



# BROADSTONE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



## Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on

**Thursday 20 November 2008**

### **in Broadstone Library**

**PRESENT:** Roy Godfrey (Chair), Sally Banford, Diane Durham, Jill Floyd, Rosemary Mitchell, Don Rogers, Bob Williams, Frank Wood, Roger Jefferies (Acting Secretary).

**GUESTS:** Cllr. Mike Brooke and David Williams (Neighbourhood Watch).

Roy Godfrey called the meeting to order at 7.33 pm and welcomed the members present saying we had a big agenda but he hoped to finish by 9.0pm.

- 1) **APOLOGIES:** Cllr Les Burden, Cllr Dan Martin, David Anderson, Don Harris, Derek Hawker, Cherry Lorburg, Doreen Muckart, John Sayers and Pat Talbot.
- 2) **MINUTES** of the meeting held on 14 August 2008 were accepted as a true record of the meeting, and signed by the Chairman.
- 3) **ACTIONS and MATTERS ARISING:**

Numbers in brackets refer to the item in the previous minutes.

(10) Poole Core Strategy – Roy reported that there had been negative progress due to the credit crunch. The only item we had been interested in was Gravel Hill traffic but the whole project had all gone back to the drawing board.

- 4) **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Roy Godfrey said that he received a great deal of correspondence mainly by e-mail from the Southern Chairman's Group and that he sifted through them and sent copies of anything of interest to members of the committee.

He received a Tourism Attraction Workshop notice looking at tourism in Poole which he though was superb but unfortunately could not attend. He wished it had covered something for Broadstone and surprisingly the superb Compton Acres had been omitted but that had been put right now.

Transport Policy. This talks about the dual carriageway link between Poole Port and the A31 via Gravel Hill but this is unlikely to progress for many years – apart from questions of funding another problem is the matter of green belt land on either side.

- 5) **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:**

Roy said that he had attended a number of meetings;

Broadstone Chamber of Trade and Commerce committee meeting, 7 October. An item of interest to all residents was a constructive debate on parking problems and suggestions to improve the situation.

Broadstone, Merley and Bearwood Area Committee meeting, 22 October. About 250 residents packed this meeting to protest about the plans for a travellers' site at Merley Hall Farm.

Cllr Leveret presented his budget forecast for 2009, and suggested there could be a five per cent increase in council tax next year.

It was a bad meeting; the residents had discovered the plans for the travellers' site by accident and were given only fifteen minutes to present their case on a very important issue.

Roy said he had written a letter to the Echo about this and they published it on 28 October, giving it a prominent two page spread.

Residents' 'Open Meeting', 28th of October, see Item 6.

Broadstone, Merley and Bearwood Safer Neighbourhoods Area Public Meeting. 7 November. There was a very low public turnout, but the debate was very constructive. However there were no residents at all. The highest ranking officer was Sgt Andy Jenkins. The minutes were not good and Roy said he was not very happy with the whole thing.

**6) OPEN MEETING HELD ON 20 OCTOBER:**

Roy referred to the notes of the meeting saying that he thought it had been very successful with over 40 residents attending, mainly husbands and wives. It concentrated almost entirely on traffic congestion and parking although there was an interesting session on the war memorial. A useful list of problem areas was drawn up and would be taken forward.

It was felt that the meeting was useful and should be repeated.

Bob Williams said it was important that the meetings should be able to demonstrate some success in at least some areas to generate confidence. David Williams cautioned against meeting 'overload' suggesting it should be held annually. It was agreed that late spring may be a suitable time.

