

Minutes of Meeting



Date 04 June 2026
Venue Highcliffe Sailing Club
Time 7:00 pm

Present	Steve Alves	Chairman
	Paul De Jonghe	Vice Chair
	Louise Heybourne	Secretary & Environment Rep
	Linda Lawrence	Treasurer
	Meg Ward	Membership Secretary
	Sara Luder	Social Secretary
	Kevan Ward	Web Master
	Charles Newman	Forum Editor
	Cllr Paul Hilliard	Bournemouth Christchurch Poole (BCP)
	Cllr Stuart Perry	Christchurch Town Council (CTC)
	Cllr Lesley Dedman	Chairman BCP
Apologies	Jackie Alves	Head Road Rep
Guests	Bill & Gill Burgess	Rescheduled
	CSAS Team	Unable to attend

Chairman Welcome

Guest speaker, Bill Burgess was unwell and unable to attend this evening. The Police had been asked to attend but no show.

1.0 Councillor Update - Cllr Hilliard

1. Blue Flag and Seaside Award. Due to administration error Avon Beach has been given Seaside Award. Friars Beach more rural and unable to comply with Blue Flag criteria. **ACTION:** Cllr Hilliard will send info re Seaside Award to Steve to share with residents.
2. Verges/hedges/fields had their first cut. Report if any areas are exceptionally high and cuts can be brought forward.
3. Bins along beach are collected twice a day, if report made bins will be emptied more frequently.
4. BCP Budget currently has an £18m shortfall and have to find savings during year. The temporary Section 151 Finance Director is calling it an amber classification so calling for a recruitment freeze and no non-essential spends. Procurement decision records already in the pipeline, anything over £30,000 will need sign off by the Finance Director to go ahead.
5. BCP Local Plan 15 year strategy for housing & development around the area was rejected last year. BCP consulted with developers and landowners to find out any proposals to be put forward, asking what type of policies and scope people want via a survey, this will be reviewed.

Minutes of Meeting

6. CTC Neighbourhood Plan is ready for sign off at Full Council, then to be sent to BCP for their comments and then Draft on to Government for inspection.

1.1 Cllr Perry:

CTC looking at potential for adding a pole on end of M12 groyne with the BCP technical team.

Community Governance Review comment – “what does Friar Cliff get for their precept”, as not many opportunities. Would like exploratory feedback, is there anything we can think of for review in September. If something comes to mind please put idea forward before then.

BCP have Community Safety Accredited Scheme (CSAS) Officers and an Anti-Social Behaviour Team, we need a police presence a couple of times a year at this meeting.

1.2 Cllr Dedman, Chairman BCP Unitary Council:

Liaising with High Sheriff of Dorset to get ideas for supporting youngsters with something better to do rather than ASB.

Our Chairman made a Freedom of Information (FOI) request to BCP to find out which beaches were sponsored by which company re Blue Flag in 2025. **ACTION:** Cllr Hilliard to follow up

2.0 Beach Works - Delayed

- Repair to rock groynes
- Repair to marker posts
- Beach levels (plan to have recycling of beach material from East to West Highcliffe for Friars Cliff and Avon Beach)

Works have been delayed, supposed to take place in the Spring, April/May and then June/July. In the past CTC completed works every year beginning in May. BCP hope it will happen in September. The concern is having had 3 delays a further delay may result in no action at all this year.

Cllr Hilliard responded that the works take 6-7 weeks. There is funding from Wessex Coastal Organisation with a rough plan. The full business case was prepared in January 2026, approved by Wessex and the 6 week procurement tender took until end of March. They didn't want to be on the beach over Easter or May holidays. The Contractor is in position and will proceed in September unless the weather prevents the start. A craft is brought in from the sea, money is available, contractor in place.

Charles commented that BCP agreed the work in July 2025 and not sure why detailed scoping was left until January. Our concern is today Simon Hill sent email saying work will go ahead in mid-September subject to contractor availability!

