Highcliffe & Walkford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of **Environment sub-committee** held on 4th June 2024 at 18:30 in The Old School House, 254 Lymington Road, Highcliffe.

Present: Cllr R Ede (Chair), Cllr A Sofianos, Cllr S Skinner (substituting for Cllr T Butcher) Cllr R Dickson, Cllr S Walter

In attendance:, the clerk, Tom Brindley, the assistant clerk, Nicki France.

25E/1 (Agenda Item 1) Apologies for Absence: Apologies were accepted from Cllrs A Martin and Cllr T Butcher.

25E/2 (Agenda Item 2) Chairman's remarks:

1 The chairman welcomed the members and officers.
2 Members were reminded to make any declarations of interest ahead of the item to be discussed.
3 The chair advised he saw this sub-committee as an opportunity to make a difference to the environment of Highcliffe and Walkford and that he set a goal to complete many projects during the election cycle to 2027.

25E/3 (Agenda Item 3) Minutes of meeting of 6th February 2024

1 The minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the chair.

25E/4 (Agenda Item 4) Nea Meadows

1 Dredging
  1.1 The clerk reported that P and D Environmental Ltd had completed the bridge replacement and the invoices had been paid.
  1.2 The clerk had confirmed that an Environment Agency permit was required before any dredging could occur.
  1.3 Members noted this permit was separate from the waste exemptions held by P and D Environmental.
  1.4 Members **RESOLVED** that the council, rather than P and D Environmental, would obtain the permits. A budget of £500 was assigned.
2 Grass cutting and mowing
  2.1 Members noted that Warren Gardens had been appointed to cut the grass near the bowling club, to cut a path for dog walkers across the meadow and to clear the paths of brambles and nettles. This work to be done in June, weather permitting.
  2.2 Members noted that Warren Gardens had obtained suitable machinery to mow the meadow, and clear the arisings, in late summer.
3 Land by car park
  3.1 Several suggestions had been received for the use of this land, including:
    - Community Orchard
    - Pet Cemetery
    - Bio-diversity area
    - Sensory garden.
  3.2 Members **RESOLVED** to initiate a public consultation to include these options and to invite other suggestions.
  3.3 Members noted that the stumps of the felled trees would require grinding and that the whole area would need rotavating to remove tree roots.
  3.4 Members reaffirmed that there were no plans to extend the car park.

4 Site management plan
- 4.1 The clerk explained that Dr Chris Gleed-Owen was unable to attend due to illness.
- 4.2 The clerk had discussed the project with Dr Gleed-Owen and was awaiting a formal costed proposal.
- 4.3 The matter of volunteers for surveys had been discussed and Dr Gleed-Owen and the clerk agreed that surveys would be performed under the contract and not by volunteers.
- 4.4 Members noted that it was too late in the year for some surveys (such as nesting birds).
- 4.5 The clerk advised that once the formal proposal had been received, an extraordinary Environment sub-committee meeting or an Amenities Committee meeting could be called to approve signing the contract. The budget had already been approved by council.

25E/5 (Agenda Item 5) Lakewood

1 Friends of Lakewood and Site Management Plan
- 1.1 The clerk advised that a licence had been agreed with the Friends of Lakewood which ran until 2025.
- 1.2 Under the terms of the licence, Friends of Lakewood would perform certain activities as outlined in the five-year site management plan.
- 1.3 Members **RESOLVED** to arrange a meeting with the Friends of Lakewood to agree any future works and discuss arrangements after the licence expiry.

25E/6 (Agenda Item 6) Tree work

1 The clerk reported that the initial phase of tree work at Nea Meadows, Wingfield and Lakewood was complete apart from a Monterey Pine which would be removed at Wingfield, once the weather permitted the use of heavy machinery.

2 Work at Lakewood was complete apart from T46, a silver birch, which was to be re-examined now it was in leaf. The

3 Members noted that the work to date was only that identified as urgent (within 6 months) in the October 2023 tree survey and that additional work may be required.

4 Bawden Tree consultants held the database, and the clerk would attempt to get a copy. If this was not possible, Bawden Tree Consultants would be asked to update and maintain the database.

25E/7 (Agenda Item 7) Shoreline/Coastal Path

1. Members noted that BCP had offered two options a long-term solution and a cheaper short-term solution.
2. Members had indicated that they preferred the long-term solution.
3. Members noted the exact scope of the project was unclear.
4. Members noted it would be better to make this a two-year project, with the opportunity for additional funding, rather than a short-term solution which would require repeating.
5. Members **RESOLVED** that the clerk draft a letter to be sent by the sub-committee chair to BCP officers and BCP ward members.

25E/8 (Agenda Item 8) High Street Paving Project

1 Members noted that the site meeting between HWPC and BCP council was on a very wet day limiting the opportunity.

2 Members noted that much of the damage to the pavement was caused by parked cars, and suggested bollards be used to protect the surface.

3 Members noted that while HWPC was providing £120,000 of funding, the project was dependent on BCP project management.

25E/9 (Agenda Item 9) Zig Zag Path

1 Members noted that in 2023 the council had funded clearing of vegetation from the path.
2 Members noted that the path was the responsibility of BCP council.
3 Members agreed that no work was required this year.

25E/10 (Agenda Item 10) Bio-diversity Working Party

1 Cllr Sofianos (chair of the working party) reported that an initial meeting had been held and a follow up meeting was planned. This would be brought back to the next sub-committee meeting.

25E/11 (Non-Agenda Item) Highway Signs

1 The chair raised a concern about road name signs. Some sign now had abbreviated names such as Ave for Avenue or Dr for Drive.
2 Members also noted that highway signs were in ned of cleaning.
3 The chair agreed to write to BCP Highways raising his concerns.

25E/12 (Agenda Item 11) Date of the next scheduled meeting

1 Monday 10th September
2 Additional meetings to be held as required.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 19.35 pm.

Signed …….. Date……..