**7) OFFICER VACANCIES:**

RG reported that when he took on the responsibility of Editor and Advertising Manager it was to fill in the gap after John Milhofer resigned but it was essential that replacement officers be found because of the tremendous amount of work involved. In addition we need a new Secretary – Roger is holding the fort but he hasn't been well. He referred to revised advertisements prepared by Roger & Anne which Rosemary had placed in the Stour & Avon magazine, on the notice boards and in the Link magazine and said that full page versions would be placed in the forthcoming issue of BH18. He emphasised that although he was prepared to produce the January edition of BH18 and maybe the spring newsletter, after that he could make no commitment

Don Rogers suggested that loose inserts could be placed in the magazine – this would be considered

**8) REPORTS BY OFFICERS:**

*Planning*

In PAT's absence, Diane reported that there had been 45 applications during the period 11 August to 9 November. Items of interest were:

2 Barry gardens	Bungalow at rear. Gone to Appeal
10 Ridgeway (Conservation Area)	Demolish all existing buildings and erect block of 8 flats and block of 2 flats. REFUSED
82 Springdale Road	Erect 4 bed house in front garden REFUSED
38 Fontmell Road	Erect 2 Bed Bungalow on existing plot. APPROVED
7 Lytham Road	Replace bungalow and erect 4 bed dwelling in rear garden of 2 Sydney Gardens. Access from Lytham Road. Planning Committee decision 20 November.

Roy commented that things were fairly quiet at the moment due to the 'credit crunch'.

#### Treasurer

##### **Income:**

Roger reported that the 3 months since our last meeting in August are the busiest of the year for BRA from the point of view of the collection of subscriptions and advertising revenue.

**Subscriptions** paid in to date now amount to £6,070.50 compared with £5,992 to this point last year.

**Advertising** receipts amount to £2,697.50 compared with £2,695 last year - virtually the same and there is about £280 still to collect though there is a question mark against one or two items.

**Interest** received amounted to £224.86 – 20% up on last year.

**Total receipts** for the year to date amount to £8,965.86.

**Expenditure** to date has been £659 for the spring newsletter, £2,629 for the summer magazine, £20 for magazine advertising expenses, £97.75 for the hire of halls including the Wardens' coffee morning in August and the Open Meeting in October, £286.09 for refreshments at meetings, £237.78 for Officers' expenses, £110 for gratuities and presentations and £1,450 for donations to local organisations. Since the last meeting we have donated £250 to Broadstone Age Concern and £250 to the Broadstone Over 60s Club which were approved at the last meeting, making up the total of £1,450 I mentioned.

**Total expenditure** to date has been £5,549.62 which means that income exceeds expenditure so far this year by £3,416.24.

Our **bank and cash balances** have been increased by this amount and now stand at £14,986.91 of which £12,884.92 is on deposit earning interest. We shall of course have the winter magazine to pay for in February which will be of the order of £2,600 with little additional revenue to come in.

#### Editor & Advertising Officer

Roy advised that the deadline for copy is the end of November and articles are now being received, the magazine will be published on the 29th of January.

Following some minor changes adverts are in place for the Winter Edition. This was all subject to his comments in agenda item 6 on recruitment.

#### Chief Warden – including Wardens' Coffee Morning

In the absence of John Sayers there was no report.

Roy referred to the Warden's Meeting in August and said that he had enjoyed it but that it was a pity there were not more there partly due to insufficient communication. He said we had set a precedent for the future. One suggestion was that future presentations should be done at the AGM.

#### Chamber of Trade

Bob Williams reported that the membership of the Broadstone Chamber of Trade continues to rise with 68 members representing the whole range of businesses in Broadstone.

This time of year the concentration is on organising the switch on of the Christmas tree lights and the Christmas parade.

The 'switch on' is Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 6.30pm outside the Broadstone Methodist church. There will be Christmas carols supported by the Broadstone Community Concert band and the Broadstone Community choir with coffee and mince pies available after. We will be decorating most of the trees through the Broadway with solar Christmas lights this year so let us hope for plenty of sunshine. We did hope that we could dress the Methodist church tree with new lights supplied and installed professionally but the cost and reluctance to guarantee the result meant we did not proceed.

The Christmas parade will be on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December with a 1.30pm start. Arrangements are going well with a decision to support the Broadstone Branch of the Royal British Legion Benevolent fund and the Poole branch of the RNLI from the street collection. As with most events we battle with bureaucracy and this year we are looking for extra stewards to comply with new rules.

Our broader work is on improving access to Broadstone, as always raising the profile of what is on offer here and trying to provide a critical friend to members.