Minutes of Meeting



Groyne F1 & M12 have no marker posts. BCP have agreed to put marker post at end of F1, appreciated by Blue Tits Swimmers and tourists. We would like post at M12 but BCP are satisfied from a Health & Safety perspective it is not required. F1 post is very important, last groyne on Friars Cliff. Concede M12 is not so important, and BCP won't put a post there. Charles suggested making groyne shorter, if no post M12, therefore swimmers won't hit rocks. F1 being done by different contractor this summer. M12 post cost is an extra £6,000 if done at same time as F1.

ACTION: Cllr Dedman - please lobby Coastal Team on behalf of FCRA, post for M12.

Cllr Perry - a post can be put in M12 seaward, so posts would align, red cap aid to navigation on top but there is no budget left at BCP to add an extra post but if funds raised would be prepared to do in September.

FCRA concerned on several points relating to the Coastal Team and Council. A local business approached us and our local cafe not to proceed with works during busy period.

2.1 Resident Questions:

The Blue Tits are concerned for swimmers and the lack of markers for visitors and tourists. What is BCP response if there is an accident or injury as a result of not doing the beach repair work to the groynes and safety markers? The September equinox is

Minutes of Meeting

when the sea is rough, the winds are worse and the works are more likely not to be done at the autumnal equinox. ***Post meeting note, groyne posts were replaced in July***

Cllr Hilliard responded that following an incident at Bournemouth Beach BCP engaged with RNLI to make beaches safer and display signs re groynes.

Shelley - is the money capped or can BCP use it for something else? Cllr Hilliard confirmed the funding is set aside. The beach maintenance project cost is £380,000, consisting of groyne repair work, beach recycling and no money left over to cover the extra posts at the end of M12.

Resident asked why each groyne is marked along Avon Beach but not at Friars Cliff Beach? The signs have been put on the sloping wall. The sign communicates not to swim by the groyne but if the groynes are not marked, how does a tourist know where the groyne is? Does a tourist know what a groyne is? At high tide there are submerged rocks than cannot be seen and unless there is a marker post, how do you know it goes out to sea?

Resident - can we not divert funds from our precept to CTC to pay for them? Cllr Perry is the new Chairman and Vice Chairman of CTC Finance Committee. Cllrs Hilliard & Perry are talking to technical team, looking at the 10 year plan to replace all groynes and posts costing £10-15 million, if there is surplus funds they will discuss.

Resident mentioned F1 rocks stop and then a 4 m with no rocks at all, at medium tide you think that is the end of it, so no point in putting in a post at the end unless the rocks are continuous. **ACTION:** SA chase repair of rock gap with Simon Hill.

3.0 Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) - green behind café, Friday and Saturday nights has become worse. Underage drinking, fights, vandalism, pulling tiles off roof of toilet block. Local residents go up and clear up and report damage.

The residents in the vicinity have a WhatsApp and Email group, formed a pseudo neighbourhood watch scheme and report incidents to the Police. Leon has created a flow chart takes through how to report ASB online or phone 101. Need police to see as an Area of Interest.

3.1 Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) signage - 3 PSPOs across BCP referred to this area, it's a mess, and there should be one to incorporate all types of ASB. FCRA written to Council as these PSPO's expire in November and we have asked for signs up at entry and exit points, so accredited officers can take action. ***Post meeting note, some signs were erected in July***

BCP have launched a survey, Have Your Say, the Chairman sent out a link recently to residents in an email to complete. FCRA asked Cllr Hilliard and the Police to write to Schools to educate the children. FCRA will write to the schools to educate parents. ***Post meeting note, this was done mid June***

Minutes of Meeting

Parking meter stolen at Steamer point, second incident of car driving in to grass car park, attaching chain around meter and driving off. Reported to police along with vandalism and graffiti incidents. Consistent failure of the council contractor to lock these barriers.

If ASB call 101 or use the online 101 form, to record Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and get an incident no. Leon informed residents re completing the incident form, 6 questions, 7 or 8 answers to each question, you have to answer each question to get to the next one and submit an incident, if you get it wrong the ASB incident fails. There have been 25 incidents in 4.5 weeks, and those are the ones we know about.

