



Highcliffe Residents' Association CIC

Quarterly Members' Meeting

9th September 2019 at 8.15pm at St Mark's Church Hall, Hinton Wood Avenue

MINUTES

Present:

- HRA Chairman Ian Hartnell
- HRA Directors Guy Gillett, Ben Lock and Richard Reader
- HRA Executive Committee members Tina Butcher, Kathryn Hartnell, Willie McNeill, Mary Reader, Joan Rose, and David Underhill
- BPC Councillors Nigel Brooks and Paul Hillier
- HWPC Vice-Chair Andy Martin
- about 60 other HRA members.

Apologies:

- HRA Executive Committee member Andy Clayton
- BCP Councillors Lesley Dedman and Nick Geary
- HWPC Chairman Bob Hutchings
- HRA members Paul and Valerie Brooks, Carole Matthews, Vincent May and Pat Stokes

1. Welcome and Introduction

Chairman Ian Hartnell had already welcomed members to the meeting on this cold September evening.

2. Minutes of meeting of 10th June 2019

The minutes of the last meeting were received.

3. HRA CIC Update

The Chairman had given a statement, and had made a short presentation, at the AGM held immediately prior to this Meeting.

4. Updates on new local Councils

4a. BCP Councillors

Nigel Brooks, BCP Councillor and Highcliffe and Walkford Parish Councillor thanked, on behalf of himself and Councillor Nick Geary, those present at the meeting for voting them onto the local councils. He praised the strong sense of community he had discerned in our area, and mentioned the high degree of participation in such events as the Highcliffe Food Festival, Highcliffe in Bloom, Highcliffe Action Team and the Litter Picking. Another major achievement by the local community he mentioned was the reinstatement of the Zig Zag path. The Recreation Ground is now well equipped with items, and is being well used by local families. The shelters at Highcliffe Beach are being refurbished.



He told the meeting that he has currently more than 50 issues which have been brought before him by concerned residents. He outlined the large scale of the BCP Council, which is the 6th largest in the country, in comparison to the old CBC. It has 100 schools, and 50 miles of coastline to take care of, and has allocated spending of £275 million this year, whilst being charged with finding savings of £15 million.

Nigel went on to describe the role of the Parish Council in formulating a Local Plan, which can then be used to support representations to the BCP Council. It is envisaged that work to prepare the Plan will take up to two years. There will be a subcommittee of the Parish Council to focus on the Local Plan, and Nigel asked if there was anyone with experience of such matters that they come forward and offer to assist the Councillors with their efforts.

Nigel finished his presentation by informing the meeting that he will not take the allowance given to him as BCP Councillor, and instead is donating it to local charities. He said that if anyone wished him to donate to a particular local charity, they should contact him.

4b. Highcliffe and Walkford Parish Council

Parish Councillor Andy Martin introduced himself as the Vice Chair of the Highcliffe and Walkford Parish Council. He told the meeting that Councillor Bob Hutching, who is the Chair of the Parish Council, was unwell, as was BCP and Parish Councillor Nick Geary. He thanked Nigel Brooks for taking on additional work whilst Councillor Geary has been unwell. He also thanked Willie McNeil for his work on the Planning applications and decisions. He informed the meeting that the BCP Council is obliged to take the opinions of the local Parish Council into account when making decisions.

Andy then went on to thank Tina Butcher for her contribution to the PC and mentioned that there is now a new PC clerk, Trish Jamieson. He affirmed the PC commitment to identifying monies which are available to the community, and urged everyone to support them as they are their voice to the BCP Council.

5. Update on Current Issues and Recent HRA Activities

a. HRA Executive Committee

Mary Reader, the HRA Executive Committee member (Communications) introduced herself, and the Directors and Committee Members. She gave particular mention to new members of the Committee, Tina Butcher (Newsletter Distribution), David Underhill (Planning) and Joan Rose (Assistant Secretary).

b. Local Planning Issues

Willie McNeill, who is a Parish Councillor, as well as a member of the HRA Executive Committee, gave a brief presentation of issues currently outstanding. He mentioned in particular applications to which the PC had made objections, but for which there had been no decision by the BCP Council – The Cliffhanger, development at Jesmond Avenue, and the status of the remaining house on the Lymington Road development. – see HRA website In addition, the application at Seaton Road for 35 flats has not yet had a



decision reached, nor the application for 4 houses on Avenue Road. Of great concern are plans to redevelop the old coastguard building into houses and flats, which represents severe overdevelopment, and the HRA will object. The proliferation of new flats in the Highcliffe area is an overriding concern, and Willie emphasized that where the Parish Council objects to a scheme, the BCP council is obliged to take note, even if it does not in the end agree.

Question from the floor: a resident was concerned about the increase in the volume of traffic as a result of the creation of blocks of flats. This is put forward to the BCP council as a major concern where objections are made to the proposal to build flats.

Statement from the floor: a resident of Wharncliffe Road felt that developers propose a higher number of flats than they intend to build, and so when they offer to reduce the number at subsequent reapplications, this helps to get a decision in their favour. This concern is supported by the Parish Council as the drive to provide housing is a national problem which is overriding local plans.

Question from the floor with regards to the background to the ownership of the land at Jesmond Avenue. This had been covered in a previous meeting.

Question from the floor: for future proposed flat developments, can we insist on the provision of more garages for the residents? Inevitably, developers include too few for the number of flats. Willie said that this will form part of future objections.

