

Meeting Notes

Date 4 December 2025
Venue Highcliffe Sailing Club
Time 7:00 pm



Present	Steve Alves	Chairman
	Paul De Jonghe	Vice Chair
	Louise Heybourne	Secretary & Environment Rep
	Meg Ward	Membership Secretary
	Sara Luder	Social Secretary
	Charles Newman	Forum Editor

Apologies	Linda Lawrence	Treasurer
	Kevan Ward	Web Master
	Sara Webb	Head Road Rep

Guests

Cllr Paul Hilliard	Bournemouth Christchurch Poole (BCP)
Cllr Stuart Perry	Christchurch Town Council (CTC)
Sandra Prudom	CTC Cllr, CEO Christchurch Community Partnership
Richard Osgood	Chair Highcliffe Residents Association (HRA)
Anne Bassett	Treasurer HRA
Ian Stevenson	Local Historical Society
Paul & Sally Clifford	All Saints Church Fundraising Team

Chairman Welcome

Housekeeping and structure of the evenings meeting. Committee introductions.

1. Councillor Update

1.1 Cllr Hilliard

- Have Your Say consultations. Current one is The Budget and following national budget BCP likely to get £5 million less. It outlines what key services the Council provide, how they are used and what spending you consider can be increased or decreased. An example, increase charges on parking.
- The additional charge on £2m properties BCP will not receive any of that money it will all go to national pot.
- The SEND debt rising up to £300 million by 2029 and no solution from the government to help. It will eradicate BCP reserves and make BCP insolvent.
- The hospital has high flu case numbers, get vaccinated if you can.
- Home to school transport being looked at for inefficiencies – reviewing for savings.
- License notice change for Noisy Lobster is only streamlining existing licenses with no additional impact.

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- Good news BCP has £40 million funding to improve potholes and roads.

1.2 Cllr Perry

- Recent achievement through Planning to maintain road in Mudeford for bungalows only.
- Recent presentation from M&S moving into the Range on Bailey Bridge in approx. 12 months. Existing premises in High Street is only 5,000 sq. ft and the new site will be 15,000 sq. ft.

1.3 Resident Questions

1.3.1 FCRA raised concern re larger companies like M & S leaving the town centre. High St Rents and rates very high. New Town Council premises is needed and old town hall is not disabled accessible. CTC will keep us posted.

1.3.2 Friars Cliff recently lost a Pine tree on the green that BCP took down, is there any chance the Committee can be given notice? Response: Tree Team usually have pre-planned work that notice can be given but it is not feasible when emergency work has to be undertaken but they will inform Cllrs why emergency work was carried out.

1.3.3 Southcliffe park gates rusty and in poor condition. The car park sign is filthy and cleaned by a resident, is there any chance work be done? Response: If the works are not in the budget then unfortunately they will not be seen as a priority, they will be inspected.

2.0 Actions / Updates

2.1 Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Examples displayed. Vandalised posts along Bure Lane have been replaced by the Council. Graffiti to a beach hut. ASB must be reported to the Council and inform the committee.

Resident informed Cllr a post along Bure Lane has chain missing where bank drops into the stream and there has been fly-tipping. **ACTION:** Resident to forward photos to FCRA.

2.2 Beach Safety - Speed limits, water craft speeding and signs have been updated. Still requesting beach zoning and restricting Jet Skis. Highlighted that local byelaws are not aligned across BCP and we were informed trial beach zoning this summer which did not happen. Beach safety remains on our action list.

Local swimmers would like groyne markers where missing for safety, previously refused as only needed for navigation. We will attempt again when the groyne works are undertaken in the Spring (see 2.4).

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2.3 Water Quality – From May to October DEFRA check the water and according to EC guidelines the quality is excellent as the E.coli count is below a certain level. A swimmer still runs risk of drinking E.coli. Testing is not undertaken through winter when there are more likely to be discharges. FCRA has campaigned twice to our local MP and received a letter from the Secretary of State, still an ongoing issue. Recently concerns raised over high level of phosphorous and nitrogen in the rivers flowing into Christchurch Harbour and water quality is beyond being saturated. People are taking measurements and should have some news in the summer. There is a mitigation policy for Poole harbour but nothing for Christchurch, this has been highlighted to BCP but no response.