ACTION: Cllr Dedman is going to bring to the attention of the High Sheriff, who has ear of the Police & Crime Commissioner and take higher up the line, we have been citing poor policing since 2016.

Request to residents to **inform FCRA (or any member of the Committee) of the reference number given of crime or ASB of any incidents reported.**

Resident reported children setting fires, twice in the wood behind the café & at the bottom of steps at Steamer Point. Resident phoned fire brigade 3 times and they responded.

FCRA warned residents not to take on children but call 101 and then when lit call the fire brigade.

Charles wants to highlight PSPO renewal due in November - Can we have Steamer Point and the Green (nature reserves) covered by the PSPOs, as not currently covered?

ACTION: Councillors

Mike mentioned in the past a committee volunteer helped at the police station and dealing with young people. On first reported it was noted and on second notification a visit was made to the Parents. ***Post meeting note, this process resides with the ASB team***

The Vice Chair thanked and congratulated Leon for his support and effort with the ASB/Crime report issues.

4.0 Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Needs to be championed by a local resident and a representative in a number of roads to form a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, which FCRA can support. The front line roads that border beaches and the promenades may benefit from such a scheme. In Mudeford, Pauntley & Ledbury Road had problems on their green space and they have a scheme. If it is of interest FCRA can send out an email. The residents commented it is worth it. **ACTION:** include in residents email. ***Post meeting note, completed but zero interest***

Minutes of Meeting

5.0 Overnight Camping

Along Avon Run Road and side roads overnight camping continues to be problematic. In early March a meeting with Portfolio Holder, Richard Herrett took place and he intends to look into the issue. BCP have problems with some aspects of legislation and plan signage such as, “No sleeping in vehicle from 9 am to 6 pm”. BCP funding is difficult at present but next March single yellow line restriction times will be done via a TRO, and we hope also with the addition of no overnight sleeping notices. Not legislatively binding but is a first step.

Resident questioned the large Winnebago RV on gravel area in the car park? It has been raised and CEO did investigate and confirmed it is parked legitimately. ***Post meeting note, this continues to be a problem and does not appear to pay car park fees.***

Roger mentioned the internet site that recommends parking in coastal areas and lists the local spot as a good place. He feels the people of Friars Cliff should leave negative comments re parking.

Anne, originally from Exmouth where the solution to a similar problem was a designated area of parking and people can pay for it. Is there anywhere? It was discussed at March meeting between BCP and FCRA and is called “Aires” in Europe. BCP did consider but no suitable area was identified.

6.0 Social Events - Sara

- Summer Solstice Picnic and 80th FCRA Anniversary – 19 June
- Chilli Night – 16 July – email to follow
- Pickle Ball Pad get in touch with Sarah if would like to be involved.

Ron and Jo, Beach Hut Café, were not at last meeting to receive their Community Service Award with accompanying bottle of Champagne and FCRA thanked them for all they do.

6.1 Highcliffe Beach parkrun

Kevan talked about the Highcliffe Beach parkrun, a free community event that takes place every Saturday at 9 am in over 1400 locations in the UK and 2,500 in the world. It began in 2004 with 13 runners and 4 volunteers. Our event took 2 years for BCP to finally approve the area, 6 months to get up and running, plan a route and raise funds to pay for setup costs of which FCRA made a donation. Volunteers organise and run the weekly event (which started on 13 December, 2025) and last Saturday was the 25th event with no rain yet. The course set up begins at 8 am and the Cliffhanger Restaurant has given a storage area for the equipment. At 9 am runners/walkers arrive, about 400 a week take part, finishes around 10 am, 2 laps = 5Km. Juniors (under 11 yrs old) have to run with an adult on a Saturday. There are some Junior events on Sundays, distance of

Minutes of Meeting

2Km, where under 11's can run on their own. The event finishes about 11 am, results are processed and uploaded to the park run website. Time and position is recorded and emailed to participants.

Request – parkrun cannot operate without 35/40 volunteers each week and needs some more people who are willing to help occasionally (say once a month or so) – if interested, please contact Kevan.

