

HYTHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Amenities Committee
held at The Grove, St John's Street, Hythe
on Monday 9 July 2007 at 8.10 pm.

Members: * Mrs M McLean (Chairman) – in the Chair

*Mr J Bennett	*Mr D Smith
*Mr R Guy	*Mr B Uglow
oMr G Jones	*Mr A Wade
*Mr M Short	*Mr M Wade

* Indicates attendance
o Indicates apologies for absence

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

Also present: Mr G Parkes
Mr P Vickers
8 Members of the Public

115/07 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meetings of the Committee held on 14 May and 4 June 2007, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

116/07 **Declarations of Interest**

Mr A Wade and Mr M Wade declared an interest in Minute 123/07 as they live in close proximity to the amenity land to be discussed.

117/07 **Public Participation Period**

Hythe and Dibden Cricket Club

The Chairman of Hythe and Dibden Cricket Club, Mr Wood, advised members that, whilst the Cricket Club is appreciative of the byelaws on Ewart Recreation Ground and has adhered to them this season, the ban on cars has adversely affected several of their loyal supporters and he outlined a plan which he hoped would be mutually satisfactory.

In order to provide a safe environment for all Recreation Ground users the Cricket Club suggested that an area for cars is roped off and opened up under the supervision of a committee member for 45 minutes before the game, for 30 minutes at tea time and for 45 minutes after the game.

Mr Dash spoke in support of this proposal as he wished to retain the village cricket ground atmosphere which has always been a part of the club and suggested that as the byelaw contained the proviso, "without reasonable excuse" the needs of the disabled and immobile could be included in this section.

The meeting was advised that this matter was to be discussed later on the agenda.

Ewart Recreation Ground

Some residents who live close to Ewart Recreation Ground advised the meeting that they still feel they are encountering problems with anti-social behaviour. Mrs Summers asked what access the Parish Council has to information on incidents in the area.

The Deputy Clerk advised members that the Parish Council receives a report from the Play Area Guard which also advises when back up has been called, reports from the ACSOs and

some officers have limited access to the 101 call log. She further advised members that the ACSOs have issued 2 yellow cards for trespass in the Play Area.

Mrs Summers also asked whether anyone had been apprehended following an incident in the Play Area on 29 June 2007.

It was agreed to investigate this matter.

118/07 **Notification of matters to be raised at the end of the meeting**

There were no matters mentioned.

119/07 **Vandalism Report - 23 May to 27 June 2007**

Consideration was given to the vandalism report for the 23 May to 27 June 2007.

RESOLVED

That the vandalism report for the 23 May to 27 June 2007 be noted.

120/07 **To receive the notes of the Play Equipment Working Party held on Monday 18 June 2007**

Consideration was given to the notes of the Play Equipment Working Party held on Monday 18 June 2007.

RESOLVED

That the notes of the Play Equipment Working Party held on Monday 18 June 2007 be noted.

121/07 **Ewart Recreation Ground**

- i) Play Area – to consider the recommendations of the Play Equipment Working Party and to discuss the future arrangements for security.

Consideration was given to the Ewart Recreation Ground Play Area Consultation Preliminary Analysis.

It was felt that residents had confused the wider problem of anti social behaviour with problems in the Play Area in some cases which had produced some unusual results but the fact that 86 people had identified a problem in the Play Area was some cause for concern.

It was suggested that residents living close to the Play Area would welcome feedback from the Safer Neighbourhood Policing Unit. Pro-active communication and action should be the way forward. It was further suggested that when the consultation stage is reached, young people who use the area should be included.

Consideration was also given to the continued provision of a static guard at the Play Area.

Whilst it was felt that there needs to be continuity in guarding the area, some members thought that a static guard may be a target for some people to taunt and intermittent visits to the whole area may be of more benefit.

RESOLVED

That the recommendations of the Play Equipment Working Party be accepted.

It was RECOMMENDED

That the General Purposes and Finance Committee be asked to identify funding for the provision of a mobile security guard to patrol Ewart Recreation Ground.

- ii) Recreation Ground – to discuss a request to park cars on the recreation ground during cricket matches (Minute 186/06 (b) refers)

The decision to prevent cars from parking on Ewart Recreation Ground was reconsidered by members following a request from Hythe and Dibden Cricket Club and members of the public.

Whilst members wished to allow spectators to continue their enjoyment of an afternoon's cricket there was some concern over safety and insurance aspects and the setting of a precedent if a byelaw is rescinded.

RESOLVED

That an arrangement is made for roping off the area for parking with Hythe and Dibden Cricket Club which is mutually satisfactory and the byelaw is kept under review.

- 122/07 Noads Way Play Area – to consider a request to review the closing times

Consideration was given to a request to close Noads Way Play Area later in the evening during the summer months. There was some concern expressed at this due to the fact that the closing time was originally brought forward due to problems in vacating the area but members felt that, if agreed, it should be on a trial basis in case similar problems re-emerge.

RESOLVED

That the summer closing time for Noads Way Play Area be changed to 8.00pm and reviewed in September. If any problems are encountered officers be given authority to alter the closing time to 6 pm.

- 123/07 Amenity Land at Bullrush Close – to consider a request to lease a piece of the land as an extension to a private garden

Consideration was given to a request from a householder in Bullrush Close to purchase or lease a piece of amenity land.

RESOLVED

That the request from a householder in Bullrush Close to purchase or lease a piece of amenity land be refused.

(Mr A Wade and Mr M Wade declared an interest in this item and left the meeting during consideration thereof)

- 124/07 Langdown Infant School site development – to discuss the proposed transfer of public open space and associated woodland and play area

Consideration was given to whether to accept the open space and play area at Langdown Infant School site development.

The Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor advised members that, further to the information already received, the District Council had agreed to provide 3 items of play equipment for ages 1 – 5 years to use, together with dog proof fencing, safety surfacing and a maintenance grant of £22,000.00.

RESOLVED

That the open space and play area at Langdown Infant School site development be accepted.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Chairman

Date

Mname121