

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTYFOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRANKSOME PARK,  
CANFORD CLIFFS AND DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION, HELD AT 10.30am  
ON SATURDAY, 26<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2014 IN CANFORD CLIFFS VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT:**

Mr Terry Stewart	President
Mr John Sprackling	Chairman
Mr Paul Fearnley	Hon Treasurer
Mr Keith Alcroft	Planning Officer
Mr John Gunton	Magazine Editor
Mr Roger Allen	Advertising Manager
Mrs Joan Bailey	Acting Minutes Secretary

**GUESTS:**

- Martyn Underhill, Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner – Guest Speaker
- Robert Syms MP
- Cllr Mrs May Haines – Canford Cliffs Ward Councillor
- Cllr Neil Sorton – ditto
- PC Nick Lee
- Ken Bearcroft – Parkstone Bay Association

And approx 120 Members/Wardens of the Association

1. **WELCOME:** The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and welcomed today's speaker, Martin Underhill, Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner, Robert Syms MP, Ken Bearcroft, Chairman, of the Parkstone Bay Association and PC Nick Lee. He then introduced each member of the Executive Committee.
2. **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Wayne Hancock (Vice Chairman). Carol Parkin (Hon Secretary) Peter Schofield, John Morison, Kevin Goldstein-Jackson & Ken Sanson, Chairman, Sandbanks Association.
3. **AGM 2013 MINUTES: Accuracy & Matters Arising** The Chairman said that the Minutes of the AGM held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2013 had been included in the Autumn 2013 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.
4. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** The Chairman said that he proposed to limit his report to the up-dating of items included in his Chairman's Report in the Spring magazine as follows:

**Community Engagement Working Party (CEWP)** – This is an Agenda item for Tuesday's Cabinet meeting, when it will be discussing a document 'Engaging with communities in Poole'.

Sustaining Poole's Seafront (Including proposal for On-Street Pay & Display on selected roads adjacent to beach areas) – This was formerly known as the Beach Master Plan. JS said that he gets the impression that the Council is getting the message that residents do not want to see an over-commercialisation of our beaches and this subject is due to be included on the Agenda for the next Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 5 June 2014.

**Navitus Bay Offshore Wind Farm** – Roy Pointer to provide an update about this under Any Other Business.

**Gypsy & Traveller Encampments** – This is an Agenda item for Tuesday's Cabinet meeting. JS reported that that day's Daily Echo included a story that security staff with dogs had turned away a number of suspected travellers' vehicles from King's Park in afternoon of the previous day and that a 'lock-down' on public spaces and council car parks has been re-imposed for the weekend after the Authority received information that local sites might be targeted.

**Poole Harbour Commissioners (PHC)** – A public display of the Port of Poole Master Plan is to be held in the North Lounge Passenger Terminal at the Port of Poole on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014 from 3.00pm to 7.00pm to enable public inspection of the key documents.

**Membership Secretary** – The Association is still looking for someone to fill this role.

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

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Paul Fearnley's Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31 December 2013, as displayed on the reverse of the Agenda, shows a deficit for the year of approx £1,800 as opposed to a surplus the previous year.

The deficit arises from two main items of expenditure, one being the Association's contribution to PCBA of £1,250 and the second one due to an effort to increase membership of the Association which involved distributing the magazine to every resident in the BH13 and BH14 postcode areas. Membership did increase but not as much as hoped for. PF advised the campaign was not solely to increase subscriptions but to ensure a stronger force when supporting/fighting local issues. Currently membership stands at 2,698 members.

PF made a plea to members to pay by Standing Order which makes life a bit easier for him and also to please check existing Standing Orders where often the amount is out of date and there has been a change of bank, etc. Mr Fearnley was given a round of applause for all his hard work during the year.

6. **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.

7. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:**

Terry Stewart 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, JS asked whether there were any other nominations as Chairman. As there were not, JS was unanimously voted as Chairman for the coming year.

8. **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

JS appealed for a Membership Secretary to come forward as currently the position is being undertaken by Paul Fearnley in addition to his role as Treasurer. The role is not too onerous but does require someone with access to a computer.

9. **GUEST SPEAKER:** JS welcomed Martyn Underhill, Dorset's Police & Crime Commissioner, who has been in the post for around 16 months but has already made his mark. MU has re-introduced the Marine Surveillance team, reduced the cost of the Police helicopter by joining forces with the neighbouring authority. MU has encouraged Neighbour Watches, set up Victim Forums, Community Speedwatch Groups and, on Monday, is due to receive a Community Engagement award at the Police HQ at Winfrith from an organisation set up to scrutinise the performance of Police Commissioners in England and Wales. The Chief Executive of this organisation says "Mr Underhill's work was an excellent example of how PCCs can engage with the public."

