

HYTHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Amenities Committee
held at The Grove, St John's Street, Hythe
on Monday 2 April 2007 at 8.00pm.

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

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

* Indicates attendance
o Indicates apologies for absence

In attendance Mrs S A Krynicki (Deputy Clerk to the Council)
Mr S Spencer (Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor)

Also present: Mr J Moore
Mr D Smith
6 members of the public
1 member of the press

511/06 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 8 January 2007, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

512/06 **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made.

513/06 **Public Participation Period**

The Chairman received three letters at the beginning of the meeting; there was a request in one of the letters for it to be read out during the meeting. The chairman read the letter and the committee responded to the questions raised, all of which related to Ewart Recreation Ground Play Area.

One member of the public stated that she had invited a friend for lunch in her garden but the noise of the children playing in the play area at Ewart Recreation Ground overpowered their conversation. Other members of the public present, agreed and said that they had closed their windows due to the noise.

During the discussion concern was expressed that young people congregated around a seat during the evenings and that this was a problem however, the seat was well used during the day by people using the pathway. The Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor agreed to remove the seat for a trial period and it was stressed that this was not to be a permanent solution unless it was agreed at a future meeting.

Mr Vickers asked whether the committee had considered the use of a "Mosquito" device to disperse the young people. Mr Vickers was informed that a "Mosquito" (a device that emits a sound which is only audible to those under the age of 20 – 25 years) was an option to be considered during the forthcoming consultation regarding the play area at Ewart Recreation Ground.

514/06 **Notification of matters to be raised at the end of the meeting**

Members informed the Chairman of three matters to be raised at the end of the meeting. The matters to be raised were:

- (a) Bus Shelters
- (b) Footpath in Southampton Road

(c) Hythe Skate and Ride

515/06 **Vandalism Report – 2 February 2007 to 23 March 2007**

Consideration was given to the vandalism report for 2 February 2007 to 23 March 2007.

Members were dismayed that plants are being stolen from Main Road in Marchwood again this season and that there are ongoing problems at Forest Front Open Space.

RESOLVED

- 1) That the Handy Trust be requested to interact with young people that use Forest Front Open Space and that the Council and the ACSO's continue to liaise with the Police with a view to solving the problems.
- 2) That the vandalism report for 2 February 2007 to 23 March 2007 be noted.

516/06 **Ewart Recreation Ground Play Area**

i) **Outcome of Planning Applications for the perimeter fencing option (minute 449/06 refers)**

Members noted that planning consent for the two applications relating to perimeter fencing at Ewart Recreation Ground had been refused.

ii) **To discuss the consultation process**

It had been agreed at a previous meeting of the committee that residents would be consulted to establish the depth of the problem caused by the installation of the new play area at Ewart Recreation Ground and to decide upon what action, if any, to take.

Consideration was given to who should be consulted, the form of the consultation, how the results will be dealt with and the timescale for the consultation.

RESOLVED

- 1a) That the households who had previously received notifications regarding the play area would be sent a letter and questionnaire;
 - b) That notices be displayed on notice boards informing the public of the consultation and inviting them to complete a questionnaire. Signs will be posted at the play area and in public places also;
 - c) That the Handy Trust be asked to assist in the distribution of questionnaires to young people;
 - d) That the consultation be carried out within the local schools;
 - e) That the opportunity be taken to consult the users of the play area.
 - f) That the consultation be completed within one month.
- 2) That the Deputy Clerk circulate the draft letter and questionnaire to all members of the Council requesting details of any alterations and additions that they would like to make followed by a final draft being circulated and agreed upon prior to commencing the actual consultation.
 - 3) That officers collate the returned questionnaires prior to calling a meeting of the Play Equipment Working Party. After the first meeting of the Working Party, members of the public will be invited

to join in order to prepare an action plan for the Amenities Committee.

iii) **To discuss the interim security arrangements**

Members noted that no budgetary provision has been made for security at Ewart Recreation Ground beyond 13 May 2007 and that the funding set aside for the fencing was to be re-allocated in line with the Council's Financial Regulations.

Consideration was given to security arrangements for the play area and whether the current arrangement for the cable runway is to remain

RESOLVED

- 1) That the current security arrangements remain in place until the end of the consultation.
- 2) That the arrangements currently in place for the cable runway remain until agreed otherwise by the Amenities Committee.

