



Highcliffe Residents' Association

Community Interest Company

QUARTERLY MEMBERS' MEETING

10th June 2019 at 7.00pm at St Mark's Church Hall

MINUTES

1. Present:

HRA CIC Chairman Ian Hartnell

HRA CIC Directors Guy Gillett, Ben Lock, and Richard Reader

HRA Executive Committee members Willie McNeill (Planning), Tina Butcher (Newsletter Distribution and Minute Taker) and Mary Reader (Communications)

BCP Councillors: Andy Hilliard, Lesley Dedman, and Nick Geary

HWPC Councillors: Bob Hutchins (Chairman) and Andy Martin (Vice Chairman), and several other Councillors

Approximately 80 HRA members and residents.

1a. Welcome:

Chairman Ian welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for attending despite the inclement weather.

2. Apologies for Absence:

BCP Councillor Nigel Brooks had sent apologies due to a conflicting engagement; HRA Officers Andy Clayton (Website) and Jean Rose (Secretary) conveyed their apologies together with a number of other HRA members.

3. Minutes of QMM Meeting of 11th March

Chairman Ian referenced the minutes of the quarterly members meeting, copies of which were available at the meeting and which were also posted on the HRA website, and invited any comments from the floor. No comments were received and the minutes were declared as final and as a correct record.

4. HRA CIC Update

Chairman Ian conveyed that the HRA was a Community Interest Company (CIC), which was a not for profit company but was not registered as a charity and was run by volunteers. Any money received was put back into maintaining the asset of the Old School. There is a three bedroomed cottage attached to the Old School. Members of HRA CIC (which is a Company Limited by Guarantee) guarantee £1 in the unlikely event that the company is wound up during the membership (or within one year thereafter) with outstanding liabilities.

4a. Recent Management Changes

Chairman Ian highlighted the CIC management changes that had taken place over the past year:

Ian Hartnell and Richard Reader were elected and became directors

Directors Sue Taylor and Jacqui Waddock had resigned as directors

Rob Austin who had been elected had since resigned as a director but still assists with some aspects of the maintenance work relating to the Old School building

Guy Gillett (Membership) and Ben Lock (Social Media) have also become directors

Question from the floor: What is the cottage attached to the Old School used for?

It was confirmed that the cottage is rented out to a young family.

4b. Repairs and renovations to the Old School building

Chairman Ian advised that the Old School building was currently undergoing some repairs. There had been a leak from an area of the roof and there was also some internal decorating taking place. Further improvements would be taking place in due course and residents would be kept informed during future meetings.

Ian called for the services from any members who had experience of making curtains / long drapes as assistance is needed to make long drapes for the small hall within the Old School building. If anyone could assist please contact one of the Executive Committee members.

5. Update on new local Councils:

5a. Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole (BCP)

Nick Geary commented that it was welcoming to see so many people supporting the councillors and shared that since the election on 2nd May 2019 a lot had taken place within the BCP. Various committees had been set-up; there had been training courses for the councillors who may need help and advice, councillors had been selected for various committees and from next week the committee meetings would start to take place. Nick highlighted the success with regard to the harmonization of the council tax. From 2021 there would be harmonization across the 3 previous authorities (Christchurch, Bournemouth & Poole) with all residents across the BCP authority paying the same amount of Council Tax, which would be commenced with a phased approach in 2020. Lesley Dedman conveyed that with seats on the unity authority the councillors had a say on what was going on. In terms of planning there are planning boards for each area and as such there would be planning information for the locale that would go through the HRA and the Parish Council.

Paul Hilliard who is a BCP councilor for Mundeford, Stanpit and West Highcliffe advised that he was on the Appeals Committee and heard HR appeals and School appeals. Paul added that he was also on the planning committee so couldn't get involved with any discussions taking place during HRA meetings.

5b. Highcliffe & Walkford Parish Council

Bob Hutchins shared that there was an update on the local Parish Council in the 2Q newsletter and said that he is the Chairman of the Parish Council and Andy Martin is the Vice-Chairman. This was the start of a very busy period and currently the council was at the starting gate. There are a few empty seats on the Parish Council and the councillors are looking to co-opt volunteers. The closing date to state an interest is in a few days' time and Bob welcomed hearing from anyone at the end of the meeting who may be interested.

