HYTHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Amenities Committee
held at The Grove, St John's Street, Hythe
on Monday 5 June 2006 at 8.05 pm.

Members: *Mr C Harrison (Chairman) – in the Chair

*Mr J Bennett
*Mr R Guy
*Mrs M McLean
*Mr G Parkes
o Mr R Podesta
*Mrs B Smith
*Mr M Wade
*Mr S Wade

* Indicates attendance
o Indicates apologies for absence

In attendance: Ms S A Maitland (Deputy Clerk to the Council)
Mrs C Patterson (Minute Clerk)
Mr S Spencer (Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor)

Also present: 1 Member of the Public

54/06 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 3 April 2006, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

55/06 **Declarations of Interest**

Mrs Smith, Mr Guy and Mr S Wade declared an interest in Min 62/06(b) and Min 66/06 as they are allotment holders.

56/06 **Public Participation Period**

Ewart Recreation Ground Play Area

A Member of the Public complimented the Council on the progress made at the new Play Area on Ewart Recreation Ground but expressed concerns over car parking. It was suggested that a sign be erected on West Hill Drive advising users to park in the Brinton Lane Car Park.

It was also suggested that anti-social behaviour in the area had increased. The Chairman advised Members that the ACSOs and Parish Council's ACSOs would be deployed to the area as necessary.

57/06 **Vandalism Report – 23 March to 22 May 2006**

Consideration was given to the Vandalism Report.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

58/06 **Oaklands Way Pond – to note information about anti-social behaviour (Minute 454/05)**

Members were updated on the problems with anti-social behaviour at Oaklands Way Pond.

RESOLVED

That the comments be noted.

59/06 **Bowling Green – To discuss the viability of providing a bowling green within the Parish (Minute 452/05)**

Consideration was given to the provision of a bowling green in the Parish and the cost of £12000 for the proposed survey to gauge a need for the facility.

Whilst Members were agreed that a facility which would be used predominantly by older members of the community would be favourable, they were unsure that a bowling green would be sufficiently utilised and felt that the cost for a survey to determine usage was excessive.

It was suggested that a charity or university project may be able to conduct a survey more cheaply.

RESOLVED

1. That an alternative method to produce a survey to identify demand for bowling facilities in the community be sought.

2. That consideration be given to putting a sum of money aside in the budget for this project.

60/06 **Ewart Recreation Ground – Progress report on the new play area (Minute 454/05 refers)**

Consideration was given to the continued need for the stepped access onto Ewart Recreation Ground from West Street and whether it should be upgraded to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act.

Although there are other accesses onto the Recreation Ground it was agreed that this is well used by all ages and it would cause problems to some people if it were to close. However, the presence of an access point in this position may encourage unsuitable car parking and Members agreed that Traffic Management in the roads surrounding Ewart Recreation Ground needs to be completely reviewed.

Problems with the consumption of alcohol in Play Areas was also a cause for concern and it was agreed to consider the matter on a future agenda.

RESOLVED

1. That a traffic management scheme for the area in West Street be investigated.

2. That the access in West Street be kept open and investigations made into what will be required to upgrade it.

61/06 **Challenger Way Play Area (Minute 393/05 refers)**

Members noted the progress of the discussions of the provision of a new Play Area at Challenger Way.

62/06 **Hosepipe Ban – To discuss a plan of action if a hosepipe ban is imposed**

(a) Floral Displays and Hanging Baskets

Consideration was given to the action to be taken if a hosepipe ban is introduced in the area this year.

RESOLVED

1. That plants in hanging baskets be replanted into existing flower beds and nature allowed to take its course if a hosepipe ban is introduced.

2. That possible sources of “grey” water be identified and used if possible.

(b) Allotments

Consideration was given to what action to take at the allotments in the event of a hosepipe ban.

RESOLVED

That, in the event of a hosepipe ban, the water supply to the taps at all allotment sites be turned off.

(Mr Guy and Mr S Wade declared an interest in this item and left the meeting during consideration thereof) (Mrs Smith had already left the meeting)

63/06 **Youth Shelter (Minute 336/05 refers)**

Further to the success of Hythe Skate and Ride in procuring funding for a youth shelter within the skate park, consideration was given to whether to continue with plans to site a youth shelter at Ewart Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED

That there is no longer a need for a youth shelter in Ewart Recreation Ground and that the financial provision from the play area project be held until interested parties suggest a more suitable location.

64/06 **Local Authority Byelaws in England: A Discussion Paper**

Consideration was given to how to respond to a discussion paper on local authority byelaws.

RESOLVED

That a Working Party comprising Mr Harrison, Mrs McLean and Mr Bennett respond to the paper.

65/06 **The Hire of the Parish Hall – request for concessionary rate**

Consideration was given to a request from a regular hirer of the Parish Hall for a concessionary hire fee for a charity event held on 1 April 2006.

RESOLVED

That the fee for this event will be waived, without prejudice, if it is contributed to the charity involved.

66/06 **Allotments**

Consideration was given to what action to take for those tenants who may be due a refund on over payment of fees due to the re-measuring of allotment plots due to the introduction of metric measurement.

RESOLVED

That allotment holders be advised that there will be a change to metric measurement and that refunds, where appropriate, will be made in due course.

(Mr Guy and Mr S Wade declared an interest in this item and left the meeting during consideration thereof) (Mrs Smith had already left the meeting)

67/06 **Hythe Youth Club Band Practice**

A Member advised that he had received complaints from residents of Brinton Lane that there has been a band practicing at Hythe Youth Club until 11 pm on some evenings during the week.

It was agreed to investigate the matter.

68/06 **Bus Shelter Claypits Lane/Drapers Copse**

A Member asked whether it would be possible to provide a bus shelter in the above location.

The Deputy Clerk stated that there is no funding available but agreed to advise the County Council of the request as they are currently conducting a survey in this area.

69/06 **The Promenade**

The Chairman advised members that the refurbishment of the Promenade looks very attractive but the foreshore looks very untidy and dirty. He asked for an investigation to be conducted into finding an organisation able to clear it.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Chairman

Date

Mname111