

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTYFOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRANKSOME PARK,
CANFORD CLIFFS AND DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION, HELD AT 10.30am
ON SATURDAY, 27th APRIL 2013 IN CANFORD CLIFFS VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT:

Mr John Sprackling	Chairman
Mr Wayne Hancock	Vice-Chairman
Mrs Carol Parkin	Hon Secretary
Mr Paul Fearnley	Hon Treasurer
Mr Keith Alcroft	Planning Officer
Mr John Gunton	Magazine Editor
Mr Roger Allen	Advertising Manager

GUESTS: Cllr Mrs Judy Butt - Portfolio Holder for Communities, Public Engagement and Participation (including Culture, Sports and Recreation) and Stephen Thorne, (Head of Planning & Regeneration) – Guest Speakers

Cllr Mrs May Haines – Canford Cliffs Ward Councillor
Cllr Neil Sorton - ditto
Ken Sanson – Chairman, Sandbanks Association

And approx 90 + Members/Wardens of the Association

1. **WELCOME:** The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.
2. **GUEST SPEAKERS:** JS welcomed Cllr Mrs Judy Butt - Portfolio Holder for Communities, Public Engagement and Participation (including Culture, Sports and Recreation) and Stephen Thorne, (Head of Planning & Regeneration)

Cllr Mrs Butt introduced the subject of 'Sustaining Poole's Seafront' by listing the problems faced by the Council. These include, ageing and failing Infrastructure (Water Supply pipes, sewage pumping stations, pipe-work and rising mains), beach huts that are looking tired and shabby, access pathways and promenade, old buildings that are under-used or not fit for purpose, unattractive open spaces that need sensitive treatment and toilet blocks that are not fit for purpose.

The seafront has no capital budget allocation and revenue budgets are being targeted elsewhere

Neighbouring Authorities are investing in their seafront thereby widening the gap in the quality of the offer and doing nothing is not an option

The Council has concluded that, over the next 25 years, at least £7m is required to address failure and stimulate investment.

As a result of the initial engagement, there was majority support for the principle of conserve, improve and invest in the beaches (approx 95%). There was general support for alternative and innovative modes of travel (e.g. water taxi, improved bus and shuttle service to the beach) but there was no consensus on how the improvements should be paid for (e.g., private investors, the Council).

The majority of respondents supported the need to make the beaches more of an 'all year round destination' with better facilities.

At this point, Cllr Mrs Butt introduced Stephen Thorne who went on to explain that, once the engagement process had finished the results needed to be embraced into a framework for consultation.

The framework has to be a Planning Document and is called a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) that sits within the suite of planning documents already adopted

This SPD is called Sustaining Poole's Seafront and due to the time frame – a rolling 25 years - this has to be visionary and, in part, aspirational.

The Poole Borough Council Act 1986 includes a number of provisos and restrictions on certain types

of development at Sandbanks and compliance with this Act will be necessary in any future implementation of development proposals. However, the principle of re-design and investment at Sandbanks remains a crucial part of the forthcoming consultation.

The five most important factors that the plan addresses are infrastructure, landscape, accessibility, demand for facilities and site characteristics.

Public consultation on the 'Sustaining Poole's Seafront' document will be for a 12 week period. Feedback will be analysed and appropriate changes made. The programme is then to re-present to Members for scrutiny, followed by Full Council for adoption in late summer 2013 but this may be subject to slippage.

Mr Thorne concluded by saying "This is your opportunity to influence. This is your opportunity to make representations. If you do not like something tell us but give us the alternative solution that will deliver the £7m required to:

- Save our beach from failure
- Improve our beach for the 21st century
- Sustain our beach for our children and our children's children."

Q. A member asked 'What is a Beach Studio'.

A. ST replied that it was one of the ideas put forward by the Consultants. A Beach Studio is somewhere that one can stay overnight and would generate revenue for Poole.

Q. Reg Grimston asked when would the consultation start.

A. JB replied that it would begin as soon as possible, but it was imperative that this be done correctly and would not be rushed.

Q. RG then pointed out that, at the moment, there are problems with infrastructure and accessibility. For instance, it is not possible to overtake cars which are queuing for the car park on Sandbanks and an inordinate amount of time is wasted when trying to get to the ferry, for example.

A. JB replied that this is receiving consideration.

Q. RG replied that the opening of a Tesco Express on Banks Road is going to compound the problem and, in his opinion, this should be sorted now.

