



Highcliffe Residents Association Community Interest Company

Quarterly Members' Meeting

**Thursday 22 June 2023 at 7.00pm at The Old School, 254
Lymington Road, Highcliffe BH23 5ET**

Present:

Carol MacBean – Director, Secretary and Meeting Chair
Tina Butcher – HRA Executive Committee Member & Parish Councillor
Anne Bassett – Director and Finance/Membership Secretary
Mary Reader – HRA Executive Committee Member
BCP Councillors - Andy Martin, David Martin, Paul Hilliard, Lesley Dedman (New chair of the Parish Council & chair of BCP Council)
Adam Sofianos – Vice Chair of Highcliffe & Walkford Parish Council

Speakers

Bob Hutchings – Former Chairman of Highcliffe & Walkford Parish Council
David Parsons - Rotary Club
James Talbot - Highcliffe Hawks

~ 50 residents/members

1. Welcome and introductions

Meeting Chair Carol welcomed everyone and introduced herself as a relatively new member of the HRA Directors Board and advised that she would be standing in for Joan Rose (HRA chair) who had been called away at short notice on family matters. Thanks were extended to Tina Butcher (member of the HRA Executive Committee and Parish Councillor) for standing in to take the notes of the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Joan Rose – Director and HRA Chair
Ben Lock – HRA Director
Andy Clayton – HRA Executive Committee Member
Rebecca Date-Walker – PC
Heather Dempsey - HRA Executive Committee Member

3. Minutes of Meeting held on 23 March 2023

The minutes of the last quarterly members meeting were available at the meeting and published on the HRA website. There were no comments on the minutes and after being proposed by Mary

Reader and seconded by Adrian Thorne, they were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

4. Presentation of Lectern in Memory of HRA's Late Chair, Ian Hartnell by Bob Hutchings on Behalf of Highcliffe & Walkford Parish Council.

Bob Hutchings stated that the meeting wouldn't be taking place in the Old School but for the efforts of Ian Hartnell and his wife Kathryn, as the Old School had been in a very dilapidated state and was now very different. The HRA had also been in a dire financial situation which had taken Ian and Kathryn a long period to resolve, however, they persevered and thanks to Ian the HRA still existed. The Highcliffe and Walkford Parish Council wished to mark Ian's untimely death by presenting the lectern to the HRA as a tribute to Ian. Bob shared that the lectern had been made by John Pegram of Men's Shed and he hoped that whenever people stood at the lectern they remembered the man who inspired it.

Chair Carol thanked Bob sincerely, on behalf of the HRA, for making this gesture of appreciation for the work and dedication of Ian Hartnell, late Chair. Chair Carol continued that she could not claim to have known Ian well, but she did know the impact he made in leading the HRA and the time and energy he gave, in particular in making sure that Old School was the community asset we can all use today. When the Directors met always felt he was with them and are thankful to have benefited from his companionship, ideas and vision. This lectern will ensure a lasting memory of his achievements for all future members of the HRA.

5. David Parsons – Rotary Club of Highcliffe

David Parsons provided some background about the Rotary Club and stated that it was not a political organisation but a group of people who got together with the motto 'Service Above Self'. David confirmed he had come to the meeting to talk about defibrillators and advised that the closest to the Old School were located at the Medical Centre and at the Methodist Church. However, David believed there were also some within private businesses / companies and that generally people weren't aware of them as they weren't registered (Companies could register that they have a defibrillator).

David provided some statistics from the British Heart Foundation that 1 in 10 who suffered a sudden cardiac arrest outside of hospital didn't survive for the following reasons:

- 1) People didn't know how to perform CPR
- 2) People didn't know where the nearest defibrillator was located.

The Rotary Club wanted to raise funds for a defibrillator at the Old School end of the High Street but were looking for volunteers to step forward to perform a maintenance and auditing role. Weekly checks would be required to be carried out such as checking the pads hadn't expired; check the lights were working and that it was registered and noted available.

David continued that the Rotary Club would like to raise funds for at least 3 defibrillators for use by the community and this would be possible via a grant they currently have access to.

Question from the Public- It was asked what the maintenance role would entail?

A: To check if the defibrillator has been used, it is there, functioning and everything is in good order. The pads may require changing. David continued that they were looking for people to join the rota; to have a think about where more could be located and to assist with fundraising.

5. James Talbot – Highcliffe Hawks (With Tony King, Jack and Connor)

James Talbot introduced himself as the Chair of Highcliffe Hawks and Tony King as the Vice Chair. James provided some background to the Highcliffe Hawks in that it had been founded in 1978 and had 40 years of history, providing safe, fun football for youths in the area. There were in excess of 220 boys playing each season and next season there would be 17 teams.