6. Update on current Issues and Recent HRA Activities

Mary Reader advised that the local shops had done quite well out of the Food Festival and

thanked Susan and Terry Lester for their support during the event.

In terms of local businesses the Raymond Blanc pub, The Oaks, would be opening on 1st July and Mary had received copies of the menus. There was also going to be a French Restaurant opening where the old wool shop had been.

Mary highlighted that there are also several organisations that work hard for the village and the HRA acted as an umbrella for these: HAT; Residents Association; Bloom Group and other organisations. All of the community was pulling together - The Bloom Group doing up Highcliffe High Street and the planned bigger switch-on event at Christmas. Work is taking place in the small hall in the School House so that it can be let out for a small fee and a new booking system will be put in place.

Mary stated that the Highcliffe website was the first point of contact and it was Mary who picked up the issues / queries raised via that media. Mary is trying to respond within 24 hours but sometimes this also involves raising the queries with the appropriate officers at the council. So although the issues/queries are picked up within 24 hours it may take a while to get a response back from the respective party. Mary referenced a recent query received about the proposed new Yellow bus route and advised that this had gone straight in to Nigel Brooks who in turn had shared the proposal with the Yellow Bus company and was currently awaiting a response; however, this was an example of where someone had a concern, raised the issue and the HRA had acted as quickly as they could.

6a. Highcliffe Action Team

Jane Dean, HAT Communications Officer, conveyed that the organisation was set-up last August to champion and address problems in the High Street. Actions to date included the Christmas Lights in the High Street; local artist Wendy Brown had created a 4-mile walking map of Highcliffe. Jane showcased the "LoveHighcliffe" collection of branded merchandise that is based on the map: Set of 4 coasters, Apron, Tea Towel, Mug and a 96 piece jigsaw puzzle. The products are hand sewn and have been sourced locally where possible. The products had been on show at the food Festival and had sold out. Going forward they would be available from the Highcliffe Castle gift shop or the shopping page at highcliffevillage.com. The products will be for sale within the next month. All profits from the collection will go back into the community pot as HAT is a non-profit organisation.

6b. Highcliffe & Walkford in Bloom

Susan Smith, Chairman of the Highcliffe and Walkford in Bloom committee advised that the 3 tier planters had arrived and would be watered by the same company that waters the hanging baskets in the High Street. The Bloom Group had joined the RHS Britain in Bloom for Insurance purposes and as such was obliged to enter the South and Southeast in Bloom competition. Highcliffe and Walkford have been entered separately in the Parishes in Bloom competition. One of the judges will visit Highcliffe and Walkford on 9th July and will be around for approximately 1½ hours'. Community Involvement could score up to 40% of the marks (this would incorporate organisations such as HAT, HRA, Beach Cleaners etc.)

Gardening Achievements could attain up to 30% of the marks with the remaining 30% attributed to the Environment (improvements to the natural and built environment). On the 9th July Susan and Tina Butcher (H&W in Bloom Committee Member) will be showing the judge around.

Susan said she would ask one thing of residents as the weeds were growing very fast in the High Street and that was to pull up weeds and to sweep the area.

Mary Reader highlighted that Susan had previously been the Parks Manager for Bournemouth and was providing her talent free of charge to the Highcliffe and Walkford communities. Mary called for more volunteers to assist the Bloom Group.

6c. Beach Litter Pick

There was a cleanup of Highcliffe Beach on Saturday 8th June in aid of World Oceans Day. This was over and above the normal beach cleaning activities.

6d. Local Planning Issues

Willie McNeill introduced himself as HRA Executive Committee Member and Parish councillor (Planning) and stated that although he represented these bodies the residents still had a huge part to play with objections in a move to block planning submissions. Willie referred to the update on the HRA website and highlighted some of the applications:

Jesmond Avenue 8/18/1070/FUL

The hoardings in the area have now been removed after the enforcement Notice applied. The developer has now put in an application to build 50 homes with 18 detached chalet houses and two blocks of flats, one of which will be affordable housing with shared ownership and the other will be for private rent. The developer has offered to meet with the residents to discuss the plans. Willie urged residents to look at the plans and draw their own conclusions.

