

**HYTHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
General Purposes and Finance Committee  
held at The Grove, 25 St John's Street, Hythe  
on Monday 27 November 2006 at 8 pm.

Members:                   \*Mr R Podesta (Chairman) – in the Chair

Mr G Dawson	*Mrs B Smith
*Mr C Harrison	*Mr D Smith
*Mrs M Robinson	*Mr M S Wade
*Mr M Short	*Mr S S Wade

\* Indicates attendance  
o Indicates apologies for absence

In attendance:           Mr D J Shimpe (Clerk to the Council)  
Mrs C Patterson (Minute Clerk)

Also present:             Mr P Elsey (ACSO)  
Mr G Parkes  
1 Member of the Public

332/06 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 23 October 2006, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

333/06 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

334/06 **Public Participation Period**

Cycling

Members were advised that a sign which prohibits cycling by the Seashells Restaurant is being covered up and cyclists and skateboarders are still using Hythe Precinct.

The Clerk advised members that the ACSOs are aware of the problem but he would investigate the matter.

335/06 **Accounts for Payment**

The Clerk submitted a Schedule of Accounts for payment, together with a supplementary list.

(a) Voucher 2746

It was confirmed that the period covered for this invoice was the month of October.

(b) Voucher 2780

It was confirmed that the VAT paid on this invoice would be reclaimed.

(c) Voucher 2786

It was confirmed that the internal audit is performed quarterly.

(d) General

RESOLVED

That accounts as detailed in Vouchers 2740-2788 inclusive, totalling £21,562.16, be approved and paid.

336/06 **Minutes of the Personnel Sub Committee Meeting held on 31 October 2006**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Personnel Sub Committee Meeting held on 31 October 2006.

It was suggested that meeting dates for the future be diarised and cancelled if unnecessary to ensure that as many committee members as possible are able to attend.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Personnel Sub Committee Meeting held on 31 October 2006 be noted.

337/06 **Notes of the Hythe Centre Advisory Group held on 24 October 2006**

Consideration was given to the notes of the Hythe Centre Advisory Group held on 24 October 2006.

In an update, Mrs Robinson advised members that SEEDA are actively pursuing the option of acquiring the RAF Hythe site. Also the Chief Executive of the District Council is seeking clarification from the Environment Agency over the conflicting statements issued on the state of the sea wall on the Britannia Gate Estate.

RESOLVED

That the notes of the Hythe Centre Advisory Group held on 24 October 2006 be noted.

338/06 **Proposed Schedule of Meetings 2007/08**

Members considered the proposed meeting schedule for 2007/08 which included a change of date from 9 April 2007 to 16 April 2007.

RESOLVED

That the proposed meeting schedule for 2007/08 be adopted.

33906 **Update on Public Buildings**

- The Grove
- Clayfields
- Parish Hall
- Workshop
- Pavilion Shore Road

Members noted the report on the update on Public Buildings.

340/06 **Community Safety Service Update**

Consideration was given to the Community Safety Service Update and a brief update from Peter Eley (ACSO).

It was suggested that the information received in these reports would be of interest to local residents so that they could be made aware of how effectively their funds are being used.

The Clerk advised members that he is preparing a Press Release which will include information on the new bicycles and seized alcohol.

RESOLVED

That the Community Safety Service update be noted.

**341/06 Neighbourhood Policing 2007**

Consideration was given to whether this Parish would wish to contribute £6000 per annum towards a Police Community Support Officer when it already funds a Security Company and ACSOs.

It was explained that a PCSO would be tasked by the Police but have similar powers to ACSOs although they would not be provided with a vehicle partly to ensure community visibility and integration.

Members agreed in principle to funding a PCSO and would like to invite Chief Superintendent Ann Wakefield to a meeting of the Council

**RESOLVED**

1. That £6000 be set aside in the budget to fund a PCSO if the terms are acceptable.
2. That Chief Superintendent Wakefield be invited to attend a meeting of the Council.

**342/06 Review of Standing Orders****Decisions of Committees**

Consideration was given to the decision making process of Council and committees and the subsequent minutes.

It was thought that policy decisions should be ratified by Council but to ensure the smooth running of the council it was suggested that operational decisions should remain at the discretion of the committee.

It was agreed that any committee decision suggesting a new policy or a change to an existing policy should be made as a recommendation to Council.

**Presence of Non-Members of Committees at Committee Meetings**

In order to ensure that all members are able to have an input on decisions regardless of membership of a committee it was agreed to alter the wording of Standing Order 56 to read:- "Any member of Council may address any committee".

**Any Other Urgent Items**

In order to ensure that any other business is kept to urgent items it was agreed that there should be an item after the signing of the minutes on the agenda which asks for prior notification of any other business which will still be discussed at the end of the meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council adopts the proposed changes and that the Standing Orders be amended accordingly

**343/06 Proposed Extinguishment of Highway Rights Section 116 Highway Act 1980 – Land adjoining Frost Lane, Hythe**

Consideration was given to whether to reconsider the decision to accept the above extinguishment if the County Council put a condition on the extinguishment further to advice from the County Council that they are unable to apply any conditions.

**RESOLVED**

That the County Council be advised that this Council objects to the Proposed Extinguishment of Highway Rights Section 116 Highway Act 1980 – Land adjoining Frost Lane, Hythe as it may alter the rural nature of Frost Lane.

**344/06 Financial Monitoring – Period up to and including 30 September 2006**

Members noted the Financial Monitoring Report for the period up to and including 30 September 2006.

**345/06 Proposed Budget 2007/08**

Consideration was given to the draft budget papers for 2007/08.

It was agreed to include budgetary provision of £6000 to contribute towards a PCSO if necessary.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That, subject to the above, the proposed income and expenditure relating to this Committee as shown in the Budget Papers be agreed and recommended to the Council for adoption.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Chairman

Date

Mngpf113