James advised that the Highcliffe Hawks had recently held a summer tournament that had been moved at the last minute from Fawcett's Field to Wingfield's and that the event had been well received. It had been well run but there had been an issue with parking. People had parked in the roads local to Wingfield's and the club was asking for feedback about the tournament and parking as they wanted to integrate the club into the community.

Councillor David Martin commented that the club had a massive part to play in the community and what positive work it was doing in the community and he hoped that the residents understood. David thanked the club and added he used to play for the Highcliffe Hawks.

Councillor Andy Martin advised that he used to be a coach for the Highcliffe Hawks and asked how many complaints had been received. James said that there had been 1 formal email complaint which had suggested that Highcliffe School be used for parking and that cones should be put on the bend outside Wingfield's. James wanted BCP to put double yellow lines there. As a club they aimed to provide a safe environment for children to play football and with children trying to cross the road with all that traffic he wished to keep it safer.

James added that the venue had been a last-minute change for the tournament and therefore the club hadn't managed to give notice to local residents.

It was confirmed that no complaints had been received via HRA or the Highcliffe & Walkford Parish Council.

David Parson stated that the Rotary Club wished to work together with the Hawks and have more of a relationship moving forward.

Comment from the Public- Due to the current weather the grass verges are dry but if it had been raining, they would have been churned up.

Response: James advised that if the verges were too soft then the pitches would likely be too soft to play on. There could potentially be more parking on the field.

Comment from the Public- Minibuses could be used to transport equipment/ people from Highcliffe School to the field.

James thanked the audience for their comments and introduced Jack and Connor, who were wearing the two new kits for next season.

7. Financial and Membership Report

Prepared by Anne Bassett our Director for Finance and Membership

The final accounts for 2022-23 had been prepared and were now with the accountants to complete the financial statements to 30 April 2023. A deficit of £1119.14 had been calculated for the year and it was expected that no corporation tax would be due again for this financial year. Once the accounts had been verified by the accountants, they will be reported on further at the next QMM.

Finance Report

The accounts for the first month of the new financial year had also been prepared showing an income of £1944 and expenditure of £1251.76, generating a surplus of £692.56. This was a good start to the year and provided there were no major expenditures, a surplus was forecast of £3400 for the year.

Bank balances as of today – CAF Bank £21,655.24 and NatWest £1134.86

Membership

Currently the membership stands at 598 which includes 29 new members who signed up at the Highcliffe Food and Arts Festival. Despite sending reminders there are 100 members who have not yet renewed for 2023/24.

Roger Loundes (Member of the public) commented that there was a need for people in Highcliffe to become members of the HRA. He suggested that everyone should try and recruit another member. He has been in touch with Joan Rose (Chair) about the membership subscription cost which remains at £5.00 and that it wouldn't break the bank if everyone paid 50p per month / £6.00 per year. Roger added that the message needed to get out that everyone should pay a little bit more.

Meeting Chair Carol advised that the Directors had considered increasing the subscription for this year but had decided not to do so due to the cost-of-living crisis. Perhaps the topic would be brought forward at the AGM for consideration.

8. Update on Current Issues and Recent HRA activities

8.1. Feedback on Highcliffe Food and Arts Festival (Mary Reader)

Mary Reader advised that the Food and Arts Festival (HFAF) had overall been a huge success with thousands of people having turned up. The HFAF had been set-up 9 years ago to raise the profile of Highcliffe and to support the local businesses and it had been very successful in bringing more business into the village. One of the few negative comments had been about there not being enough chairs; however 250 seats had been hired in and people had been encouraged to bring fold-up chairs. More thank-you notes had been received this year than ever before.

Mary thanked Councillor Andy Martin for his help with BCP and called for volunteers if anyone was interested in joining the HFAF committee. Mary also noted that HRA didn't have enough volunteers to cover their stall for the whole weekend and if they had done it would have made a big difference to the membership numbers.

Councillor Andy Martin gave huge thanks to Mary & Richard Reader, Terry Lester and Tina Jaffray for their hard work in relation to the HFAF. This was echoed by the Chair.

8.2. Traffic Regulation Orders

Meeting Chair Carol advised that at a meeting recently between HRA, Councillors Andy Martin, David Martin, Adam Sofianos and BCP Council officers, it was confirmed that new Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) will come into force from 1 October 2023. It is hoped to get these in place ahead of this summer season, and the Council Officers apologised for the delay in reaching agreement on these, citing staffing shortages as the principal reason. There would be a further review of the traffic and parking in and around Highcliffe, and it is hoped that measures requested previously will be examined once again.

