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To:

Members of the Amenities Committee
and remainder of the Council for information

AGAME114

3 October 2006

Dear Sir/Madam

A Meeting of the **AMENITIES COMMITTEE** will be held at **The Grove, 25 St John's Street, Hythe on Monday next, 9 October 2006** at 8.00pm, when your attendance is requested.

Yours faithfully

Clerk to the Council

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To sign the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 September 2006.
3. To note any declaration of interest made by Members in connection with an Agenda item, the nature of the interest must be specified.
4. Public Participation Period.
5. Vandalism Report – 19 August 2006 to 26 September 2006.
6. Forest Front Open Space -
 - a) Floodlights at the skate park
 - b) Remedial repairs to the skate park
 - c) Request for additional goal posts
7. Challenger Way/Cosworth Drive proposed play area (Minute 61/06).
 - a) Update
 - b) To create a Working Party



8. Ewart Recreation Ground Play Area (Minute 186.06) – to review the arrangements for the cable runway, the static guard and CCTV.
9. Drummond Arms Public Open Space – update.
10. Any other urgent business concerning the committee.

HYPHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

AGENDA NOTES

AMENITIES COMMITTEE 9 OCTOBER 2006

Item 5 **Vandalism Report – 19 August to 26 September 2006**

The following is a list of vandalism suffered by the Parish Council for the period shown.

Forest Front

Further to the report made at the last meeting, the fencing that surrounds the Skate Park has received additional damage.

All of the repairs have now been completed.

Cost to the Council £54.54

Ewart Recreation Ground

The novelty litter bin was removed from its concrete base. A new base has been fitted and the bin is now in use.

Cost to the Council £9.36

Fletcher Close

The fixing which secures the dog bin to a post was damaged. A replacement part has been ordered and the cost is estimated to be around £30.00.

Langdown Lawn Play Area

The wooden climbing frame has had two of its poles damaged beyond repair. The cost of the repairs includes replacing the damaged safer surfacing that surrounded one of the poles.

Cost to the Council £ 408.00

The confirmed cost of vandalism for the period shown is £471.90. The total cost of vandalism for the current financial year is £1951.10 compared to £606.00 at the same time last year.

Item 6 **Forest Front Open Space**

a) Floodlights at the skate park

A petition has been received via Ann McDonald, the Handy Trust Youth Worker, from young people who are requesting that the floodlights be reinstated.

A counter petition is being collected by residents who live nearby the skate park and I have been informed that it will be delivered in time for this meeting.

The Handy Trust Youth Workers have expressed concern about the lights being reinstated and have warned that it is likely that the young people who wish to use the skate park for legitimate purposes may be intimidated into making way for those with less desirable intentions.

Members will recall that in 2003 the box which housed the switchgear was vandalised along with the floodlight columns and the decision was taken to disconnect the power and weld the box closed. Minute 124/03 refers.

A compromise has been suggested and this is for the Handy Trust to arrange monthly events which will be held under floodlight, under the supervision of the Youth Worker

and the ACSO's. The Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor has indicated that, in principle, this compromise can be achieved.

Members are requested to give consideration to the above requests and compromise suggestion.

b) Forest Front Skate Park – remedial repairs

The concrete ramps at the Skate Park require some remedial repairs. The work involves the removal of approximately 30 metres of damaged mortar joints and reinstating. The new joints will be stronger than the originals due to developments in construction techniques regarding skate ramps. In addition a landing stage on one of the ramps is showing signs of pitting. In order to make the area safe it is proposed to grind the surface until it is smooth.

The last repair is to a hairline crack in one of the ramps which is not considered to be dangerous however it would be prudent to carry out the necessary repair whilst the contractors are on site.

Members are asked to note that an order for the work has been placed with Bendcrete Skate Ramps who were the ramp installers.

c) Forest Front Open Space - request for additional football goals

As Members are aware, a number of young people who live on Netley View have been organising football matches on the informal pitch at Forest Front Open Space. The Council has assisted with line marking and the provision of nets.

