Highcliffe & Walkford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of **Amenities Committee** held on Wednesday 26th August 2026 at 18.30 in The Old School, 254 Lymington Road, Highcliffe. BH23 5ET.

Present: Cllr A Martin, Cllr R Ede, Cllr S Walter, Cllr S Slatter, Cllr S Skinner, and Cllr D Martin.

In attendance: Vanessa Ricketts FSLCC (Clerk and RFO), Nicki France (Assistant Clerk).

111 Election of Chair was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: that Cllr A Martin be elected Chair.

112 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence. Cllr W McNeill was absent without apology.

113 Declarations of interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

114 Minutes of the meeting of 24th Junel 2026:

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

115 Chair's remarks:

The Chair updated Members on the current situation with Jesmond Wood, including the impending auction of the site and that Highcliffe residents Association had stated a Go Fund Me page to raise monies to assist the Council in putting in a bid. It was noted that the guide price was £500k-£700k. Councillor Martin stated that he had been in contact with the auctioneers as the sight had been described as brownfield building land. A more formal update would be given at the next full council meeting.

116 Public participation:

None.

117 Grit bins

The Clerk advised that, following a health and safety audit, it had been recommended that the council purchase grit bins for its car parks as soon as possible. Three quotes have been received and details of these were given to Members.

RESOLVED: That 3 grit bins and grit be purchased from gritbins.net at a cost of £539.07 plus VAT.

118 Wingfield - Christchurch Development Centre

The Clerk and Assistant Clerk advised the committee that they had been approached by Christchurch Development Centre (CDC) for the use of Wingfield recreation ground and pavilion for a children's football team playing Saturdays. CDC wished Wingfield to become their permanent home. Members agreed that not only would this increase the income for the council but would also provide the opportunity for more children to undertake sports. It was agreed that officers write to both CDC and Hawks football teams advising that the pavilion is to be left spotless after use and that both teams have respect for each other.

RESOLVED: That CDC be allowed exclusive use of Wingfield recreation ground and pavilion on Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, and that, in addition to the agreed and published football pitch fees, CDC pay 25% of the monthly electricity bill for the pavilion, that being the same charge made to the Hawks football team.

119 Nea Meadows - Lake dredging

Officers advised Members of the latest situation regarding the dredging of the lake at Nea Meadows. The Council's Amenities Officer had cut the foliage around the lake which had improved visibility greatly, allowing for two site visits with contractors who were now able to see both the water’s entrance and exit of the lake.

Both contractors had advised that the removal of silt remained the main issue. The Amenities Officer had contacted a local farmer who may be interested in taking the silt depending on the Environment Agency’s testing result. Members were advised that once it was ascertained if the farmer was willing to take the silt then a detailed quotation could be sought. It was noted that the contractor had advised that this work could potentially be scheduled over a three-year contact period.

120 Lakewood Tree Work

The Clerk reported that, under delegated powers due to health and safety concerns, she had ordered the removal of two dead trees at Lakewood open space at a cost of £550. One tree had uprooted and was being supported buy another tree and was in danger of falling. A further large 12 foot tree stump was unsafe and close to the main path. Both trees had been successfully removed. Neither tree was subject to a TPO.

121 Lakewood Stumpery

Members received a joint proposal from Lakewood Restoration and Highcliffe in Bloom to create a stumpery at Lakewood open space. The stumpery would be similar to a rockery only utilising tree stumps available at the site.

RESOLVED: That the stumpery be approved.

122 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Amenities Committee would take place on Wednesday 23rd September 2026 at 18.30.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 19.05.

Signed …….. Date……