A. ST answered that transportation is a key part of the plan and, in answer to the 'Tesco Express' question, he pointed out that it did not need planning approval as no change of use was involved. The Council had nothing to do with the decision to allow a Tesco Express at Sandbanks.

Q. John Morison asked how much revenue arises from the fact that we have vast numbers of holidaymakers visiting Poole during the summer, and why can not some of this money be used for the upkeep of the beaches area?

A. ST replied that tourists don't really make any money for the Borough except through car parking. The money generated goes to hotels, shops, restaurants etc.

As far as money generated from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which was introduced in January this year, unfortunately there are higher priorities for the use of this money, such as education, rather than the beach. CIL is basically a tax on development.

Q. Roger Allen asked if officers had produced the Beach Plan rather than expensive consultants, would the Council not have saved enough money to carry out the plan?

A. ST replied that, whilst there was a lot of expertise locally, the amount of expertise needed for this consultation needed consultants.

3. **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Terry Stewart, Harry Alexander & Jamie Pride (RMYC AGM), and Ann Christie
4. **AGM 2012 MINUTES: Accuracy & Matters Arising** The Chairman said that the Minutes of the AGM held on 28th April 2012 had been included in the Autumn 2012 magazine. He had not been

contacted about their accuracy and asked for a show of hands to approve the Minutes as no queries had arisen. This was given and the Minutes were approved.

5. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** The Chairman proposed to limit his report to the up-dating of items included in his Chairman's Report in the Spring magazine as follows:

Planning Enforcement, Tree Preservation Orders/Tree replacements

Heavytree Road (*Unauthorized felling of the 12m Scots pine as reported in the Daily Echo dated 23 June 2010*) – The Council is still waiting to see if the defendant is going to progress his appeal against sentence and confiscation only.

Navitus Offshore Wind Farm – JS said that Roy Pointer would be saying a few words about this later.

Bournemouth & Poole City Deal – Bournemouth & Poole Councils have successfully made it through to the next round of the process. They will need to complete a negotiation document and present this to a panel of Ministers (including Deputy Prime Minister) in the Autumn. The 'deal' will be finalised towards the end 2013/start of 2014.

Public Rights of Way: Footpaths 82/128 (at the rear of 48 Panorama Road to the small beach) and 85 (Adjacent to 2A Shore Road – The Council have created a new reserve to fund the cost of outstanding external legal costs related to these two objected Path Orders. Both have been referred to the Planning Inspectorate and £19,000 has been allocated in the current year.

Localism Act: Cllr Mrs Butt explained the importance of this Act at the Association's last AGM. At its meeting on Tuesday (23/04/13), the Council approved the procedures relating to a number of community rights..

- Neighbourhood Planning and Community Right to Build, covering the community infrastructure
- Community Right to Challenge, covering services to the community
- Community Right to Bid, covering assets of community value

Speeding in Branksome Park & Canford Cliffs – Reports of two local 'high profile' individuals being caught for speeding have appeared in the Daily Echo in the last day or two, one in The Avenue and the other in Lilliput Road.

JS referred to the Community Speed Watch (CSW) scheme. This is not a punitive initiative. It is an educative one. On the first 2 occasions that a car is caught via CSW, the registered keeper will receive a letter. On the 3rd occasion they will receive a visit from the police, followed by some targeted action by the police

JS said that six volunteers are required per scheme but only three will be needed at the roadside. The Police are asking for 6 volunteers in order to provide each scheme with better capability and resilience.

Gypsy & Traveller Encampments: Martyn Underhill, Dorset's Police & Crime Commissioner is taking an active interest in this.

Poole Harbour Commissioners (PHC) – Version 2 of the Masterplan can now be viewed via <http://www.phc.co.uk/masterplan/>

Other matters -

Membership Secretary – We are still looking for someone to fill this role.

Advertising Manager – JS said that he was pleased to report that Roger Allen has decided to carry on in this role, with the aid of an understudy.

Conclusion – The Chairman expressed his personal thanks to Committee members and Wardens for all their work on the Association's behalf and to members for their valuable support.

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Paul Fearnley referred to the Accounts a copy of which had been placed on the chairs at the start of the meeting.

