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To: Members of the Amenities Committee

Mr J Bennett

Vice Chairman

Mr B Uglow

Mr R Guy

Mr A Wade

Mr G Jones

Mr M Wade

(ex officio)

Mrs M McLean

Chairman

Mr D Smith

(ex officio)

Mr M Short

and remainder of the Council for information

AGAME130

1 July 2008

Members of the Amenities Committee

are hereby summoned to attend the **AMENITIES COMMITTEE** to be held in **The Grove, 25 St John's Street, Hythe on Monday next, 7 July 2008 at 8.00pm**

Yours faithfully

Clerk to the Council

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2008.
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. Notification of any other urgent business to be raised at the end of the meeting.
6. Vandalism Report 17 May 2008 to 20 June 2008 – to receive and note the report.
7. Replacement play equipment - Shore Road Playing Field (Min 406/07 refers).
8. Beechwood Way Pond – To discuss the findings of a risk assessment.
9. Tree Planting Programme (Min 59/08 refers) – to discuss and agree a way forward.
10. Rainer Wessex Restorative Justice (Min 444/07) refers – to note the current progress.
11. Any other urgent business concerning the committee.



## HYPHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

### AGENDA NOTES

#### AMENITIES COMMITTEE – 7 July 2008

##### Item 6

##### Vandalism report- 17 May 2008- 20 June 2008

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

##### **Floral displays**

A total of 79 plants have been damaged or stolen from the various displays around the parish. The locations that have suffered the losses include the planters in the Marsh, the flower beds at Mullins Lane roundabout and Prospect Place. All of the flowers have been replaced.

Cost to the Council £115.50

##### **Shore Road Play Area**

A steel rod was broken off the basket ball court

Cost to the Council £20.00

##### **Fletcher Close**

The walkway bridge on the climbing frame was broken. This has now been replaced.

Cost to the Council £30.00

##### **Noads Way Play Area**

The safety surface under the senior swings was damaged and graffiti was spray painted on the roundabout. The area was cleaned and made safe.

Cost to the Council £20.00

##### **Forest Front Skate Park**

A number of holes had been dug in the area used for skate boarding. These have been filled.

A large amount of bottles and glass had been smashed over the skate park and surrounding areas. The glass was collected and the area made safe.

The swings had been tangled up and made unusable. The swings were taken down, untangled and re-hung.

Cost to the Council £60.00

##### **Forest Front Toddler Play Area**

The play area and equipment had a large amount of graffiti painted on it.

The area has also suffered with a large amount of beer bottles and glass smashed over it. The area was made safe and the graffiti removed.

A picnic bench was set on fire and has been removed; the cost to replace the bench has been identified as £365.00

Cost to the Council £445.00

#### **Beechwood Pond**

The sluice gate located in Beechwood Way was vandalised.

A number of timbers had to be replaced; the gate has been made safe however permanent repairs are required to ensure long term safety. As a way forward discussions are taking place with engineers from New Forest District Council.

The cost to rectify and make safe the initial damage was £40.  
A cost for the permanent repairs will be published when available.

The total confirmed cost of vandalism for the period shown is £730.50

#### **Comparison**

The total cost of vandalism for this financial year is £980.80 Compared to £1055.14 for the same period in the previous financial year.

#### **Item 7**

#### **Replacement play equipment – Shore Road**

Members will be aware that the wooden climbing frame that was located in Shore Road Playing Field was removed because of safety concerns.

At a meeting of this Committee on the 12 November 2007 it was

#### **RESOLVED**

That up to £9000 be used to purchase a new piece of play equipment for Shore Road Play Area.

Investigations have taken place into identifying a replacement which provides a suitable challenge for young people whilst considering any potential negative aspects such as vandalism and noise issues.

As a result there are several options which will be presented at the meeting. All of the suggested items will require remedial works to be carried out on the existing safer surface and this has been allowed for as part of the project budget.

Members are asked to consider the proposals and decide on the item of play equipment that should be installed.

#### **Item 8**

#### **Beechwood Way Pond – To discuss the findings of a risk assessment.**

As part of ongoing safety checks of the Council's amenities, specialist advice has been sought from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) regarding the pond at Beechwood Way.

The findings have suggested that the Council provide life saving equipment near to the pond in case of emergency. Investigations have taken place with some providers and information is still being gathered. The preliminary findings suggest that a device will be needed in two separate locations.

The cost of providing a complete lifebuoy (details attached) is approximately £250.00 with replacement buoys costing approximately £40.00 each. The District

Council is currently investigating the provision of new lifebuoys for its coastal areas; it is possible that further information will be available in due course.

The assessment has also suggested that alternative signs could be displayed together with remedial works to the ground levels surrounding some areas of the pond.

The minor changes to the wording of the signage can be carried out as part of the budget provision for signs and the ground works can be rectified by the Council's maintenance team.

Members are asked to consider the report and decide if they would like to progress with installing the lifebuoys once suitable devices are identified.

**Item 9 Tree Planting Programme (Min 59/08 refers)**

The Council has agreed to allocate £5000.00 for additional tree planting within the parish.

As a way forward it is proposed to work with various local organisations such as schools, the Hythe and Dibden Woodland Project and the District Council's Tree Group in order to determine suitable species and locations that would benefit from additional tree planting.

Members' views are requested.

**Item 10 Rainer Wessex Restorative Justice (Min 444/07 refers)**

The Accredited Community Safety Officers, Rainer Wessex Restorative Justice and the Parish Council are working in partnership in order to carry out projects within the parish that have benefit to the local community.

A number of young people under the supervision of the ACSO's have recently carried out a litter pick of the more awkward areas at Forest Front Open Space.

The next project which will commence in early July is to extend and renovate the pathways in Tates Copse and Shore Road woodland. The Parish Council will be supplying the timber required to provide the path edgings and the infill for the pathway will be made up of woodchips from the Council's tree operations together with some donated by one of the Council's tree contractors.

It is hoped that the scheme will be ongoing and that all parties benefit from the arrangement.

Members are asked to note the report.