7.0 Finances – April 2026 to March 2027 – Linda - New financial year runs from April to March, 2 months displayed and a donation has been given to Mudeford Church.

Balance		£20,383
01/04/26		
Receipts	Advertising	£752
	Subs	£3,170
	Events	£520
	Deposit Interest	£45
	TOTAL	£4,487
Payments	Magazine costs	£688
	Donations (Mudeford Church)	£2,086
	Events	£796
	Other	£81
	TOTAL	£3,652
Excess	Receipts over payments	£835
Balance		£21,218
31/05/26		

8.0 AOB

FCRA Shelter – New plaque added to commemorate FCRA 80th Anniversary.

Toilet Block Roof - can it be covered in anti-climbing paint? **ACTION:** Cllr Hilliard to chase response .

BUS Services Petition – to reinstate X1/X2 bus service. Jan has paper copies available and has nearly 1,000 responses. Until 2023 there was a bus service from Lymington to Bournemouth including Mudeford for over 75 years and now Mudeford is isolated. Service users have to take 2 buses to get anywhere, even to Highcliffe. It has become a real trial for elderly people and residents have tried for last 3 years to get route reinstated. Please sign up to electronic petition, you need to register up to 31 July 2026. Both local and neighbourhood plans mention improved local bus services, which is a bit of a misnomer. Morebus has actually reduced services. Please sign the petition.

Minutes of Meeting

Is RNLI Lifeguarding take place on local beaches this year? Cllr Hilliard confirmed only Avon Beach not Friars Beach or Highcliffe. Residents want to challenge that only one beach covered. Who do we need to speak to?

ACTION: Cllr Hilliard & Cllr Perry to get the right contact in RNLI.

The Beach Hut Cafe had an email from BCP this year requesting sponsorship for a Blue Flag and there is no lifeguard. Last year the Café sponsored a Blue Flag and there was no lifeguard, so that is not a condition. The Blue Flag award is sponsored by Keep Britain Tidy.

Cllr Dedman would like to thank the FCRA Committee on behalf of councillors for their work.

FCRA sent FOI to BCP re 3000 parking tickets over the bank holiday weekend and submitted roads to see how many were local.

Advanced Notice from the UK Windsurfing Association event at Steamer Point is on 18, 19 July and 22, 23 August.

FCRA Gmail account has a limited number of email addresses that can be sent in a 24 hour period and 2 accounts have to be used (Chair or FCRA) and this is being reviewed at present.

The Blue Plaque request for Glengarry Burial Mound, the bronze age bowl barrow found in Friars Cliff 2500bc is being considered by committee.

Ray Guyon took photos of graffiti incidents in the local area, such as electricity cabinets and is happy to report these to get cleaned in order to discourage the graffitist.

Residents reported graffiti in Southcliffe Car Park and the Council have been out to rectify. Residents need to report on BCP website with What3Words and photos.

Post meeting note, completed but BCP have done little

Resident asked about beach management support for the beach front and Cllr Hilliard confirmed a meeting is taking place in 2 weeks and 2/3 people assigned to Highcliffe to Mudeford Quay. Steve confirmed area of cover as Boscombe to Chewton Bunny. These are the beach rangers.

Resident, Anne confirmed that recent contact with rat catcher, who attended promptly and would highly recommend.

9 Freshwater Road the horse box is back, 2 elderly residents live on each side quite worried. Environmental Health can get involved but would like Councillors aware. Cllr Hilliard confirmed he'd sent information to Angela, if reported to be moving any vehicles on road they can get involved but on private land they cannot be removed.

Minutes of Meeting

Walking from Seaway Avenue, through barrier the low level posts on the right side adjacent the green are rotten. Residents need to report on BCP website for action.

Cllr Perry summarised from the evening whether there is anything that the community can do to give our youth something better to do, such as a Youth Club?

Penny Way has been widened to put new sewer in and when complete parking restrictions will be reinstated.

9.0 Next Meeting: 10 September, 2026

10.0 Meeting Close 21:05