The measures being enacted in the autumn will include roads and road junctions to the south of Lymington Road. Assurances have been made that all the junctions included in the request will have double lines and extensions where lines already exist. Other measures which were addressed at that meeting included:

- Lymington Road and Ringwood Road – reduction in speed limits where currently 40mph to be reduced to 30mph – to be consulted on
- Addressing road safety issues/speeding in Hinton Wood Avenue
- Dangerous and inconsiderate parking in Greenways/Jesmond/Kilmington – traffic regulation orders for double yellow lines to be drafted and consulted on
- Implementation of long-awaited traffic regulation orders at Highcliffe School
- Continuing work by road safety and highway officers with the staff at St Marks School to ease the traffic problems there.

There is early discussion about ‘school streets’ being implemented; talks are at an early stage, and more information will emerge in due course.

Councillor Andy Martin added that traffic issues around St Mark’s were an ongoing discussion. In terms of the suggestion that school streets be implemented this would involve roads being closed for 45 minutes in the morning and evening and would need to be consulted on. Traffic regulations for Jesmond Avenue/bottom of Greenways would also need to be consulted on but there was confidence these would be implemented. The 30mph speed limit (Lymington road and Ringwood Road) he confirmed will be implemented.

Question from the Public- It was asked where it was suggested people should park, if not in Jesmond Avenue, as many people parking there are shop workers?

A: Councillor Martin responded that people were parking dangerously on the pavement and on the corners such as Greenways/Kilmington. The regulations would be to prevent people for parking like this but there would be other areas of Jesmond Avenue or Greenways to park in.

Question from the Public- A member sought information about the Highcliffe Music Festival and if roads were closed where people would park?

A: Meeting chair Carol advised that there was no representative from Highcliffe Action Team but that the information would be sought and fed back.

Question from the Public- A question was asked as to why the speed limit along The High Street couldn’t

be reduced to 20mph?

A: Councillor Dedman responded that this was an 'A' road and therefore couldn't be reduced to 20mph.

Comment from the Public- Residents around St Marks School hoped to be asked to participate in any consultation in relation to the parking, as they had suffered a lot of abuse. This was unfair and they were entitled to receive more respect and compassion from parents dropping off / collecting children. The manner in which they had been addressed was appalling, when parents had been asked to move their cars from in front of resident's driveways.

A: Councillor Sofianos responded that he recognized the situation as he lived near the school and was a parent and that the school was very keen to address the parking issues by trying to stop parents from driving to school.

Councillor Andy Martin advised that he had had 2 meetings with the school which was very concerned about the situation as it wanted to be a good neighbour for those around it.

Question from the Public- A question was raised around the policing of people parking on junctions as it wasn't up to the residents to go out and speak with the parents. It needed someone to issue tickets/fines.

A: Councillor Andy Martin confirmed that BCP enforcement officers had attended twice in the last 4-6 weeks.

Question from the Public- A question was raised around the unnecessary roadworks in conjunction with Cityfibre as they had been told that the majority of people were never going to be able use it.

A: Councillor Andy Martin advised that this was a government initiative and not local council. It was the government that decided the country needed fibre optic cable and the local council have to provide permits for the roads to be dug up.

9. Update from Highcliffe and Walkford Parish Council, followed by questions from Members to Parish Councillors

No questions for the Parish Councillors had been notified to the secretary in advance of the meeting.

Councillor Dedman addressed the meeting and stated that a lot of problems/issues had been brought forward during the meeting and could have been brought to the Parish Council meeting. Everyone was therefore invited to attend the Parish council meeting which would be held in the same room (on Wednesday 28th June). Item 4 of the Parish Council meeting agenda was "To receive questions from members of the public" and the Parish Council would welcome the public's involvement. Councillor Dedman added that unlike BCP and local government the Parish Council was totally non-political.

Question from the Public- A question was asked as to why Remembrance Poppys were not on sale in Highcliffe last year.

A: Councillor Dedman confirmed this to be a Royal British Legion initiative and that she personally was trying to get that remedied.

A member of the public confirmed that they were a Royal British Legion committee member and advised

that the poppy lady hadn't had a change in role and therefore there should have been a poppy collection.

Question from the Public- A question was raised as to what had happened to the flower beds in the Recreation Ground as they hadn't been planted. A comment was also made about the hedges in Wortley Road.

A: Councillor Sofianos advised that BCP still owned the Recreation Ground. Councillor Andy Martin confirmed that once BCP hand it over the beds would be planted. In terms of the hedges in Wortley Road Councillor Martin didn't know who owned them but advised there was a gentleman called Lance who goes about the Parish tidying up overgrown areas.