Resident cited sewage works at Longham as a source. The River Stour has brown algae and River Avon green algae. Water quality remains on our action list, but little residents can do.

2.4 Beach Maintenance - BCP confirmed going to spend money on beach in spring and due to start in April. FCRA Plan to contact the Coastal Team in January and ask what this £375k work will entail and when it is starting. We will push again for missing beach markers. Local swimming group, Blue Tits sent several reports of injuries sustained over the unmarked groynes. At certain sea levels holes in groyne mislead swimmers to think it ends when in fact the rest of the groyne continues and is under water. We hope we can persuade BCP to include this. Residents mentioned beach signs are very ugly and not needed but groyne markers are. Irony is signs say "*steer clear of groynes*".

(see 2.2).

Resident concerned the beach is the worst they have ever seen it looking and does this have anything to do with new extended long groyne at Hengistbury? In 1938 the original groyne put there to save Hengistbury head. Local perception is that longshore drift now (any sand) goes out and down to Southampton, missing replenishing Avon and Friars Cliff beach. Resident has photos of hundreds of acres of Sand and The Run used to go down to Highcliffe Castle.

FCRA had already queried this but informed by Coastal team it had no impact, we need to trust the coastal team on this, as local perception is not based on technicalities.

2.5 Overnight Camping On Road - Avon Run Road – 6 months ago formed workgroup of residents and engaged with BCP, presented evidence and BCP were no help. Around the country other authorities have implemented overnight parking bans, such as Arundel and Keyhaven.

Next steps – we may possibly raise a TRO in New Year but will first send out a survey to consult and poll views for the case for all residents. Cllr Hilliard is aware in 2021/22 there was an issue and solution was to have permit bays with parking meters, which was strongly resisted.

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Residents mention the problem may be moved to car parks locally. In car parks they are allowed to park 24 hrs or 7-day ticket but overnight camping is hard to police.

2.6 Shelter Refurbishment - No time frame, being costed and looked at now, should be soon. FCRA offer of cost share will be withdrawn if long delays. Greg (Chair BHOA) spoke to the beach front team to chase.

2.7 Social

- Park Run - second trial run at Highcliffe Beach took place. There will be a 3 day warning prior to the event starting.
- Christmas Carols on Saturday 13 December at 10:30.
- Quiz– date to be confirmed in January at Sailing Club.

2.9 Finance - to be reviewed at AGM

01.01.25			Balance	£18,907
	Total Receipts	£7,758		
	Total Payments	£7,533		
	Excess receipts over payments	£225		
30.11.25			Balance	£19,312
	Held at Lloyds TSB		Current account	£8,616.47
			Deposit account	£10,515.26
			In Cash	0.00
				£19,132

2.10 Community Awards Nominations - Who has gone the extra mile?

Nominations please via email to Sara or Committee. Presentation at the AGM

ACTION: Anne nominated Graham and Jan, Island View Ave for daily litter picking.

2.11 Neighbourhood Plan

1. National Planning Policy Framework, currently exists.
2. BCP Local Plan (inspectors rejected plan over housing requirements, a political decision) current LP version for Christchurch is 2014, with the revised BCP LP scheduled for 2028.
3. Christchurch Neighbourhood Plan details what residents want to see, type of houses, high street, by Autumn 2026.

Government want to bring in a National Development Management Policy (tba), which may override local plans in order to force through higher building density.

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Resident asked why business is not included, there is a need for somewhere for people living here to work? Cllr Hilliard commented High Street and Business Parks were included but had not identified any new commercial space or allocation. There should be a vision as well as wanting to build houses. Residents must give some thought about expanding on business as the area needs work hubs. Planning officers will have to take notice of the Local Neighbourhood Plan.

The Forum was recently delivered and included a four page Christchurch Neighbourhood Plan newsletter. A massive thank you to our Road Reps and Committee, Cllrs Perry and Hilliard for distributing. In January 2026 there will be public drop in sessions where local Councillors and members of the working group will be in attendance, paper copies available to complete, (10 Jan Hall on the Hill 10am-2pm, 15 Jan Somerford ARC 10am-1pm, 17 Jan Christchurch Library 10am-3pm). Cllr Perry and Hilliard are happy to help any residents to complete their survey, phone or send them an email.