MU advised that he had undertaken a review of the speed cameras policy in Dorset, because residents view cameras as a “cash cow”, and the results are due soon. He also spoke about his desire to equip every officer with a Body Worn Video. He explained this will be of help in areas such as domestic abuse which is a hard area to convict at court without video evidence. In the USA and Canada, it has also been shown that it reduces complaints against police by 40%, and the cameras are also useful to protect the Police from being assaulted. On tasers, these are being used more and more, because more and more officers are being trained. He spoke about his passion for early intervention, if we could get every 5 year old to start schooling being able to read write and talk properly.... We could change a generation. There are two pilots underway now in Dorset changing behaviour for the 0-5's, in Poole and Weymouth.

Community Safer Neighbourhood Partnerships: MU is liaising with Poole's CSP and the Local Authority. Meetings are chaired by Cllr Judy Butt. Some of the funding comes from MU.

Closure of police stations: There has been a 20% cut in budget, necessitating a 20% cut in staff, it follows that a 20% cut in buildings is needed to.

Community Remedy: MU consults on CR in his local forums. He gave an example where the public were consulted on suitable punishments for low level crime.

They were presented with 5 options and asked to prioritise, i.e. do you help vulnerable people, such as help a vulnerable persons garden, help paint the village hall; assist with litter picking on beaches or , assist with road clearance, etc. MU would have expected the top answer to be “help vulnerable people” but the majority chose clearing roads and drains. A resident raised the point that the questions asked at that forum may have occurred during the bad weather when there was severe flooding and weather could therefore have had an effect on the outcome of such a “survey”.

MU agreed this was a good point and he would take this on board in future.

MU advised that as from 6th October 2014 he will take over the responsibility for issuing a menu of punishments for low level crime.

From November there will be a victims website set up where you can go for help and assistance.

Mental health: MU is concerned that far too many people are being taken into police custody when what they really need is medical attention. Last year, 157 mental health patients were taken into custody, five of whom were 17 years old or under. From April, a triage scheme will operate so that a mental health worker will be at the scene in addition to a police constable to assess whether medical treatment is needed rather than police custody. Currently the situation is due to lack of hospital beds which is an NHS issue.

Emerging Issues: MU outlined the increase in cyber crime, on-line crime, identity theft, phishing, cyber bullying (where we are not ready for it as there is an increase in the 14-16yr old age group, mainly among girls and where there needs to be advice for parents and victims on what to do and where to go to for advice) and lastly sexting, where girls, in particular are persuaded to send photographs of themselves to “boyfriends” on line and then find the pictures have gone global).

On human trafficking, sexual exploitation and human slavery, MU pointed out this is on the radar and as recently reported in the National press there was a recent case of human slavery at a Ringwood Road business.

On gypsies and travellers, MU calls this a “groundhog day” issue which occurs every year and has yet to be resolved. He receives hundreds of emails during summer traveller time, when unauthorised sites keep appearing. At the Planning Committee for Dorset to be held on 9th May Dorset County Council will consider planning permission for a site for Dorsetshire but not for Poole and Bournemouth. Local Authorities such as Poole and Bournemouth would like to share that site, but cannot by law. MU predicts similar problems to last year in Poole. MU and Cllr Judy Butt will be working together to lobby Government for a change in the law.

On Rave/Party Houses, MU advised that he had received 96 emails from residents on this subject to date but questions whether it is primarily a Police issue; rather it is more one for the Local Authority. He accepted it is a growing problem. The change in the law in October will have an impact on this, and should strengthen the ability to deal with the houses. The SNT and Local Authority are taking action and are engaged with all parties on this issue as the current law is clearly not good enough. MU cannot change the law and he was pleased to see Robert Syms here today, who is also lobbying Govt.

Before handing over to PC Nick Lee who is the Police Constable working on the Rave/Party House issue, MU advised he was also President of the Parkstone Rotary Club and he would like to promote a fund raising event to be held at St Luke's church on 31st May at which the Dorset and Gwent Police Male Voice Choirs would be singing – all welcome to attend, tickets available from Select Travel, Canford Cliffs.

PC Nick Lee – Rave/Party Houses: NL advised that this has been raised at MU's local forums and with Neighbourhood Watch. There is one Company responsible for the majority of lettings, DeLuxe Holiday Homes, who also own properties elsewhere in the Borough besides Canford Cliffs. When there is a problem he advised residents to ring 101 and Environmental Health at the time of any disturbance giving details of the address where there is a disturbance and this will be logged on the file and officers will attend. He advised the police have been engaged with the Council over the matter and that he is also working with DeLuxe Holiday Homes who are co-operating by displaying posters in their properties asking party goers to respect their neighbours.