PF summarised the accounts by pointing out that the Association had made a surplus of £2,135. There is a balance of approximately £35,000 and this is needed as a 'fighting fund' should it be needed for challenging developers, planning applications etc. The increase is due to membership being up slightly and advertising income. The advertising income is due to the efforts of Roger Allen, who handles advertisements for the magazine.

PF concluded by appealing to any who did not pay the subscription by Direct Debit to consider doing so. A Direct Debit can be cancelled at any time and paying the subscription by this method would make accounting and collecting subscriptions considerably easier. He also asked that any Standing Order still going into a Santander account, which he wished to close, be transferred to Barclays by means of the mandate in the magazine, which should be sent to PF.

There were no questions and JS thanked PF for all his hard work during the year

7. **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR:** Peter Schofield had audited the Accounts and has agreed to continue for a further year. JS asked for approval by the meeting and this was given by a show of hands.

8. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:**

Wayne Hancock thanked John Sprackling for all his hard work as Chairman and, as JS is willing to take on the responsibility of Chairman of the Association for a further year, WH asked whether there were any other nominations as Chairman. As there were not, JS was unanimously voted as Chairman for the coming year.

9. **ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE:** JS asked for any nominations for the Executive Committee positions before proceeding with the election of the existing Executive Committee, who had all indicated their willingness to stand. As there were no nominations, the current Executive Committee were unanimously elected en bloc. A show of hands carried the motion.

President	Terry Stewart
Chairman	John Sprackling
Vice Chairman	Wayne Hancock
Treasurer	Paul Fearnley
Membership Secretary	Vacant
Planning Officer	Keith Alcroft
Secretary/Minute Secretary	Carol Parkin
Magazine Editor	John Gunton
Magazine Advertising	Roger Allen

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** Roy Pointer gave a short presentation on the Navitas Bay Offshore Wind Farm.

RP commenced his presentation by saying "The wind farm will happen." "The government is determined." "We cannot do anything about it." These are some of the messages we have received from the residents. It will indeed happen, if we do nothing about it! But we and you can do things if we put our minds to it."

He went on to explain about the formation of the Poole Christchurch Bays Association (PCBA) which is a loose network of 40 Residents' Associations, born from the Hengistbury Residents' Association and has done an immense amount of work on the topic to date. PCBA seeks to work with Residents' Associations over an arc from Durlston Head to Christchurch. PCBA is acting as a complementary force to existing opponents of the wind farm; it is not trying to take over, rather it is co-operating and working together in order to help. It is restricting its work against the wind farm to planning matters and is not arguing about the economics of wind power or government policy.

PCBA is already consulting with councils and other stakeholders. However, the level of public interest is still small judging by attendances at the exhibitions by Navitas Bay Development Ltd

(NBDL) – Phase 1 (200); Phase 2 (2,000); current Phase 3 (Not yet known). Phase 4 will be in the Autumn and the application made for a consent order in Feb/March 2014. A decision by the Secretary of State is due in 2015. Early action allows time for the developer to change the scheme, or ideally to drop it altogether. At present, its proposals are unacceptably vague.

The NBDL consultation document (page 25) displays images of turbines which are misleading – rotors are shown as much too small and completely out of scale.

Tourism relies on the unspoilt coastal area. In Bournemouth alone, this is £462 million and 12,000 jobs. If there is merely a 1% drop in Bournemouth tourism, that drop could equate to the loss of 100 jobs, i.e. the same figure for permanent jobs that NBDL claim would be created for their wind farm.

PCBA has six work streams for the main objections: visual impact, World Heritage Site, noise impact on health, tourism, birds and sailing/navigation. It will keep its link with Challenge Navitus and provide a news feed to Residents' Associations.

RP concluded his presentation by saying “Think about the 10 years to 2023; this wind farm could then be in place. At present, if you were to bump into someone in travelling around the UK, in conversation, they may say: “How fortunate you are to live in the Bournemouth area!” We would agree. But during our time here, we are guardians of this heritage for our nation and for generations to come.

If the wind farm is built, it will be in operation in 2023. We could then be asked ‘How could you have allowed this to happen?’ What answer would you give to that question?”

Proposed SSE Sub-station in Links Road - Shirley Critchley gave her thanks to the Association for their work in getting the Sub-station moved to a different location, after she and her neighbours had had no success after a considerable time. .

11. **REFRESHMENTS:** The Chairman closed the meeting at 11.45am and invited everyone to partake of the refreshments provided.

John Sprackling
Chairman