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To:

Members of the General Purposes and Finance Committee
and remainder of the Council for information

AGGPF114

16 January 2007

Dear Sir/Madam,

A Meeting of the **General Purposes and Finance Committee will be held at The Grove, 25 St. John's Street, Hythe, on Monday next 22 January 2007, at 8 pm**, when your attendance is requested.

Yours faithfully

Clerk to the Council

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence.
2. To sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 27 November 2006.
3. Notification of any other urgent business to be raised at the end of the meeting.
4. To note any declaration of interest made by Members in connection with an Agenda item.
The nature of the interest must be specified.
5. Public Participation Period.
6. Accounts for Payment.
7. Final Accounts 2005/06 – External Audit.
8. Update on Public Buildings.
 - The Grove
 - Clayfields
 - Parish Hall
 - Workshop
 - Pavilion Shore Road
9. Community Safety Service Update.

10. Mobile CCTV .
11. OAP Garden Waste Scheme.
12. Improvements to Hart Hill right of way.
13. Your Future Matters – Issues and Options for the New Forest – A public Consultation.
14. Notes of the meeting of the Art Collection Working Party held on the 10 January 2006.
15. Request for Footpath – From Beaumaris Gardens along Southampton Road.
16. The Promenade – Vehicular Access.
17. Hythe Promenade – Environmental Improvements – Stakeholders Comments.
18. Any other urgent business concerning the committee.

HYTHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSES AND FINANCE COMMITTEE – 22 January 2007

AGENDA NOTES

Item 7 Final Accounts 2005/06 – External Audit

The Annual Return for 2005/06 has been approved by the Audit Commission without qualification. However the Audit Commission has suggested that the Council should review its level of fidelity guarantee insurance, currently £442,403 their guideline is balances plus half the precept. It is suggested that the Council should set the level at the balances at the 31 March each plus half the precept of the forthcoming year.

The audited Annual Return will now be published.

Members are asked to note the completion of the Audit process for 2005/06 and to agree the proposed level fidelity guarantee insurance.

Item 8 Update on Public Buildings

The Grove

Heat and Air Conditioning.

Attached is a letter from the CAB concerning the temperatures within The Grove during the summer period. It is a problem that affects all the occupants. At present there is no budgetary provision for any type of air conditioning.

Clayfields

No further update.

Parish Hall

No further update.

Workshop

Just before the Christmas break the parking arrangements for all New Forest ACSO's vehicles was terminated. Arrangements have currently been agreed to allow them to park their vehicles in the workshop compound at a rent of £200 per month for a minimum of twelve months. In order to improve the arrangements it is proposed to carry out improvement works to the hard standing area. It is suggested that the surplus income is held for any future improvements to the Workshop area.

Pavilion Shore Road

No works planned.

Member's views are requested.

Item 9 Community Safety Service Update

Attached are the latest statistics in relation to patrols undertaken by the Accredited Community Safety Officers (ACSO's) for the period October to December 2006.

From the latest telephone bill for 02380842111 a total of 93 calls were diverted directly to ACSO's mobiles for the period middle of September to the beginning of December 2006.

During that period an operation was carried to remind dog walkers to clean up after the animal fouls the area. On this occasion Shore Road Recreation Playing Field was targeted with both early morning and evening patrols.

Arrangements are currently being made to hold open days at key locations such as Dibden Purlieu shops, Hythe centre etc. Members will be advised of the dates as soon they are finalised

Member's views are requested.

Item 10 Mobile CCTV

At a previous committee meeting it was agreed that further investigation should be carried out into the provision of CCTV in particular for the Promenade. Concern was expressed at the time that any system should be moveable. Since then further investigations have revealed a system that is totally portable, is discreet and has its own power source which is water proof and can be buried or hidden as necessary. The images which are movement activated and are recorded on the unit are compliant with PACE requirements and can be downloaded on to a laptop via wire free technology. The camera is infra red which gives colour pictures in the day and black and white at night. The system is currently being used on the railway system to identify vandals. We have number areas where this type of installation would be beneficial in identifying vandals including damage to play areas, damage to planting, fly tipping, graffiti etc

The total cost of a unit with camera etc is approximately £4000.

Members are asked to authorise the purchase of the system.

Item 11 OAP Garden Waste Scheme

Further discussions have been held with NFDC with a view to try and find a way of continuing the scheme in the forthcoming year. However as can be seen from the attached letter NFDC are unable to continue with our discount scheme.

Member's views are requested

Item 12 Improvements to Hart Hill right of way

Attached is a letter from Hampshire County Council concerning proposed improvements to the surface of the right of way.

Member's views are requested.

Item 13 Your Future matters – Issues and Options for the New Forest – A Public Consultation

Attached is a letter seeking views on "Future Matters" the document can be viewed on the New Forest District Council website at www.newforest.gov.uk/futurematters A hard copy of the document (70 pages is available in the office). The closing date for comments is the 31 January 2006.

Member's views are requested.

Item 15 Request for Footpath – From Beaumaris Gardens along Southampton Road

At the last Council meeting a member of the public raised the following issue:-

"A number of Residents from Beaumaris Gardens and Southampton Road, would like to know what has to be done to get a footpath installed between West Street and the old road that runs up to Jones Lane. This is a relatively short section. At the moment, if you live in these locations there isn't a safe walking route into Hythe"

The matter was referred to this committee for consideration.

Member's views are requested.

Item 16 The Promenade – Vehicular Access

At the last Council meeting a member of the public raised the following issue:-

"The Residents who live on the Promenade have become increasingly concerned at the traffic (cars and vans) that insist on driving to the end of the promenade in order to turn round. (often at speed). This includes boy racers who think it is a fun place to race their cars. The problem is particularly annoying in the evenings. The question is whether traffic calming can be introduced to dissuade people from doing this."

The matter was referred to this committee for consideration.

The issue has been looked at by NFDC and HCC and a site meeting was held at the end of November to discuss ways to mitigate the problem.

The main problem is the use of the zone by vehicles entering the area to turn their vehicles round and "boy racers" speeding through. The area is marked clearly as a Pedestrian Zone access only for residents and loading only, but the sign is constantly ignored.

The use of a resident's only keyed barrier was discussed but was discounted by Chris Reeves as not allowable on an adopted highway.

The proposal was put forward that we abandon the 3 normal car spaces in this location and create a turning area so that vehicles do not need to enter the Pedestrian Zone, this would mean the loss of 3 car spaces but we could accommodate an additional disabled space as well as the turning area in this location.

It is proposed also that we erect a sign reinforcing the Pedestrian Zone and instructing people to use the turning area.

Before proceeding with these modifications NFDC and HCC would appreciate any comments.

Member's views are requested

Item 17 Hythe Promenade – Environmental Improvements – Stakeholders Comments.

Attached is a letter from Hampshire County Council, seeking the Council's view on the above project. The closing date for comments has been extended until the 25 January 2007.

Member's views are requested.

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