Information has been received from Ann McDonald (Handy Trust) that the scheme has been a great success and that the matches are well attended.

It has been suggested by the users that the existing pitch is a little small and it would be beneficial if it were made bigger. In addition there has been a request for an additional pitch in order for the younger children to play on. Further discussions have taken place with Ann and a site visit has been made to investigate the request.

It is possible to enlarge the existing pitch. In order to provide the new pitch it will be necessary to purchase a set of goals. It is proposed to make the new goals slightly smaller than standard ones in order to better suit the younger age group. A cost of £480.00 + VAT has been quoted. The new goals will be fabricated rather than purchased off the peg due the amount of use that they will be subjected to.

A letter has been sent to local residents whose properties adjoin the open space asking for their views. The deadline for replies to be received at the office was the 6 October 2006. Members will be made aware of any issues at the meeting.

A need for additional litter bins has been identified and these can be installed at a cost of £174.00 each.

Members are asked to note the success of the initial project and to consider the purchase of an additional set of goalposts and litter bins.

Item 7 Challenger Way/Cosworth Drive proposed play area (Minute 611/06)

a) Update

Further discussions between Western Challenge Housing Association, New Forest District Council and the Parish Council have taken place.

In order for the play area to go ahead, Western Challenging Housing Association will have to surrender the lease granted to them by the District Council on some of the amenity land attached to the Cosworth Drive development.

Following the surrender, the lease for the remainder of the term will be granted to the Parish Council.

A development on the adjacent Orchard site will provide some funding which will be used to assist in the provision of the play equipment. In addition an application for additional funding has been submitted to the National Lottery via the District Council who are co-ordinating a number of grant applications from around the district. A decision is expected early Spring 2007.

The Handy Trust has started to consult residents and local children as to the type of play facility that they would like to see provided and the Parish Council has written to the residents of The Sylvans requesting their views.

Members are asked to note the report.

b) To create a Working Party

In order to progress the provision of the new play area it will be necessary to set up a Working Party.

Previously, the Play Equipment Working Party has consisted of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Amenities Committee together with two other Members of the Council. In addition the group has been made up of the Deputy Clerk to the Council, the Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor, a representative of the Handy Trust, Dye Lockyer from the District Council's Leisure Services Department and members of the public who have a local interest in the project.

Members are requested to nominate and agree Members of the Council to join the Play Equipment Working Party for Challenger Way/Cosworth Drive.

Item 8 Ewart Recreation Ground Play Area (Minute 186/06) – To review the arrangements for the cable runway, the static guard and CCTV.

It was agreed at the last meeting of the Committee to review the arrangements for the cable runway and static guard. The arrangements for CCTV are also to be reviewed to ensure that the installation is appropriate for the site.

A meeting with the multi agencies to discuss the effectiveness of the measures that were introduced following comments raised by some residents who were concerned about vandalism and antisocial behaviour took place on Tuesday 12 September.

At that meeting various issues were discussed and it was apparent that there is not a serious issue relating to vandalism and antisocial behaviour. Some local residents had requested a meeting to be held between the multi agencies and the residents and it was agreed that this should be progressed in order to clarify the situation. The meeting is to be held on Tuesday 3 October and will be by invitation only i.e. not a public meeting.

Members are requested to review the arrangements for the cable runway, the static guard and CCTV and take into consideration any guidance that has been received from the agencies involved.

Item 9 Drummond Court – Improvements to Public Open Space (Min no 277/05)

Members are reminded that a consultation was carried out with local residents and businesses relating to the need for improvements to the public open space attached to the Drummond Court development.

In order to progress the project an approach has been made to Ruscrete of Totton asking whether they would like to work in partnership with the Parish Council to develop the site.

A site meeting has been held and Ruscrete are keen to be involved. A draft design for the area is expected soon, following which the residents of Drummond Court and Prospect Place will be consulted prior to the improvements taking place.

Members are asked to note the report.

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