### Education

Don Rogers reported that our local schools have, once again, had some very good results in the GCSE exams. Newspaper comments can be misleading when they rely on the particular figures which have been supplied by the schools. The list below limits itself to the percentages of 5 or more passes (grades A\* to C) including English and Mathematics – a good overall figure to show how schools are succeeding.

#### **Grammar Schools in Poole**

Poole Grammar	Boys	99.38%
Parkstone Grammar	Girls	99%

#### **Secondary Schools in Poole (competing with Grammar Schools for students)**

Corfe Hills	Mixed	65%
Carter, Hamworthy	Mixed	42%
Rossmore (Kemp Welch)	Mixed	13%
Ashdown	Mixed	?
Poole High (Henry Harbin)	Mixed	?

#### **Comprehensive Schools in Dorset (including "Grammar" students)**

Blandford	Mixed	57%
Queen Elizabeth, Wimborne	Mixed	56.6%
Purbeck	Mixed	43%

### **Ofsted Inspections**

Three of our local schools have received inspections recently.

### **Inspection judgements**

Although all aspects of a school's work cannot be investigated in detail in a short inspection, the inspectors can gather a lot of assessment data, scrutinise policies and other documents, observe the school at work, interview teachers and pupils and consider parents' responses to a questionnaire. Judgements are made in 27-33 categories in subjects such as:-

- Overall effectiveness
- Achievements and standards
- Personal development and well-being
- The quality of provision
- Leadership and management

### **Key for inspection grades**

Grade 1	Outstanding
Grade 2	Good
Grade 3	Satisfactory
Grade 4	Inadequate

**Corfe Hills School:** Inspection date 7 October 2008: 27 Grade 1 judgements (out of 27)

**Broadstone Middle School:** Inspection date 8 October 2008: 9 Grade 1 judgements  
18 Grade 2 judgements

**Broadstone First School:** Inspection date 7 October 2008: 33 Grade 1 judgements (out of 33)

**Last Inspections for other schools**

Poole Grammar School	March 2006
Parkstone Grammar School	March 2007
Springdale First School	May 2005

Don reported that the results were outstanding and that the full reports can be obtained on the web.

### **Broadstone Neighbourhood Watch**

David Williams reported that the Watch had been very pleased to welcome PC Joe Cooper who has replaced PC Steve Hawke.

Overall crime figures remain low although recently there was an outbreak again of mindless vandalism in the Ascot / Cheam / Lewesdon (Wynne Close) area.

There was a heavy Police presence (including the helicopter) last Friday in Broadstone which dealt successfully with various gangs of youths intent on causing trouble.

Locking the gate at night in the Play area in Lewesdon Park has proved very successful.

Improved lighting in Ascot / Cheam area has finally been agreed and once installed will enable the Police to make use of a mobile CCTV camera.

There was a disappointing attendance at the Safer Neighbourhood Policing public meeting on 7 November. Priority areas were identified as Anti-Social behaviour, Speeding, and illegal / inconsiderate Parking. These were considered by the SNP Panel on 13 November, and to be reviewed at the follow-up meeting early next year in Bearwood.

The Watch has donated £500 to Dorset Crimestoppers towards funding a leaflet campaign for the Elderly on Doorstep crime.

Our last Surgery of the year is in the Library from 10.0am to noon on Saturday 29 November. Please do call in and meet PC Joe Cooper, she is very good at reporting back and has made a very good impression already.

Roger Jefferies was very concerned that the Safer Neighbourhood meetings could just become 'talking shops' and questioned who would be taking matters forward to remedy the issues raised? Roy said that it was early days and the police would report back at future meetings. On the question of parking on double yellow lines outside schools etc., it was the Council which had the responsibility and that it had only one officer and he was concentrating on Alderney and Rossmoor at the present time. He would however be extending his coverage in the coming months. We must give it time.

## **9) TRAFFIC STRATEGY FOR BROADSTONE:**

Roy said that the Open Meeting had produced three priorities: a) traffic congestion and parking problems in specific roads such as Wallace Road and many others, b) speeding – Springdale and Lower Blandford roads and c) Anti-social behaviour. These had been passed to the police and we would be looking to see what progress is made.