The Parish Councillors confirmed that there were no further updates other than what had already been discussed.

8. Update from BCP Councillors, followed by questions from Members

No questions for the BCP Councillors had been notified to the secretary in advance of the meeting.

Councillor Andy Martin advised that there was a new administration for BCP Council called the 3 Towns Alliance. This reflects the individuality of 3 towns working together and has moved away from 'a city by the sea'. The administration consisted of Liberal Democrats, Independents of Bournemouth, Independents of Poole and Christchurch Independents, the latter of which have significant influence and leverage to deliver and to get things done.

Councillor Andy Martin continued that he had 2 things he wished to mention. Firstly, he was aware of planning problems and mentioned the proposal by BCP in the Local Plan for the area local to Wharncliffe Road and Waterford Road to be highlighted for a change in character. Councillor Andy Martin confirmed that this had now been removed from the Local Plan and there would no longer be a threat of a change of character. A review of the Local Plan was being carried out by Cllr Margaret Phipps and this was currently in motion.

The second was in relation to Planning Committees within BCP. There were initially calls for 3 Planning Committees (1 for each town in the conurbation) however, there were not enough Christchurch Councillors to sit on all 3 committees. Therefore 2 planning committees have been formed, one for the east of the conurbation (Christchurch, Boscombe and Southbourne) and one for the west.

Councillor Andy Martin provided some information around Seafront Operations and a series of proposals which included investment in the cliff paths and steps and improved public toilets and advised that a list was being put together.

Councillor Andy Martin advised that there were also discussions around a Residents Card that would provide discounts and which would fit in with the BCP mantra of 'Residents First'. He felt there was too much focus on visitors and not on residents. This idea was in the early stages and it was not yet known if it would be free or there would be a charge.

It was highlighted that the developer had lodged an appeal against the latest refused planning application relating to Jesmond Wood. It wasn't known yet whether this would be by written representation, a hearing or public enquiry. BCP will vigorously defend their position and were checking the validity of the grounds of the appeal.

Councillor Andy Martin advised that it was not all good news and that BCP would need to make £44m of cuts in the next 12 months, following the deficit generated by the previous administration.

Councillor Hilliard advised that if people were residents of Hoburne Estate then they would be aware of the house martins and swifts there. The council was working with New Milton Sand & Ballast and the ornithologist group to put a tower for the birds on an open space on Hoburne Estate as unfortunately some residents had started blocking up their eaves to prevent the birds from nesting.

Mudeford Woods had recently been the subject of a university study and as a result paths were being re-laid and there was improved signage.

Councillor Hilliard called for the reporting of incidents to the Police. The Police record the crime level as low in the area but the reports were low and so there was need to keep reporting. Councillor Hilliard provided the example of fires being left burning all night (on the beach) and being found in the morning by dog walkers. He reiterated the need to keep reporting this.

Councillor David Martin referenced the planning application relating to Wharncliffe Road and advised that hundreds of objections have been received and that the BCP Planning Officer was currently going through the application and had some issues with it.

Councillor David Martin had received an email from a resident in Walkford about graffiti. 10 days later this was still there and it was highlighted that the council wasn't working as quickly as it could do.

Question from the Public- A question was raised about the litter left on the Recreation Ground by youths in the evenings and whether cameras could be put on the toilets.

A: Councillor David Martin replied that people didn't seem to have any respect and that he will take a look.

Comment from the Public- A comment was made about Penrose at the top of the High Street and whether they were thinking of pulling out and if the land will be developed.

A: Councillor Andy Martin responded that he had been fire-fighting with so many planning issues, specifically mentioning the building work on the corner of Greenways and Denham Drive which had upset local residents. He didn't know about Penrose, but he would take a look.

9. AOB

No topics of AOB were raised

10. Date and time of next meeting

There was a change of date for the AGM which would now be held on Thursday 28th September 2023 at 7.00pm at The Old School.

ADDENDUM

As a point of clarification, the HRA Directors think it useful to advise HRA members of the rules regarding questions by members of the public to Councillors at HRA Quarterly Meetings.

Members of the public are asked to submit questions to Councillors, i.e. Members of the Parish Council and Members of BCP Council, in advance of the meeting. This is to enable Councillors time to seek advice and information from Council officers in order to provide a full and accurate response.

Councillors may provide an answer to questions from the floor, but this is entirely at their own discretion and may not include all the relevant information.

Members of the HRA may submit their questions in advance via the HRA website by following the link:

<https://highclifferesidents.co.uk/meetings>

and completing the form at the bottom of the page, or by using the email address:

info@highclifferesidents.co.uk