

**Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 280619**

Present: Paul de Cordova (PC), David Morley (DM), Sue Morley (SM) Carol Mould (CM) Graham Mould (GM) Norman Gregory (NG),Jennie Paterson (JP) Bertie Webb (BW) & Alison Sepping (AS)

May Haines (MH) & Tony Vickery (AV)

Apologies: Tiffany Chawner (TC), Mohan Iyengar (MI),Matt Moffatt (MM)

1. The Ferry

In light of the implications of the excellent analysis that AV had produced and DM’s letter to Michael Kean, the Ferry and its future was the most substantive discussion of the meeting.

DM reported that a meeting last Friday to which Mike Kean (CEO of the Ferry Company), was invited to meet with Graham Farrant (CEO BCP)

Vikki Slade (Leader BCP), Andy Hadley ( Cabinet member responsible for Transportation – BCP),Spencer Flower (Leader Dorset Councils), Ray Bryan (Cabinet member responsible for Transportation – Dorset Councils), Richard Drax (MP – South Dorset), Sir Robert Syms (MP – Poole), Jim Stewart (CEO of Poole Harbour Commissioners); he declined at the last minute and Nick Purchase the Gen Manager attended in his place. Nick Purchase reported that they expect the Ferry to be back on 31/10, but did not comment on the longer term future.

Based on AV’s report we noted that:

* The ferry is generating cash to support the rest of the Fairacres Group
* The publicly available numbers suggest that the Group’s finances are severely “strained”.
* The proposed fare increases are little to do with the Ferry, and all to do with servicing Fairacres group loans.
* The proposed ferry replacement has been pushed back to 2034, implying the current ferry (25 years old) can last another 15 years – trouble free.
* There are no provisions for investments or enhancements to upgrade/modernise the ferry and infrastructure.
* Compared with other similar Ferries, if the proposed toll increases went through, it is the most expensive and most outdated.

However, given the only way M Keane can lose the franchise (given that breakdowns are allowed) is if he effectively abandons the franchise so Poole Harbour Commissioners take it over, we agreed that we need a strategy for reacting to every eventuality.

At present the strategy agreed was keeping the dialogue open with M Keane, not supporting the fare increase as it stands, but putting pressure on them to make concessions in terms of investment and service improvements.

Various options were outlined, including forming a JV to possibly access the Coastal Communities Fund or the Brownsea Ferry operating to Studland.

We also briefly discussed BW’s alternative green proposal, including park and ride @Branksome and a much less expensive ferry and operation.

ACTIONS:

* MH & MI to advise the MP’s, confidentially, about AV’s analysis and our serious concerns about the viability of the current operation
* DM, MM, MI & rep from Purbeck to meet M Keane
* BW to produce a more detailed proposal

1. Members Dinner

SM reported that 110 have booked (capacity 120). It was agreed that we would have name tabs and a seating plan to accommodate those who have specified those with whom they wish to sit. Cttee members will fill in gaps.

1. Party House

An update was given on the publicity of the problems experienced from # 6 Salter Road.

MH reported that following a meeting with many of those affected in the wider area, the Council’s Solicitor was pursuing 3 lines of attack:

* Closure notices
* Possible planning implications
* Enforcement /abatement notice

At the moment, closure notices are thought to be the most effective, when supported by evidence. Longer term there is a Bill stuck in Parliament seeking to regulate Airbnb.

1. Roads & Traffic

DM & PC reported that the correspondence from Steve Deans from BCP confirmed that the Council are not prepared to do anything, particularly infrastructure changes.

PC commented that we need to get Speed Watch operating on the Peninsula.

A meeting with the Police Camera Unit to go ahead.

ACTION: PC&DM

1. National Organisation of Residents Association

It was agreed we should join for a year. Cost £25 to join and £25 per annum.

ACTION:JP

1. Haven & Panorama Planning Applications

Nothing has happened on the Haven Plans since April.

An objection has been filed for latest application for Panorama Road and Bill Soper is taking the lead.

Sandacres – an objection has been filed to the retrospective planning application.

1. Neighbourhood Plan

PC reported that the consultation is out and expires in 3 weeks. It should go to the Council Cabinet Mtg in December, where it is likely to be designated. At that point work can start with Martha Covell, and funding can be applied for. PC also stressed that a team will need to start working on the NP.

We also discussed extending the catchment area to include the harbour facing stretch of Dorset Lakes, up to Salterns Marina. It was agreed that interest in SCG should be assessed.

PC also commented that we should engage more with businesses on Sandbanks.

ACTION:

DM/SM to produce a leaflet for AV to distribute in Dorset Lakes.

PC to organise a walk around the businesses

1. AOB

* DM reported that he had not received a reply from Warren Bester
* DM proposed AV join the Cttee, unanimously agreed
* JP noted that Sandfest will not go ahead next year. However, it was agreed that we should raise our concerns about the parties associated with the Polo. ACTION DM
* AS noted the help received with the new planting on Midway Path and asked if the Council could organise 2 more bins? ACTION MH
* It was also agreed that we should erect a plaque to indicate the involvement of SCG in the planting and maintenance. ACTION SCG
* AV announced that the Dorset Wildlife Trust has received a grant of £1m to upgrade Brownsea and asked if SCG wished to be a Corporate Sponsor. ACTION: AV to prepare a proposal.

NEXT MTG 29/11