Highcliffe and Walkford Annual Parish Meeting 18th April 2024

Minutes of the Highcliffe and Walkford Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th April 2024 in The Old School, 254 Lymington Road, Highcliffe

The meeting was opened by Cllr Lesley Dedman, Chairman of Highcliffe and Walkford Parish Council.

1. **Apologies were received from:** Cllr D Martin, Cllr A Martin, Cllr A Sofianos, Cllr R Ede.

2. **Minutes of the last meeting held on 30th May 2023** were taken as read and approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. **Parish Council report:** The Chairman welcomed representatives of local organisations and members of the public and gave a report on the activities, objectives, achievements over the last year. The transfer of Highcliffe recreation ground and Bluebell Close play area was still ongoing. The bridge at Nea Meadows had been replaced in advance of dredging works. A major programme of tree work had been completed, following a comprehensive tree survey. A kick-off meeting for the project to improve the paving in the high street had been held, but progress was very much in the hands of BCP. Similarly, the project to improve the shore line and cliff path was awaiting a BCP project manager. The council had assigned funding to these projects (£100,000 for the shoreline and £120,000 for the high street).

   The council had entered into discussions with Highcliffe Residents Association to take over owner ship of The Old School in order to save it for the community. A structural survey, funded by the council had been commissioned.
   The clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Tom Brindley, gave a presentation on council finances.

4. **Presentation of the Resident of the Year award:** The resident nominated had declined the public acknowledgement.

5. **Presentation by the Police. PCSO Lianne Haddock addressed the meeting.**
   - Incidents of break-in at garages was an ongoing concern. A digger had been stolen, CCTV evidence was being used in an ongoing investigation. An incident of anti-social behaviour in the library was noted.
   - PCSO Haddock held face to face surgeries in the Co-Op in Highcliffe. on a regular basis.
   - For general enquiries residents could call 101 or use the Dorset police website. For any emergency on crime in progress, call 999.
   - Anti-social behaviour was dealt with by BCP Council

Matters raised by residents.

- The Highcliffe Bowling Club had found ball bearings on the green. Also, stones had been thrown onto the green.
- The car park at Nea Meadows had been used as a dumping ground
- Incidents of speeding in Braemar Drive were reported. The matter of community speed watch was raised. Could a Speed Indicator Devoice be installed?
- CCTV at the car park was suggested.

Cllr Dedman thanked the police for attending.

6. BCP Councillor Paul Hilliard addressed the meeting

Cllr Hilliard was also the treasurer for the Mudeford Wood Community Centre (which was within the parish boundary) where the tennis courts had been resurfaced.

The Community Centre also hosted a pre-school and held tiny-tots sessions.

Cllr Hilliard was also a governor at Bournemouth Hospital , which had a new wing opening in May 2025 which would offer emergency, paediatric and urgent care. Na funding appeal for an education room was to be held.

The BCP Local Plan consultation was underway and residents e=were invited to respond.

A consultation on the future of libraires was to be held in May 2024.

7. Highcliffe School

The deputy head of Highcliffe School addressed the meeting..

- The school has 1500 students aged 11-18 and has an Ofsted rating of Good. Over 40 pupils take place in community activities such as the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme,
- The school performs at the Highcliffe Food and Arts Festival/.
- Students are organised to visit car homes. BCP and Parish Cllr Dabid Martin is a regular visitor and advocate.
- The safer schools team addresses graffiti and has a record of graffiti tags.
- The school works closely with its feeder primary schools.
- Parking is a known issue and while yellow lines have improved safety at the school gate, the issue has been displaced to adjoining roads. The school was working with BCP to on traffic management scheme.
- Cycling was encouraged and they worked with SusTrans.
- The Highcliffe Rotary Club was thanked for its support.

Asked about the potential influx from the Roeshot Gardens development there was potential for more temporary accommodation and a new permanent building could be built. A new pedestrian bridge to cross the A35 would be required.

8. Public questions and resolutions

The chairman invited residents to speak:

- The footpath from the Castle to Steamer Point needed repairs.
- A resident asked about plans for the land adjacent to the Nea Meadows Car Park, following the removal of diseased trees. The chair confirmed there were no plans to extend the car park and invited suggestions. Use as a community orchard was suggested and was well received,

- A resident asked of the Parish Council and any influence on co-ordination of road works as it seemed that each utility did their own thing causing more disruption than was necessary. The chair accepted that this was difficult to manage and even BCP (the highway authority) could not control this.
- A resident noted that repair work following digging was poor quality.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm after which refreshments were served.

Signed …… Date.....