Highcliffe & Walkford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of **Amenities Committee** held on Wednesday 28th January 2026 at 18.30 in The Old School, 254 Lymington Road, Highcliffe. BH23 5ET.

Present: Cllr A Sofianos (Chair), Cllr R Ede, Cllr D Martin, Cllr S Walters, Cllr Steve Slater, S Skinner, Cllr J Webster.

In attendance: Vanessa Ricketts (Clerk), and one member of the public.

293 Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr W Mc Neill and Cllr A Martin; Cllr S Slater substituting.

RESOLVED to accept the apologies for absence.

294 Declarations of interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

295 Minutes of meeting of 26th November 2025:

RESOLVED that the minutes be accepted as a true record and be signed by the chair.

296 Chairman's remarks:

There were no statement from the Chair on this occasion.

297 Public participation:

There were no statements or questions from the public.

298 Nea Meadows:

Members received three surveys in relation to the habitats, fauna and flora as part of the Nea Meadows Master Plan prepared by Chris Gleed-Owen. It was noted that further surveys would be presented at the following meeting including the Management Plan. It was agreed to invite Mr Gleed Owen to the next meeting and in the meantime the Clerk, Chair and Assistant Clerk would meet with Mr Gleed-Owen to ascertain priorities and overall strategy.

299 Nea Meadows - Car Park Copse replanting:

The Chairman provided background and presented his plan regarding the replanting of the copse including oaks, rowan, wild cherry and native hedgerow. Wildflowers were also within the plan. It was noted that planting should take place before the end of February. It was reported that the Chair of Highcliffe in Bloom was looking after a number of trees gifted by the Woodland Trust.

RESOLVED that the Clerk and Assistant Clerk, in consultation with the Chair be delegated to proceed with organising the planting and budget of £10,000 from the Projects Reserve be allocated for the works.

300 Blue Flag Seaside Award:

Members considered a request from BCP Council to sponsor the Blue Flag Seaside Award for Highcliffe at a cost of £1212.00.

RESOLVED that the sponsorship of the Blue Flag Award be agreed and funds taken from cost code 224 - Events. (LGA1972 s144).

301 Wingfield Recreation Ground – Tree Works - quotations:

The Clerk presented a report informing Members of the quotes received for the proposed schedule tree works at Wingfield Recreation Ground. The quotations were detailed within the report.

RESOLVED that Contractor A be approved at a cost of £768.00

302 Allotment Tenancy Policy – review of family based plot restrictions:

The Clerk presented a report seeking to revisit the decision of Amenities Committee of 24 April 2025 restricting allotment tenancies to one plot at one site per family. It was noted that this was in contravention to allotments, equalities and human rights legislation.

RESOLVED that:

a) the resolution made on 24 April 2025 regarding allotment tenancies be noted.

b) the implications of the Allotments Acts 1908–1950, Equality Act 2010, Human Rights Act 1998, Local Government Act 1972, public law principles and data protection legislation be further noted.

c) the previous decision restricting allotments to one plot per family be rescinded.

d) a revised policy approach limiting allotment plots on a per-individual basis, with discretion to manage waiting lists and demand fairly be approved.

e) The allotments associations be notified of the change, an apology offered for the error in setting the previous policy and thanks extended for bringing this matter to the attention of the council.

303 High Street Improvements - Update:

Due to the absence of the Vice Chairman who would have provided the update, this item was deferred.

304 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Amenities Committee would take place on Wednesday 25th March 2026 at 6:30pm

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 7.20pm

Signed …….. Date……