Jenny Cameron (resident in Moorfields Road with neighbour a "party house") explained she and her husband had been suffering noise and disturbance every week-end for the last three years and although the Police have been attentive she knows from experience that DeLuxe Homes have not been bothering to deal with this by way of posters etc. DeLuxe Homes say that these are "family holiday week-ends" but this is not the case – they are all single sex groups and young, heavy drinking party goers (Tesco vans delivering alcohol throughout the night and early hours). She feels the way to deal with this is for the Planning Department to invoke Change of Use from residential to commercial.

Robert Syms MP agreed this is commercial business and the matter has been raised with the Local Authority who are looking into Change of Use. London has a total ban on these commercial activities but he felt this would not sit right with this area in view of many genuine family holiday lets. He advised that the Local Authority can have authority to close a house for 6 months under the Anti Social Behaviour Act coming into force on 6<sup>th</sup> October when the matter can be dealt with between the Police, the Local Authority and local residents.

Steve Cameron has been investigating all aspects and has come to the conclusion this is definitely a Planning issue. He took the matter up with the Planning Department in November 2012 regarding the change of use but the Council did nothing. He feels that the Local Authority and the residents should have control over this but to date residents have not been involved in any discussions.

Cllr May Haines advised the LA is taking this seriously. Tim Martin, Head of Legal Services for the LA has agreed the time has come for Planning to review the evidence they have to date. A meeting has been held in Council along with the ASB team. Mr Thorne, Head of Planning Department, who was at the meeting, is currently on leave but on his return Mr Martin will work with the Planning Department to review the evidence.

Stewart Griffiths of Burton Manor, 2 Burton Road advised he was the owner of one of these houses he had no evidence of any complaints. On the matter of health and safety, he produced documentation to show he has had a fire risk assessment carried out, commercial insurance certificate and Fire Regulations.

A resident in Elgin Road advised that over the last 2-3 years parties of youngsters have been arriving at party houses in the road, causing disturbance between 2, 3 and 4am.

On another issue, Mr Dennis Riley resident, asked PC Lee about marijuana and cannabis farms. PC Lee agreed this is on their radar and here the Police are reliant on residents to report any suspicious activity in their area.

JS advised that in view of time constraints he would have to move on to Any Other Business but all are welcome to come along to the next meeting of the Association to be held on the second Wednesday in May at 7.30pm in the Committee Room, rear of St Aldhelm's Parish Centre (access via Lindsey Road).

**Chairman's note:** 14 May clashes with the date of the Reconvened Annual Council meeting so it has

been agreed for the next meeting to be rescheduled this to the following Wednesday (21 May), so that our Ward Councillors can attend. I was also planning to attend the Reconvened Annual Council Meeting, to report back on the appointment of Cabinet & Committee Members etc.

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

Navitus Bay Offshore Wind Farm - Roy Pointer gave a short presentation on the Navitus Bay Offshore Wind Farm. With regard to noise, if the project goes ahead Bournemouth, Poole and Swanage residents will have to put up with high noise levels during construction over 4-5 years when piling takes place.

The application for consent has now been deposited by the developer to the Planning Inspectorate and a decision will be made on whether to accept it for Examination by 8th May 2014.

Part of the noise calculations used a Standard that is used for land based turbines and specifically not for offshore; this suggests a level above the permitted maximum noise levels at the shore.

In addition to locals experiencing noise pollution there will be a large impact on tourism. The developer's survey showed 32% of visitors when questioned said they would not be returning to the area during the construction period if the project goes ahead. RP showed a slide of the Skegness wind turbines which illustrated his concerns.

He also advised there is a medical condition called Wind Turbine Syndrome which has been reported in N. America and Australasia and which particularly affects people with certain pre-existing conditions e.g. high blood pressure, migraine etc.

RP advised there is a presentation which is being held at the BIC on 10th May for Bournemouth residents but so far Poole has not consulted local residents.

He urged everyone to take action to prevent the project going ahead by registering on the Planning Inspectorate website ([www.planningportal.gov.uk/infrastructure](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/infrastructure)) and to support the "Stop Navitus Bay" movement.

UKIP: JS informed those present that there would be a meeting that afternoon at The Grasshopper in Parkstone at 3.00pm organised by UKIP.

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

John Sprackling  
Chairman