Question from the floor: can planning applications be included in the HRA Newsletter? Willie pointed out that the publication dates of the Newsletter precludes the inclusion of up to date information. Mary Reader said that planning application details are uploaded to the HRA website, which allows for a more up to date record.

c. Renovation of Cliff Top Shelters

Paul Hilliard reported that the shelters will be given a fresh coat of paint, and there will be information boards provided. He stated that there will be no dramatic changes to items on the cliff top as residents preferred a natural beach.

d. Beach Litter Pick

He confirmed that the next litter pick will be on 6 October 2019.

e. Other concerns

He also emphasised that where residents have concerns with regard to planning matters that they should address them to the Parish Council.

f. Highcliffe Action Team

Details of news and events from the HAT are available in the latest edition of the HRA Newsletter. They plan another Xmas event in November. Last year's Xmas event was very successful.

g. Highcliffe and Walkford in Bloom

Mary Reader said that the village is looking much brighter due to the efforts of the In Bloom team, especially the Waterford Road area, and gave a vote of thanks to all involved. In addition, there will be fresh finger posting provided



and a sign directing to the Station at Hinton Admiral. Some of the funding for these has been raised from the Food Festival proceeds.

Celia Forsberg of the In Bloom team informed the meeting of a fund-raising coffee morning on 20 September 2019, commencing at 10.00am in the Methodist Hall. There will be a raffle and bring and buy table. The aim is to raise £1,000 towards the provision of plants for the displays in the village next year.

There will be a meeting of the Highcliffe and Walkford In Bloom group on Wednesday 11 September at 1900 in the Old School, and Celia urged members to come forward and volunteer to help if they could. All help would be gratefully received.

h. Highcliffe street pavements

Nigel Brooks described the poor condition of the pavements on shop frontages on Lymington Road, and the resulting problems for pedestrians. He cited the example of the formation of large pools of water in bad weather, where the pavements are broken due to lorries mounting and crushing the bricks. To fix these problems would be very expensive due to the way the pavements are constructed in relation to the shop fronts, and he feared that action would not be taken by the BCP Council until a number of accidents had occurred. The BCP council are likely in any event to suggest the replacement of the paving blocks with tarmac, a solution which is not acceptable. He said that the Parish Council were looking at this problem as a matter of urgency, but that there were difficulties in finding an adequate solution.

Mary Reader said that there had previously been a petition raised calling for action by the Council on this topic which had gathered over a thousand names, showing that this was a high priority in the village. She asked Nigel to push this matter with the BCP council.

6. Questions from Members to HRA Officers and BCP/Parish Councillors

- a. A member formally requested that at the next meeting of the PC Local Plan subcommittee that cycling paths and networks be included in their submission. Nigel Brooks agreed that there was a need for better signage for safe routes.
- b. A member said that she had noticed a powerful stench of sewerage on the A35 towards the Cat and Fiddle recently, and wondered if there was a problem. It was agreed that this was probably from the sewerage works, being carried by the wind in that direction.
- c. A member raised the issue of a lack of footpaths from the station at Hinton Admiral
- d. towards the A35. This was generally agreed to be a dangerous area for pedestrians, but the problem lay with the land being the responsibility of Hampshire County Council. This presents difficulties for the Parish Council in liaising with the appropriate authority.
- e. The question of the fouling of beach paths by horses was raised by a member who also stated that there was evidence of horses walking in flower beds. He cited difficulties with maneuvering mobility scooters around large piles of



horse manure. Paul Hilliard stated that there was no law prohibiting horses at the beach, but that owners should respect paths and pick up after their animals. Nigel Brooks said that the current by-laws regarding the presence of horses at the beach are currently to be transferred to the BCP Council.

- f. The same member also raised the topic of the removal of the large litter bin on the cliff top car park, and household waste being deposited in public litter bins. There was an enormous amount of litter overflowing bins after Bank Holiday Monday. Paul Hilliard said that he was aware of these problems, and that a rota to empty bins twice a day had been proposed. Nigel Brooks agreed that the service provided was not adequate, and that Dorset Waste Partnership schedules were not matching needs. The DWP will cease to provide the service from next year, and he saw this as an opportunity to get a better service for the community with the new provider. This was another matter to which he was giving high priority.
- g. Another member expressed concern about the increasing number of litter bins disappearing around Highcliffe, and dog waste bins not being emptied.
- h. Andy Martin expressed a vote of thanks to the Litter Pick team who were doing a great job around the village. Ian Hartnell (Chair) wondered if some novel signage could be developed to drive the message home that people should not leave litter.

7. Communications with Members

- a. Mary Reader explained that it was her role to put queries received from members to the appropriate HRA Director. She said that she had noticed that one issue frequently raised was dogs on the beaches where they are not allowed. She said that the HRA are considering ways of dealing with this question.
- b. Access to the beach via some of the steps is another issue of concern - in particular, those at Beacon Drive which are extremely deep and cause issues for those with mobility problems. The condition of the lawn in this area has also given concern to local residents. She has written to Nigel Brooks on this topic to discover who is responsible for their upkeep. He responded that there will be consultation with residents to ascertain if they would prefer a more natural meadow look, or to have this cut as a lawn. He stated that the condition of the steps, and the treatment of the lawn will be looked at.
- c. A member rose to inform the meeting that Mr Dennis Osgood, who was an active member of the HRA, and its Chairman for 15 years had passed away recently. The sympathy and thanks of the HRA were expressed.

8. Urgent business

There was no further business.

9. Date of next Quarterly Members Meeting: TBA

Please note that this meeting will be preceded by the adjourned Annual General Meeting to approve the completed HRA Accounts. Minutes of the AGM 9 September 2019 [refer](#).



The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Joan Rose
Assistant Secretary

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