Seaton Road 8/19/0564/OUT

This appears to be a cut down version of a previous application.

The same objections apply to cramping, inadequate parking inappropriate development.

Note: 50 cycle spaces are being provided!

Planning application 8/19/0683/FUL

Squeezed in house at 13-15 Thursby Road

Planning objection Raised 11/4/19

This in an existing set of gardens, breaks the building line, is intrusive and cramping. The developer has submitted answers to the objections before the decision date.

(23/5/19) application rejected.

Willie conveyed that most applications that come in are related to trees and that there were plans to discuss with the TPO (Tree Preservation Order) contact to understand the process. The extension to the Premier Inn was rejected on this basis; however other plans involving TPO's have been agreed.

Willie pointed residents to the council planning website but commented that this was very slow and difficult to navigate quickly.

Comment from the floor: The Churchill developments were age restricted (over 50's) however the proposed Jesmond Avenue flats would have no age restriction. The sales of flats in Highcliffe was buoyant, just not those that were age restricted.

Question from the floor: As a Parish councillor how do you fit into the application process? It was confirmed that the Parish Council would have no statutory right to turn down planning applications.

Bob Hutchins added that as a statutory consultee every planning application would come to the Parish Council that would then consult with local residents. The council would either support the application or not support it, but doesn't have any decision making power.

Chairman Ian advised that he had attended a meeting at Mr. Bulstrode's insistence during which the plans had been shared for the new application of Jesmond Avenue, as Mr. Bulstrode was well aware of the controversial nature of the site and was keen to know what the HRA thought. It was explained to Mr. Bulstrode that the HRA doesn't give opinion but would wait to learn what the members had to say and would feed back to the

relevant authority. Ian added that Mr. Bulstrode said he would attend a meeting in July with local residents (no press), however Mr. Bulstrode had since promoted the development on the front of the local paper. It was highlighted that the land doesn't end at Jesmond Avenue, it extends beyond the other side of the Premier Inn, and Willie would find out if any TPO's exist on the entire site.

Willie commented that development of that magnitude would come up against the same obstacles as the previous applications and that all were on record. As the issues would be the same they could be counted in objections lodged for the new application and if people were minded to object this would be against the same policies as objections had been raised before.

It was commented from the floor that the new plans fall outside of the flooding area which was the contentious point in the previous objections and that residents would need to review the plans prior to raising their points of objection. It was highlighted by Willie that a copy of the plans are on the Planning website.

Paul Hilliard notified the residents that next Tuesday (18th June) between 3pm and 7pm Pennyfarthing Homes would be holding a meeting in St Mark's Hall in Highcliffe in relation to the proposed development at Steamer Point and that further details are on the website.

A comment from the floor highlighted that there were plans for building that would affect the Roeshot Hill allotments. This would be on the right hand side of the A35 at the top of Roeshot Hill and down to the rear of Stewart's and Sainsbury's. For access purposes a new roundabout would be built at the bottom of Roeshot Hill (on the west side).

6e. Zig Zag Path

Bob Hutchins stated that it had been over 3 years since the Council had temporarily closed the path and it had been 2 years since the path had been permanently closed to now when the path will be permanently open. Everyone had supported the campaign and signed petitions and Ian Nicholl had fed information to the council so that the right decision could be made for its future. There is evidence that the Zig Zag path was in existence in 1773 and a pamphlet had been produced on this that had been available at the castle on opening day. There were also some copies still available at the castle and on a board.

A comment was made from the floor that stated although there were no cycling signs there were people cycling on the path, however, these weren't the youngsters, but was attributed to the older people.

A question from the floor was received in respect of the Friends of Nea Meadow and its maintenance and upkeep and when it was handed over to the Parish Council if it would be supported in the way it had been supported by the BCP.

At this point a similar question was raised in relation to the Bowls Club.

Bob Hutchins responded to both stating that the Parish Council was aware that some assets would be handed to it and that a meeting had taken place at the BCP this afternoon. Bob confirmed that the Parish council would honour its commitments once it was understood what they were.

