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To:

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

AGAME115

7 November 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, 13 November 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 9 October 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 – 26 September 2006 to 1 November 2006
6. Ewart Recreation Ground Play Area
  - a) To note a brief review of comments made at the informal meeting of the residents within the vicinity of the Play Area on 3 October 2006
  - b) To discuss the option of creating a fenced, ornamental park (Minute 257/06 (4) refers)
  - c) To discuss the arrangements for security and the cable runway (Minute 257/06 (1 & 2) refer)
7. Hythe and Dibden Sports Club – Expiry of Lease at Ewart Recreation Ground



8. Bowling Green – viability of project – current status (Minute 125/06 refers)
9. Forest Front Open Space – Update on floodlight provision (Minute 255/06 (a) refers)
10. Playing Field Working Party (Minute 259/06 refers)
11. Tree Management Programme update (Minute 275/05 refers)
12. Budget 2007/08
13. Any other urgent business concerning the committee

**HYPHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

**AGENDA NOTES**

**AMENITIES COMMITTEE 13 November 2006**

**Item 5 Vandalism Report – 26 September to 1 November 2006**

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

**Forest Front Skate Park and play area.**

Several incidents have occurred during the period. Block work that was used to enclose the sides of the ramps was damaged with some blocks being removed. These have been replaced.

A couple of small fires have been set on the tarmac by the youth shelter and on the safety surface of the junior swing in the play area causing superficial damage to surfaces. Both surfaces are safe and it is not proposed to make repairs at this time however both will be monitored. In addition a swing chain was cut and has since been repaired.

There have been various items of graffiti added to the fencing that surrounds the Skatepark.

Cost to the Council is £35.00, this figure does not include the labour required to rectify the defects which is approximately 10 man hours.

**Langdown Lawn Play Area**

A shackle on a swing chain was removed and has been replaced and a litter bin was removed from its footing and has since been replaced.

The damaged climbing frame reported in last months report received subsequent damage prior to the repairs being made. The additional damage made the unit unsafe and therefore it was removed. The cost of £408.00 to make the repairs quoted in the previous report has therefore been deducted from this financial years running total.

Cost to the Council £10.00

The cost of vandalism to the Council for the period shown is £45.00. The total cost of vandalism for the current financial year is £1588.10 compared to £951.00 at the same time last year.

**Item 6 Ewart Recreation Ground Play Area**

a) To note a brief review of comments made at the informal meeting of the residents within the vicinity of the Play Area on 3 October 2006

A brief bullet point record of the points raised at the above meeting is attached. Members are requested to note the points and make any relevant comments.

Members are requested to note that this was an informal meeting, held at the request of some residents, therefore minutes were not taken.

b) To discuss the option of creating a fenced, ornamental park (Minute 257/06 (4) refers)

At the last meeting of the committee, it was requested that investigations into creating an ornamental park on Ewart Recreation Ground be carried out.

In order to create an ornamental park, the area of land leased to the Council from New Forest District Council would have to be fenced, with a view to it being locked at night and re-opened each morning. A map detailing the outline of the proposed area is attached.

The cost of providing 2.4 metre steel tri-point palisade fence would be in the region of £35,000.

Before progressing the matter any further the following must be addressed:-

- i) Agreement to the principal of providing a fenced, ornamental park within the area as detailed on the attached plan.
- ii) Funding to be identified. If the project is to be progressed in 2007/08, a request will have to be made to Council to source the financial provision as part of the budget process.
- iii) Landlords consent to be obtained, in line with the lease requirements.
- iv) Planning Consent to be applied for.

Provided all of the above have positive outcomes, the committee can progress the consultation, details and content of which can be discussed at a future meeting.

It is recommended that the Committee discuss and decide the above 4 points raised before proceeding any further.

c) To discuss the arrangements for security and cable runway

Members are requested to review the arrangements for the cable runway and the static guard.

**Item 8 Hythe and Dibden Sports Club – Expiry of Lease at Ewart Recreation Ground**

The lease held by Hythe and Dibden Sports Club for the use of Ewart Recreation Ground expires 1 April 2007.

Members are requested to give consideration to the negotiation of a new lease in order for it to be presented to the Ewart Recreation Ground Charity for approval.

**Item 8 Bowling Green – viability of project – current status (Minute 125/06 refers)**

At the meeting of the committee held on 10 July it was agreed to carry out a questionnaire in the Parish Picture to determine whether there is a demand for a bowling green and whether a larger survey would be worthwhile.

A questionnaire was printed in the Parish Picture and the publication was delivered to 8000 houses within the parish in September.

There have been 43 responses. 36 people have stated that they would like to have a bowling green in this parish and that they would use the facilities; 1 person returned the form stating that they do not want a bowling green and 6 forms have been returned without stating whether they would make use of the facility. This makes a 0.54% overall response

	No. of Responses	Percentage
Would make use of a bowling facility	36	0.45
Would not make use of a bowling facility	1	0.01
No comment made	6	0.07

Some suggestions were received regarding the viability of such a project and whether funding could be better utilised to assist in the refurbishment of existing facilities that are run by the Waterside Bowling Club. Members may decide to investigate this further.

The consultation being carried out in accordance to PPG 17 under the direction of NFDC may provide some information relating to local need for a bowling facility and it is anticipated that the results will be made available by the end of 2006.

Members are requested to decide whether they wish to pursue the matter further.  
(Please note that, as yet no further analysis has been gathered from the returned forms)

**Item 9 Forest Front Open Space – update on floodlight provision (Minute 255/06 (a) refers)**

At the last meeting of the committee, held on 9 October 2006, it was decided that the Handy Trust be authorised to hold a trial event, using the floodlights subject to suitable switchgear housing being approved by the Council's insurers.

A design together with a specification for the housing has been provided (attached). A second opinion on the design from an engineering company who have previously carried out work at Forest Front Skate Park was sought and they confirm that the design is of a robust nature and should be fit for purpose. The cost to supply the box is £580.00 plus VAT.

The Council's insurance company Zurich Municipal have been consulted on the risks attached to reinstating the electrical supply to the box in view of previous occurrences at the facility. During the discussion it was pointed out that the area is currently experiencing regular incidents of vandalism.

The written request and subsequent response from Zurich Municipal is attached.

**Item 10 Playing Field Working Party (Minute 259/06 refers)**

Hythe and Dibden Youth Football Club informed the committee that there is a shortage of junior football pitches in the area and the committee agreed that investigations should be made into identifying pieces of land that could be used for sport.

A recent request for information as to the location of any such suitable vacant space has resulted the suggestion to investigate the development land at Clayfields Sports Centre and to enquire as to the availability of school grounds.

It was agreed, at the meeting of the last committee, to include this item on the agenda for discussion with a view to the formation of a Working Party.

Members are asked to consider whether to form a Playing Field Working Party and if so to decide upon the function and ultimate aim of the working party.

**Item 11 Tree Management Programme (Min 275/05)**

The software which enables the Council to record tree inspections and remedial work is now available.

Attached is spread sheet which details the Council's areas of responsibility together with the expected date of inspection. The inspection dates are based upon current financial provision of £1500.00 per year.

As a result of the annual inspections there may be an impact on future budget provision needed to carry out identified tree work. Members will be kept informed.

Members are asked to note the report and accept the schedule of inspections.

**Item 12 Budget 2007/08**

The proposed budget for this committee for the period of 2007/08 is attached for consideration.