Road as it is an eye sore?</p>	<p>Well aware of the site and it is owned by Transco and the saga has been ongoing for some time with various consultations over use.</p>
<p>Mrs McCullough With reference to the redundancies at BoP are the 'fat cats' still remaining</p>	<p>Mr Jones replied that a 51 document published by Cllr Collier has worked out a strategy for restructure. Cllr Eades added that 6 directors below CEO level and the senior managers' position were now down to 17.</p>
<p>Mr Hawkins Certain Councillors named as visiting councillors or ghost councillors are these to be persuaded to attend more meetings.</p>	<p>This is a difficult problem as government sets out 1-6 attendance at meetings. Little can be done about Councillors who do not take an activate part in the community.</p>
<p>Mrs Coe Changes to the Green Bins</p>	<p>Poole offers a good service for blue black and green bins. The proposed charges for the green bins has upset the users of the facility as they simple state they didn't ask for the bins they were delivered on a pilot scheme. Reading charges for green bins usage  Next logical step would be to black bins and encouraging people to recycle more. There is no provision on the bins for micro chips. You can swap your large black and small blue bins for a large blue bin and small black bin. Two bins can be supplied for a family of 6 or more.  There is a drop in for green waste at St Aldehems School on Herbert Ave and these dates are advertised in the Advertiser.  Poole will only clear away extra bagged waste at certain times of the year ie Christmas when demand is heaviest</p>
<p>Mr Humphries The state of the roads during the winter was extremely dangerous and the council did very little with regards to gritting the roads.  The council claim that this was the severest winter for nearly 100 years but this is incorrect as 1963 and 1978 were really bad and the winters seem to be getting more severe due to global warming.</p>	<p>Transportation Department undertook a review of grit bins. They overspent by £9000 it costs £210 for each grit bin and £60 to fill it. A request has been made for the delivery of 'hippo' bags of grit to be delivered to certain areas for volunteers to grit their own roads at a cost of approx £30 each hippo bag. There was an instance when the emergency vehicles got stuck and a gritter lorry has to be called out before the emergency services could get moving again.  We would need approximately 400 grit bins to cover the local area</p>

### 3. Chairman's Update

Mr Humphries and Mrs Wilson attended the Area Meeting on 16 March when the Green Gyms and Fitness Trail were to be discussed and subsequently approved. The Fitness trail should be installed in late summer or early autumn. Since the original application the Green Gyms have new and improved items available and Martin Whitchurch (Council Officer responsible) is investigating the equipment. They also had a brief discussion with Mr Whitchurch over the sighting of the equipment and he will come back to Mrs Wilson to discuss the best positions in due course. The council had hoped that additional funding could be found from the Primary Care Trust but due to cuts this may not be possible. However there are £40,000.00 available in the Planning Obligations (Developers Contributions) and £70,899.00 available in the Branksome West Casual Play and Amenity Open Space Fund.

Mr Humphries also attended a meeting regarding the grit bins which had been discussed above.

No other items at the committee were of any importance to us.

### 4. Treasurers Report

Closing balance of General Account as at – 22 March 2011	£274.33
Closing Balance of Savings Account as at -9 March 2011	£1100.25
<b>Income:</b>	
Membership fees	£140.00
David Gilliver Memorial Bench Collection	£130.00
Raffle	£43.00
<b>Expenses</b>	
Loan to Friends of Branksome Rec (for David's Bench)	£200.00
Remainder of our share of £465 from General Account	£93.00
<b>To be paid</b>	
Awaiting invoice for Hire of hall charges to Heatherlands school	

### 5. Fund Raising/Events

The organising of the Fun day is underway and the Events team had written to various organisations such as churches, girl guides sea scouts and local businesses asking for 5 volunteers to assist with the organisation. So far there had been a response from the Property Shop, Pirates of Poole and Mrs Adams at the Dorset Family History Society. A deadline date of 29 April was given if no volunteers come forward to assist then it would be impossible to put on the Fun Day.

Last year's stallholders had been contacted via email including our new Terms and Conditions (T&C's) and stall application form. With a deadline date of 29 April. T&C's were drawn up to prevent any problems. We have kept the cost of a stall at £10 for this year. Mrs Wilson is to resend the email for response.

The Mayor Elect and Town Crier Mr David Squires had been invited to attend.

Barry Steed has responsibility of providing all the games and rides as last year but it was stressed that he must abide by our T&C's. We have 6 games of our own to man which was not possible last year due to the lack of volunteers.

Mrs Wilson advised that after discussions with Mr Wenzal it would be possible to have a beer tent and the license would cost £21 for the day. This license revokes any restriction in place on the Rec for the day. This would mean finding a pub/outside cater who can provide the necessary staff and equipment with a free place but for a negotiated percentage of the takings.

Selling of lottery tickets in advance would require a license at a cost of £40 per year but would involve professional printing.

Programmes could be printed by asking a printer to undertake this with no cost to the RA and the printer given the opportunity to raise funds from advertising. It may be possible to liaise with the printer to return a percentage of the profits to the RA.

Mr Hawkins advised that he may be able to assist with the fun day and Mrs Cabell volunteered to assist Mrs Wilson with the Dog show. Mr Feilden had been approached to judge the dog show and had accepted.

## 6. Planning

Nothing really contentious or “Branksome specific” this time, however there are some interesting issues affecting Poole.