517/06 **Forest Front Open Space**

i) **Request for the provision of fencing to the rear of some properties at the back onto Forest Front Open Space**

Members noted the letter received from Chris Ancurm, the Conservative Spokesperson for Butts Ash and Dibden Purlieu. The letter related to some concerns expressed by residents in Elm Crescent, Netley View, who would like a fence to be erected at the rear of their properties.

Members stressed that it would be inappropriate to enter into political dialogue now that the forthcoming local election had been called.

RESOLVED

That the ACSO's be asked to speak to the residents to ascertain whether there is a problem and report back to a future meeting of this committee.

ii) **Request to site a BMX track on Forest Front Open Space**

Consideration was given to the request from the Forestry Commission to build a BMX track on Forest Front Open Space. The offer arose from the Forestry Commission's need to keep BMX users off of the forest.

Several concerns were raised as to whether Forest Front was a suitable location for the track. It was felt that parking issues could arise and that the track could be mis-used by mountain bike riders and motorbike riders and this would be unfair to the local residents.

RESOLVED

That the offer to provide and install a BMX track on Forest Front Open Space be declined as it is not an appropriate location for the facility.

518/06 **Hythe and Dibden Sports Club – Football Section**

i) **Progress report on the request to extend changing and storage facilities at Ewart Recreation Ground (Minute 379/06 (i) refers)**

At a previous meeting of the Committee it was agreed to support Hythe and Dibden Sports Club with its proposal to extend the changing and storage facilities at Ewart Recreation Ground. The support was subject to no objections being raised by the Charity Commission.

Members noted that no objections were raised by the Charity Commission and that officers were working closely with the Sports Club with regard to planning issues and siting of the temporary structures.

ii) **Request to lay hardstanding along the far side of the football pitch at Ewart Recreation Ground**

Consideration was given to the letter received from Hythe and Dibden Sports Club's football section requesting permission to lay hardstanding alongside one edge of the football pitch. The request was made due to the requirements of the Football Association.

RESOLVED

That Hythe and Dibden Sports Club's football section be allowed to lay hardstanding along one side of the football pitch at Ewart Recreation Ground.

519/06 **Drummond Court Open Space**

Members noted that the work on the project at Drummond Court was complete.

520/06 **Guidelines for dog owners/walkers**

i) **Grove Gardens**

Consideration was given as to whether dogs should be allowed on the gardens to the rear of The Grove.

RESOLVED

1. That dogs should not be allowed on the gardens to the rear of The Grove unless they are guide or assistance dogs and that appropriate signage be erected to inform the public.

ii) **Drummond Court Open Space**

Consideration was given as to whether dogs should be allowed on Drummond Court Open Space.

RESOLVED

1. That dogs should not be allowed on Drummond Court Open Space unless they are guide or assistance dogs and that appropriate signage be erected to inform the public.

521/06 **Vehicle replacement programme**

Members studied the report on the vehicle replacement programme and were asked to approve the purchase of a Ford Ranger pick up at a cost of £10,625.00

Members suggested that future maintenance costs be shown on future reports.

RESOLVED

That a Ford Ranger pick up be approved for purchase at a cost of £10,625.00.

522/06 **Completion of PPG17 Assessment**

Members noted that the PPG17 Assessment for Open Space, Sport and Recreation had been completed and received from New Forest District Council. It was agreed that although there were some minor discrepancies, it would be a useful document for this Council and the District Council.

523/06 **Bus Shelter**

Mr M Wade asked if provision could be made for a bus shelter in Beaulieu Road, Dibden Purlieu on the opposite side of the road to St. Andrew's Church. Mr Wade was informed that provision had been made for a bus shelter to be installed at this site under the Quality Bus Partnership Scheme. Installation will take place when the building works have finished.

524/06 Footpath on the East Side of Southampton Road, alongside Beaumaris Gardens

Mr S Wade informed members that, following a request from a local resident for a footpath from Beaumaris Gardens towards Jones Lane, an appraisal of the residents of the street had been undertaken. There was no support for the request and several residents were concerned that a footpath would compromise security in that location.

525/06 Hythe Skate and Ride

Members were informed that Hythe Skate and Ride has put in a bid for funding for skate park equipment from Dibden Allotments Charity. There is a likelihood that, if there is a financial shortfall, an application will be submitted to the Council.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

Chairman

Date

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