6f. Café Scientifique

Derek Chant conveyed that he had been running the organisation for about a year (first anniversary will be September) and it is operating from the Castle Kitchen. The organisation relies on donations and any excess funds are donated to charity. Everyone is welcome to the Scientifique talks, the meetings take place monthly and the next meeting will take place on 20th June - Why record wildlife? There were flyers at the back of the meeting room with details of the upcoming dates and topics. Derek solicited names of preferred local charities for the excess funds to be donated to.

Chairman Ian advised that there was more information on the HRA website and on the community notice boards.

7. Developments at Highcliffe Castle

A volunteer representative from the Heritage Team at Highcliffe Castle (Bob) provided a brief overview of the restoration work that has taken place and at what stage the work is at, at the moment. Bob highlighted that the restoration work was planned in 10 phases and was planned for completion over a 10-12 year period. Phase 7 had just been completed which covered the east wing of the castle that consisted of 3 storeys and had been an empty shell for 50 years. The renovations had cost £4m of which £2.8m had been received from the National Lottery with the remainder from Christchurch Council together with other donations. This sum did not include the funds to reconstruct the Zig Zag path.

On 30th May the Duke of Gloucester had come to Highcliffe to formally open both projects.

There is a dedicated visitor centre in the new wing on 3 floors, which includes the 1830's kitchen in the basement. This has undergone a cosmetic makeover including the Eagle Stove and the well had been found in a room adjacent to the kitchen. This now has a glass lid on and a light in it. The next floor up is the Great Floor, which consists of 2 rooms providing a history of the ownership of the castle up to the 1950's.

On the 1st floor above the kitchen a stained glass workshop will be established at the end of 2019 and across the corridor from this there is a family activity room where families can dress up and have their photograph taken. Much of the original furniture was donated to the V&A (Victoria & Albert) museum by Lady Abingdon and some of the pieces have been loaned for display at the castle. The current pieces will be on display for 3 years and then will be replaced with another selection from the same collection.

Accessibility to the upper floors is by 2 lifts - one in the east wing and the other goes from the ground floor to the activity room.

Season tickets are available for the castle at a cost of £24.00 per annum for 2 people, alternatively, single entrance is available at £7.00 per head.

If anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer for the Heritage Team, full training would be provided, a 2 shift system is in place 10am-1.30pm and 1.30pm - 5pm and volunteers could elect to work only 1 shift per week if they wished and this could include supporting events, weddings etc. held at the castle.

8. Questions from Members to HRA Officers and Unitary/Parish Councillors

Chairman Ian called for any questions.

Question from the floor: A number of months ago Natalie Poulter had promised the refurbishment of the shelter by the Cliffhanger, yet this had now gone quiet.

Paul Hilliard confirmed that the project (the re-work of the Cliffhanger shelter) was still ongoing. Other work had taken a priority so this project had stalled a bit.

Chairman Ian commented that a request had been made that all questions for the HRA officers and councillors be provided in advance so that a thorough answer can be prepared for the meeting.

Question from the floor: The local councillors used to hold a surgery once a month. Were there plans for this to be reestablished with the new BCP councillors?

Paul Hilliard responded that all of the councillors were available via email or telephone and therefore the need for a surgery was no longer what it once was.

9. Communications with Members

Mary Reader advised that she was responsible for member communications including the newsletter and offered apologies for the late issue of the 2Q newsletter. Mary conveyed that this was related to the amount of time that the food festival had taken up and the amount of new rules the BCP had placed on the festival at last minute. The festival had cost in excess of £35K (£35-£40K) and donations had been sought from local business and there had also been a charge for stallholders. Mary offered a further apology relating to the Food Festival program that should have been delivered to all households in BH23, BH24 & BH25 postcodes. A company had been paid £750.00 to deliver these but the service had not materialized and Mary was currently having a battle with the company in question.

Mary shared that the HRA website kept members informed of up-to date issues together with Andy Martin's involvement with the Echo and Christchurch Times and the social media aspect supported by Ben Lock.

Mary highlighted there was a super team of volunteer Road Wardens in place who had offered their services to deliver the quarterly newsletter and Tina Butcher would be taking on the responsibility of leading the Road Wardens going forward.

10. Urgent Business

No urgent matters raised

11. Dates of future Members Meetings in 2019:

9th September; 9th December at St Mark's Church Hall, Hinton Wood Avenue

Meeting closed at approximately 20.40pm.

TB 16.6.2019/RR23.6.20189