Highcliffe and Walkford Annual Parish Meeting 28th May 2025

Minutes of the Highcliffe and Walkford Annual Parish Meeting held on 28th May 2025 in The Old School, 254 Lymington Road, Highcliffe

The meeting was opened by Cllr Adam Sofianos, Chair of Highcliffe and Walkford Parish Council.

1. **Apologies were received from:** Cllr Tina Butcher

2. **Minutes of the last meeting held on 18th April 2024** were taken as read and approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

3. **Parish Council report:** The Chair welcomed representatives of local organisations and members of the public. The Chair reflected that it has been an incredibly challenging year, with the resignations of previous chair Cllr Lesley Dedman and former Parish Clerk Tom Brindley. However it has nonetheless been very successful for the Parish Council, and key milestones have been met, including delivering the budget & internal audit. The Chair thanked everyone involved and reserved special praise for the Acting Clerk Nicki France .

The Chair shared updates regarding assets within the community including:

Nea Meadows:
Last year a survey was commissioned on the whole site, which documents the various flora and fauna, and will provide a management plan which will be completed by the Summer. A thank you was given to Chris Gleed Owen.
A consultation was undertaken regarding an area of land next to the car park at Nea Meadow, and following this has resulted in a project taking place later in the year with replanting. This will be led by the PC and supported by Highcliffe in Bloom and other key stakeholders.

Lakewood:
We have developed ongoing working relationships with Friends of Lakewood, who provide fishing for children.

Wingfield Pavilion:
This is a valuable and important asset at which Highcliffe Hawks are based, and continue to use the site for their football team.

Roeshot/Walkford Road Allotments:
Both are run by Allotment Committees and continue to be an asset to the community.

Bluebell Close:
This has recently been transferred from BCP, to the Parish Council.

Highcliffe Recreation Ground:
The transfer is still ongoing with BCP, and this is hopeful to be completed by Autumn 2025.

Old School:
The Chair paid tribute to Highcliffe Residents Association, the current owners of the Old School. The Parish Council are currently having numerous surveys conducted to look at the overall costs anticipated to take on the building, and the aim is to make a decision in the autumn.

Grants:
Grant payments have been made for Highcliffe Foods and Arts Festival, Cliff Top Music Festival, Highcliffe in Bloom, Toddler Group. CODA Music Centre and Highcliffe Scouts among others.

The Vice Chair, Cllr Andy Martin addressed the meeting and provided updates on the below.

Highcliffe Playpark:
Most of the play equipment has been recently repaired by BCP, and it is lovely to see that it's being used.

The Day Centre:
Renovation work has started for Mudeford Wood Playgroup for them to move in from September 2025, which Cllr Andy Martin commented could hopefully be just the start of this building being used.

Cliff paths and Public Facilities:
HWPC has reserved £100,000 (with a further £100,000 from BCP) to improve two ramps from the clifftop to the beach. A further £70,000 is being invested to improve the public facilities by the Cliffhanger.

Community Governance Review:
This is ongoing until 22nd June 2025, Cllr Andy Martin urged any members of the public to complete the survey.

4. Presentations from local organisations.

Highcliffe Foods and Arts Festival

Tracy and Loz (Committee members) addressed the meeting. They explained that the festival is entering its 10th year, and reflected on the journey of the festival and how it's grown. They are expecting to welcome over 15,000 visitors to the event and are looking for volunteers for the day. Further information can be found on the website.

Coda Music and Arts Trust

Tim (Chair of Trustees) addressed the meeting and provided an overview of Coda Music and Arts Trust. They provide a full range of therapies, groups and classes to the local community

and support mental health needs as well. Coda is about wellbeing, health, and happiness. He thanked the Parish Council for the recent grant, which is going towards particular projects including the Parkinsons choir (increased to two), Health and Happiness Choir, creative sessions for 16–25-year-olds, Music and Arts to support Dementia in conjunction with Age UK - which also expands to Bournemouth Hospital. The recent addition which is the new Bramble Hill Café and encouraged everyone to visit.

Christchurch Chamber of Trade and Commerce:
Richard Oswald - Vice President addressed the meeting and provided an overview of Christchurch Chamber of Trade and Commerce, which are a not-for-profit organisation representing businesses in supporting the interests of the community. This includes organising fund-raising events - one example mentioned was for Christchurch Food Bank. Also providing training and information events for local businesses.

Mudeford Wood Playgroup:
Emily and Felicity from Mudeford Wood Playgroup (which is a charity run preschool) addressed the meeting and thanked Cllrs and BCP Council for the hard work which has been going on to make this happen. They are looking forward to moving into the new venue and be part of the community in September.

Highcliffe Rotary Club - ACE of Clubs:
David Parsons provided some background to the Rotary Club. The ACE of Clubs is about clubs coming together to support local communities, work with schools, and deliver lots of events to support the community as well.

5. Public questions and resolutions
The Chair invited residents to speak. A number of questions were heard and answered. The Chair of HRA expressed gratitude to the parish council for all the hard work that they do.

The meeting closed at 19.45pm, after which refreshments were served.

Signed …… Date.....