



Highcliffe & Walkford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Highcliffe & Walkford Parish Council held on 20th March 2024 at 19:00 in The Mudeford Wood Community Centre, Pipers Drive, Mudeford BH23 4TR.

Present: Cllr L: Dedman (Chair), Cllr A Sofianos (vice-chair), Cllr R Ede, Cllr A Martin, Cllr S Skinner, Cllr D Martin, Cllr S Walter, Cllr J Webster, Cllr T Butcher, Cllr R Dickson, and Cllr W McNeill

Also Present: 20 members of the public. **In attendance:** the clerk, Tom Brindley, the Assistant Clerk, Nicki France

24/16 (Agenda Item 1) Apologies for Absence: None

24/17 (Agenda Item 2) Chairman's remarks:

1. The chairman welcomed the public, members, and officers.

24/18 (Agenda Item 3) Declarations of Interests from Members: None.

24/19 (Agenda Item 4) Public Questions:

1. None.

24/20 (Agenda Item 5) Presentations from members of the BCP Unitary Authority

1. BCP Cllr David Martin gave a verbal report on activities at BCP Council.
 - i. A planning application for "*Demolition of existing dwellings and erect a block of 23 apartments (with basement), associated parking and landscaping Wharncliffe Road*", refused in August 2023 (8/23/0149/Ful) was likely to be re-submitted in an amended form.
 - ii. The appeal against refusal for houses on Jesmond Wood has been withdrawn.
 - iii. Cllr Martin was trying to get the barrier on the Wharncliffe Road car park closed earlier to prevent anti-social behaviour.
 - iv. A Youth Surgery had been held at Highcliffe School with a positive response.
2. BCP Cllr Andy Martin gave a verbal report on activities at BCP Council.
 - i. A complaint had been received concerning the lack of enforcement on a condition to replace trees felled in Jesmond Wood.
 - ii. Cllr Martin, accompanied by Cllr Sofianos had attended an on-site meeting with BCP regarding repairs to the High Street (Lymington Road) pavement. BCP will look at budgets. Members noted the Highcliffe and Walkford Parish Council had pledged £100,000 to the scheme.
 - iii. The Day Centre, adjacent to the Old School would be declared surplus to requirements.
 - iv. Cllr Martin was seeking a contribution from BCP for the clifftop paths to support Highcliffe and Walkford Parish Council's budgeted contribution of £100,000.
 - v. A consultation on the future of BCP libraries will commence towards the end of April.
3. Cllr Paul Hilliard gave a verbal report on activities at BCP Council.
 - i. The council had commenced grass cutting.
 - ii. Members were advised that the consultation on the BCP Local Plan, to replace the three individual local plans had been launched.

24/21 (Agenda Item 6) To accept the minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2024

The minutes were taken as read, confirmed as true record, and signed by the chairman.

24/22 (Agenda Item 7) To receive the clerk's report

1. The clerk presented his report which was noted.

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24/23 (Agenda Item 8) To receive an update on the transfer of assets from BCP

1. The draft transfer deed and draft Service level agreement had been received.
2. The clerk was seeking a meeting with the council's solicitor to go through the documents in details and ensure they conform with the Heads of Terms previously agreed.
3. The clerk was aiming for a completion date before the end of the civic year (8th May 2024).
4. A member asked that once transfer was complete the council consider allowing memorial benches to be installed.

24/24 (Agenda Item 9) To note the arrangements for the Public Meeting on the BCP Local Plan, to be held on Tuesday 26th March 2024.

1. The meeting will be held in St Mark's Church Hall, commencing at 19:00
2. Presentations will be made by BCP councillors Margaret Phipps, Lead Member for the Local Plan and Andy Martin, Ward member for Highcliffe and Walkford.
3. BCP had been asked if an officer could attend.
4. Hard copies of the Draft Local Plan would be available.
5. Local organisations would be asked to assist in publicity.

24/25 (Agenda Item 10) To receive an update on Nea Meadows dredging project.

1. The project had been split into two parts: a) Replace the bridge, b) dredge the lake.
2. The bridge replacement will commence on Wednesday 3rd April.
3. The dredging has been postponed until October 2024.

24/26 (Agenda Item 11) To note the minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting of 26th February 2024

1. The minutes were noted.

24/27 (Agenda Item 12) To note the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 6th February 2024

1. The minutes were noted.

24/28 (Agenda Item 13) To note the minutes of the Budget Audit and Grants sub-committee meeting of 26th February 2024

1. The minutes were noted.
2. The Budget Audit and Grants sub-committee had made two recommendations:
 - i. (23BAG/8.1) That a grant of £6,000 be awarded to St Marks Church for the installation of a wildlife friendly fence.
 - ii. (23BAG/8.2.5) That council consider an application from Highcliffe Action Team for a grant of £10,000 towards a music festival.

24/29 (Agenda Item 13a) Grant award to St Mark's Church, for the installation of a wildlife friendly fence.

1. Members **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £6,000 for the installation of a wildlife friendly fence.

24/30 (Agenda Item 13b) Grant award to Highcliffe Action Team towards a music festival

1. The considered the application and reviewed the submitted documents and event forecast.
2. A motion to: *Pledge £5,000 on the condition that a member of council is appointed to serve on the organising committee and that the remaining funding is secured* was proposed and seconded and put to a vote.
3. The motion was carried and members **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £5,000 subject to
 - i. Securing remaining funding
 - ii. Appointment of Cllr Willie McNeill to the organising committee.

24/31 (Agenda Item 14) To note the arrangements for the 2023/24 audit

1. The clerk will meet with the Internal Auditor on 30th April.
2. The External Auditor (BDO) had not issued the Audit pack.

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24/32 (Agenda Item 15) To consider the arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on 18th April

1. Members agreed to a similar arrangement as for last year.
2. The chair will make a presentation on the council's activities and plans.
3. The clerk will present a financial summary.
4. BCP council members will be invited to speak.
5. Local organisations and the police will be invited to give short presentations.
6. The Resident of the Year Award will be presented.
7. The public will be invited to ask questions and can propose resolutions.
8. Refreshments will be provided.

24/33 (Agenda Item 16) Motion to Exclude the Press and Public

1. Members **RESOLVED** to exclude the press and public due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

24/34 (Agenda Item 17a) To consider the resident of the year award

1. Members considered nominations for the Resident of the Year Award to be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting.
2. A nominee was accepted, and Cllr Martin agreed to approach the nominee regarding acceptance an attendance at the Annual Parish Meeting.
3. Members suggested the previous award winner be asked to present the award.

24/35 (Agenda Item 17b) To appoint at surveyor for The Old School

1. The clerk had obtained and evaluated three quotes.
2. The clerk explained his recommendation was for the surveyor which best fitted the brief and was not necessarily the lowest price.
3. Members **RESOLVED** to appoint Elcock Associates to deliver a full structural survey and remedial list for restoration of The Old School.

24/36 Date of the next meeting of Full Council: Wednesday 8th May

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:26.

Signed

Date.....