

HYTHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Amenities Committee
held at The Grove, St John's Street, Hythe
on Monday, 10 July 2006 at 8 pm.

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

*Mr J Bennett	Mr R Podesta
oMr R Guy	*Mrs B Smith
*Mrs M McLean	*Mr M Wade
*Mr G Parkes	*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: Mr M Short
Mr D Smith
Mr N Blake (ACSO)
27 Members of the Public

117/06 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 5 June 2006, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

118/06 **Declarations of Interest**

Mrs Smith and Mr S Wade declared an interest in Minute 126/06 as they are allotment holders.

119/06 **Public Participation Period**

It was agreed to allow members of the public to speak when items were discussed according to the agenda.

120/06 **Vandalism Report**

Consideration was given to the Vandalism Report for 23 May – 26 June 2006.

RESOLVED

That the Report be noted.

121/06 **Shore Road Playing Field and Tates Copse Dog Park – Exercise of dogs**

Consideration was given to a request from "Local Conscientious Dog Walkers" to be allowed to exercise their dogs off the lead on Shore Road Playing Field rather than in Tates Copse Dog Park.

It was agreed that the dangers of allowing dogs to run free where children play and allowing them to foul, even if it is cleared up, were not acceptable in an area where sport is played. However, it was accepted that some improvements may be possible in Tates Copse Dog Park to make it more attractive to dog walkers.

RESOLVED

1. That the current restrictions preventing the exercise of dogs on the playing field remain and be enforced.

2. That negotiations be made with the "Local Conscientious Dog Walkers" in order to provide an acceptable place for dogs to be exercised.

122/06 **The Hire of the Parish Hall – Request for a discounted hire fee**

Further to a toilet blockage at the Parish Hall during a function consideration was given to discounting the hirer's fee as recompense for the inconvenience.

RESOLVED

That the hirer's fee for the Parish Hall be reduced by 25% on this occasion.

123/06 **Ewart Recreation Ground Play Area – To discuss the current status, including current byelaws, rules relating to the consumption of alcohol and signage**

Anti Social behaviour

Consideration was given to the reaction to Ewart Recreation Ground Play Area as it had been open for 3 weeks.

Several letters had been received in favour of the Play Area and it was generally agreed that a play area for young children was an asset to the community. However it appears that older children have been using the facility and this has caused problems for younger children and for nearby residents who have had problems with noise and anti-social behaviour.

The byelaws which are in place are good, although the maximum age for use of the play area could be reduced to under 12, but they need to be more rigorously enforced. Members of the public cited incidences where the Police had been called on 999 or 101 and had not attended or had attended several hours later. There were other times when the security company or ACSOs had moved people on but they had returned soon after.

One of the main problems of noise is thought to be caused by older teenagers using the zip wire late at night and it was requested that a way be found of immobilising this in the evening. Other requests included the provision of toilet facilities, a high fence which can be locked at night and a facility such as a shelter that can be used by teenagers in another area.

The Meeting was advised that the Council has faced these problems at other play areas and eliminated them by using a multi agency approach with the Police, Handy Trust and the ACSOs. The ACSOs would also be able to enforce the byelaws with the Council's authority.

Mrs McLean advised members that the Hythe Skate and Ride Park Youth Shelter had been agreed and would be installed as soon as possible and she would advise members of the Youth Steering Group of the problems at a meeting later in the week.

RESOLVED

- 1 That the Play Area at Ewart Recreation Ground is an asset for the young but problems with anti-social behaviour need to be tackled with a multi agency approach between this Council, the Police, the ACSOs and the Handy Trust.
- 2 That the cost of fencing the area with 2 metre high security fencing be investigated.
- 3 That the cost of CCTV be investigated.
- 4 That a way of temporarily immobilising the zip wire at night be authorised until a solution can be found.

Alcohol

Consideration was given to the banning of alcohol in all Play Areas including Ewart Recreation Ground in order to discourage under age drinking and the disposal of glass bottles.

RESOLVED

That all Play Areas should be designated as alcohol free and the introduction of byelaws investigated.

124/06 **Quality Bus Partnership – to discuss the proposals for the bus shelters within the Parish**

Consideration was given to a letter from Hampshire County Council explaining that funding for replacement bus shelters was available through the Quality Bus Partnership. Additional funding was also being offered for the future maintenance of local bus shelters.

Members were asked whether they wished this Council to be involved in the scheme and whether, due to the limited timescale given to respond, the Deputy Clerk, Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor and Chairman of the Committee deal with the selection.

RESOLVED

1. That the Council accept the offer from the Quality Bus Partnership to replace local bus shelters and provide funding for maintenance.
2. That the Deputy Clerk, Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor and Chairman of the Committee deal with the selection of shelters using the existing list of proposed sites for guidance.

125/06 **Bowling Green – To discuss the viability of providing a bowling green within the Parish (Min 59/06)**

Further to an estimate given by Bournemouth University of between £4500 and £12000 for a survey to be conducted on the viability of a bowling green in the Parish, consideration was given to whether to proceed with this investigation.

RESOLVED

That a small questionnaire be carried out in the Parish Picture to determine whether there is any demand for a bowling green and whether a larger survey would be worthwhile.

126/06 **Hosepipe Ban – to clarify the decision made at the meeting dated 5 June 2006 (Min 62/06)**

Consideration was given to the wording of the resolution made in Minute 62/06. Clarification had been sought at the meeting of the Council held on 19 June 2006.

RESOLVED

That in the event of a hosepipe ban being made by the water authority in this area the taps at the allotments will remain on but the use of hosepipes will be forbidden.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Chairman

Date

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