ACTION: Residents please comment on the consultation, ensure you HAVE YOUR SAY (www.christchurchplan.uk).

2.12 The Forum Milestone – 250 Not Out!

1963 First Edition - not in possession of any pre-1983 forums, has anyone got any?

Past editors listed:

E. Churchman	Anne Jacobs	Margaret Franklin	Paul De Jonghe
E. Grade	Joan Walters	Michael Worrall	Charles Newman
H. Sleight	Ken Clay	Jan Peters	

ACTION: Some Road Reps have been interviewed for the Forum, we would like to extend to other local people for interest. Email Charles if interested.

2.13 Special Vote of Thanks

Ian Stephenson a Highcliffe boy in World War 2, a fleet street journalist and lived in Friars Road. A lifelong passion to collect local documents and paintings on the local area. Ian's personal collection became so vast and valuable it was converted into a charitable archive trust and forms the primary reference of this area kept in safe keeping at Highcliffe Castle. Paul has had the privilege to write local history articles and without the collection would not have the knowledge of the area.

Everett Jones has a huge archive of photographs of the area on Facebook, Mudeford Picture Keep the Old Days Alive, another very useful source of information.

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3.0 **All Saints Church** - Paul Clifford has had an exciting 3.5 years and building works are planned to start in December. Presented the original All Saints Church photo and the new build design for the future Church as a community facility. 16 fund raising events have taken place and well supported by the community. Want new facility to be flexible and open to everybody by Easter 2027. Where are we? £150,000 short but have raised £700,000 (£108,000 raised from church members).

Question raised, why is the west window covered? Paul responded that the window is raised and will not be obliterated.

3.1 Donation – the Committee had mentioned £1,000. Paul gave a specific example of cost, £48,000 for audio visual system or perhaps furnishing of upstairs room?

Residents Discussion points

- want to go towards a specific item
- Paul Clifford to provide a list, such as 5 different items
- Some suggestions of a higher donation, £3,000 or £5,000
- Some discussion around buying an item but not having a plaque

Sally Clifford mentioned Sylvia Kent, who is involved in designing the memorial window and the cost to transfer the design to stained glass (somewhere in the region of £10,000). One suggestion is to put an amount towards that.

ACTION: Paul to supply list of items and we have a range of amounts of money and publicise before AGM and then take a vote.

Anne Jacobs informed the residents that the daughter of the Ricardo family donated her wedding dress as an alter cloth to the original All Saints Church.

What is the cost of the shelter refurbishment? £1,500, a third of the total cost for BCP. Does the design incorporate a roof deterrent (netting, spikes, etc) to keep birds off? Cllr Hilliard said they will look at measure but budget will not stretch to that level.

4.0 **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** - the Committee will stand down in March.
Do we need a different approach? Can you help?

4.1 Membership- Meg invited residents to sign up to Direct Debit by mid-March as makes it easier for Road Representatives, who find it difficult to have to go back to people's houses in order to collect subscriptions after dropping off The Forum. Current uptake of subscriptions paid by DD is 40%. If there is an email address for members they receive regular updates, which are very informative about our area.

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5.0 AOB

Two ladies in Southcliffe Road had their doors kicked, hope this is an isolated incident, two lads came down Southcliffe Road and disappeared up Hynesbury and it was reported to police. Two weeks ago a door was also banged in Freshwater Road, no damage. Please report any incidents and let the Committee know.

Cllr Hilliard mentioned that the Council can do an announcement to schools if we think they are of a certain age.

Cllr Hilliard

- Community PCO 3rd Tuesday of month, a mobile police station located at Bailey Bridge and 3rd Thursday of Month at Highcliffe Car Park 3:30 to 5:30 pm, check on the Dorset Police website
- The Christchurch Rotary have the Living Advent Calendar events 6 pm every night at different venue in Christchurch.
- Lot of Christmas events at Christchurch Priory.

Planned Speakers 2026

- The University Hospital Trust (Bournemouth),
- Lifeboats
- RNLI lifeguards

Suggestions greatly appreciated.

Residents like the earlier starting time.

Next Meeting 19 March 2026

Meeting Close 20:45