What we need is a strategy – a plan for Broadstone which we can then pass to the Council and see what response we can get. Roy mentioned in particular the constriction of specific roads such as Wallace Road, Laurel Drive etc. by inconsiderate parking where it would be impossible for emergency vehicles to get through.

Frank Wood referred to a notice in the Advertiser saying that Wallace Road was to be resurfaced and that it could take up to 18 months when access to residents would be restricted. Mike Brooke pointed out that this was a standard notice and that it was highly unlikely to take anything like that long and the contractors would liaise closely with residents over access. It was queried why Wallace Road had been selected when many other roads appeared to be in more urgent need of repair.

Don Rogers referred to the difficulty in parking in Broadstone to which Roy replied that the way forward as a priority was to form a sub-committee consisting of the Residents' Association, the Chamber of Trade and the Council to sit down and thrash out a strategy to take matters forward.

#### **10) WAR MEMORIAL:**

The Chairman expressed his surprise that the Residents' Association had not laid a wreath at the recent Armistice Day service - neither had the Chamber of Trade. This apparently had never been the practice but it was agreed that this would be remedied and that in future a wreath would be obtained and laid by a worthy veteran on behalf of the Association.

Jill Floyd said that she had researched the history of the memorial and was pleased to say that it had recently been listed and that as a result funds should be available for its upkeep. She referred to the fact that the memorial had once had wonderful views over to the Purbecks and that these were now entirely obliterated by trees. It was agreed by the Committee that it should press for the views to be restored. Jill said that this had run into considerable opposition in the past and Mike Brooke also emphasised the difficulties of getting trees felled in a Conservation Area. However if it could be shown that the proposals were an *enhancement*, this could increase the chances of getting it done. The Committee felt that restoring the views would be an enhancement and agreed to press forward on this basis.

#### **11) NOTICE BOARDS:**

Roy started by thanking Ro Mitchell for her work updating the notices and saying that we must now move to improve the boards which are getting very shabby and will be getting us a bad name. He then referred to an e-mail sent round by Roger suggesting new notice board frames in silver iodised aluminium with a lockable polycarbonate cover costing about £1,350 including VAT. Ro pointed out that our boards had always been accessible to the public and a notice at the top said they may be used by appropriate organisations, which would not be possible if the boards were locked.

Discussion ensued as to what was desirable and it was agreed to look at the possibility of a) replacing the existing boards with new wooden ones, b) look for boards similar to the one at the Methodist Church with glass sliding doors or c) pursuing the boards suggested by Roger but without the locks.

#### **12) GRANT REQUESTS Report of Grants Sub-Committee:**

No further requests had been received.

#### **13) ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

a) *AGM Speaker.*

Roy asked members to give some thought to a suitable speaker for the Association's AGM to be held on 21 May 2009 and suggestions would be discussed at the next meeting.

b) Merley House Farm – Proposed Travellers' Site

Roy commented that there had been some discussion as to how far the Broadstone Association should get involved as it is not in our 'patch'. The consensus was that we should not contribute to a 'fighting fund' but that a letter of support for the Merley group should go to the Council on behalf of the Association emphasising our opposition to the use of green belt land and the lack of notification and consultation with the residents. After discussion it was also suggested that the letter should emphasise the need to a) look at a variety of options, b) suggest that brown field sites might be preferable and c) suggest that the whole matter should be dealt with as a combined initiative by the Poole, Bournemouth and Dorset Councils.

c) Plaque to commemorate Russell Wallace

Mike Brooke advised that in the 150<sup>th</sup> year since Wallace's contribution to the Origin of the Species we had the opportunity to contribute to a significant plaque to commemorate his life and work and that he would like to suggest that one of only 15 to be erected in the world should be put in Broadstone library. The cost would be £160. Following discussion it was proposed by Bob Williams and seconded by Jill Floyd that the Association purchase a plaque at a cost of £160. This was carried nem. con.

There being no further business at the meeting, the chairman thanked the members for their attendance and contributions, wished them a happy Christmas and closed the meeting at 9.40pm.

.....Chairman

.....Date

**Date of next meeting: Thursday 29 January 2009**