The Planning saga at Hamworthy Power station and West Quay Developments is still causing concern. Cllr Eades added that the BoP had taken out a £10million loan for this development over a 2 year period and was to be repaid from developers taxes on the new properties. So far not a brick has been laid on the properties and the loan will be coming up for repayment with at present no way of repaying this loan.

## 7. Administration

The second notice board has been agreed by the council but as this is an additional we will have to organise the carpentry of this. It needs to be in green oak (or similar hard wood) and strong varnished similar to yacht varnish. Mrs Wilson had discussed the size with Mr. Marter and he was decided that this can hold up to 4 sheets of A4 in landscape. To be placed in the pavilion wall facing Central Ave and Playfields Drive this was considered to be the best place as it was located to be away from the worst of the weather. Vandals will not be able to deface as easily as opposed to placing in the ground where it could be defaced on all sides and possibly pushed over.

Mrs Wilson will chase the council for an update of the outstanding items from the April Meeting with Clive Smith and Peter Adams items taken away for investigation which are:

1. The step and drainage problems Playfield Rd/Wharfdale Rd access.
2. Improvements to the children’s play areas.

## 8. Any Other Business

PTFC planning application coming to Planning Committee on 14 April and this was causing concern with the Bearwood Residents.

A request was made for donations for a further memorial bench for Brian Davis who passed away in February. Mrs Leck and Mrs Adams are organising this bench.

The council had received a complaint regarding the position of David Gilliver bench which is now on the rec. The complaint was due to anti-social behaviour outside of the complainant’s property. Leisure Services had advised that it would be relocated should it become necessary. BWRA had positioned this bench for 3 main reasons

1. Mr Gilliver like to watch the cricket at this position
2. No bench was available on that side of the rec
3. Due to tree sap damage and drains this was considered the best location

The opening of a coffee shop in the pavilion was discussed but it would need at least 16 volunteers to run this Mrs Cabell, Mrs Leck, Mrs Adams, Mrs Humphries and Mrs Gilliver had volunteered to man the coffee shop to be opened on Saturdays to catch the footballers and cricketers as customers. This would be the purchase of an urn as the one in the pavilion does not work at a cost of £35.

A discussion took place on the necessity for volunteer for this role as this person should be responsible for writing newsletters, flyers and to keep the residents interest. Mr Hawkins and Mrs McCullough agreed to undertake the delivery and organisation of this. No one came forward to write a newsletter.

Queens Jubilee 2012 there is to be a 4 day bank holiday and we will try to organise something for this providing the volunteers are found for the fun day this year.

The Royal Wedding taking place on 29 April Mrs Wilson had contacted the council regarding organising a street party but was advised that this would have to go through normal procedures with risk assessment etc being undertaken. This process takes in the region of 3 months to complete and there was no time to undertake this now for BWRA. However it does not stop an unofficial picnic by residents on the rec.

A request for new members and committee members was made by Mr Humphries as we did not have sufficient income for the year to meet running costs. Should this not be possible then we would have to seriously consider closing the RA.

The photocopier had been returned due to the increase in charges to £19 per month plus the 0.01p per sheet of paper and servicing.

Mr Hawkins advised that he had spoken to the workmen at the Pavilion was told informed Poole Joinery had come in with a higher bid. But this had been agreed as they could complete the works prior to the election.

Vandals had already uprooted trees and motorbikes had been on the Rec these had been reported to the council by a local resident Mr Batten.

Mrs LePoidevin advised that the litter pick was successful but one of the volunteers had reported possible site of drug users. She had informed the SNT of this and will keep us informed.

Mr LePoidevin advised that it may be possible for us to utilise the Community Payback Scheme in the future.

Mrs Wilson advised that Mr Stewart had sent out an email regarding the Judicial Review relating to the TVG on Branksome Rec which stated that the BWRA were filing for this. Mrs Wilson had email and received an apology from Mr Stewart in which she advised that it was Mr Maile who was undertaking this JR and BWRA was not involved.

Mr Maile had emailed residents for a response to as the Council has requested that he extend by 3 weeks the period for them to respond to the pre-action protocol served on them last month, they now have until the 21st of April to respond, on the 22nd of April unless he get a good reason from residents why he should not challenge the decision not to register Branksome. Already they have additional costs in having to seek advice of counsel on the proposed judicial review.

Resident's comments were how the funding for the judicial review would be raised. Mrs Wilson advised the meeting that Mr Maile worked very closely with a barrister Mr Hopkins (the solicitors involved with BRAG) and she assumed that they would be undertaking this together. Mrs Wilson will email Mr Maile regarding this.

Mrs Wilson suggested that the next speaker for the meeting in June would be the new councillor elected for the ward with the theme of what is proposed for the area. Cllrs Eades agreed to undertake this if he was elected. Local Elections are to be held on 5 May 2011.

Cllr Eades and Mrs Le Poidevin advised the meeting that the Conservative candidate standing with Cllr Mrs Lavender is Mr Malcolm Shakesby who lives near Wool and was previously a councillor for the Purbeck and Dorset District Council. This was met with surprise from residents as to how he can undertake this role with insufficient knowledge of the area. Cllr Eades advised that he owns a property in Hamworthy and this is within the guidelines for a councillor.

Mr Hawkins is concerned regarding the fire safety certificate for the pavilion and he will be taking this up with Katherine Watters again.

Being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm

## **9. Next Meetings**

### **Wednesday 8 June 2011**

All meetings held at Heatherlands School and commences at 7.30pm