

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, 18 February 2008 at 8 pm.

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

oMr G Jones	*Mr M Short
*Mrs M McLean	*Mr D Smith
oMr R Newell	*Mr A Wade
*Mr G Parkes	*Mr M 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 B Uglow
Mr P Vickers
Inspector Leckey (Hythe Police Station)
2 members of the public
1 member of the press

543/07 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 14 January 2008, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

544/07 **Notification of any other urgent business to be raised at the end of the meeting**

There were no matters mentioned.

545/07 **Declarations of Interest**

Mr Smith declared an interest in Minute 552/07 as he is the council's representative on the Hythe and Dibden Woodland and Waterside Conservation Group.

546/07 **Tony Hetherington – Licensing Officer NFDC**

Mrs Robinson was sad to announce to sudden death of Tony Hetherington, the much respected Licensing Officer at New Forest District Council, at the weekend.

It was agreed to send the Council's condolence to his family.

547/07 **Public Participation Period**

Shoes – Oak Road Car Park

Mr Wheeler advised members of a pair of shoes which have been hanging from a power cable in Oak Road Car Park for several weeks.

The Clerk advised the meeting that the relevant authorities had been informed but that he would pursue the matter.

548/07 **Discussion with Inspector Leckey from Hythe Police Station**

Inspector Leckey of Hythe Police Station, leader of the Waterside Safer Neighbourhood Team, spoke to the committee on matters of concern to them.

Alcohol Free Zones

Although many councils in the area would like to implement alcohol free zones, there are none in the New Forest with only Fordingbridge Parish Council liaising with Police over the possibility

of applying an order. For an order to be agreed there needs to be a very serious problem with alcohol resulting in vandalism, anti social behaviour etc over a long period of time.

ACSO/PCSO liaison with Police

Inspector Leckey explained that he tasks the PCSO dedicated to Hythe and Dibden and 80% of his time is spent patrolling the Parish. This is contrary to information given on the website which is an error.

The PCSO has some powers but his physical presence is seen as a benefit in the community. He has also rejuvenated the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. It was agreed that Inspector Leckey would liaise with the Clerk to devise a way of providing feedback on the PCSO scheme to members.

Arrangements for the ACSOs to liaise directly with the Police are in hand as the current call handling system is not considered adequate at the moment and is a cause of frustration.

Alcohol and young people

A member asked whether there is any merit in keeping 18 – 21 year olds out of local pubs or whether it creates more problems.

Inspector Leckey advised members that he does not feel any further problems are created by the 18-21 scheme but explained that it was brought in by the licencees through the Pubwatch scheme which is supported by the Police but not run by them.

Inspector Leckey stated that it is not an offence for parents to supply alcohol to minors but they are advised of the risks by Police. He was pleased to note that a recent check by the Police on off licencees and supermarkets in the area revealed that none sold alcohol to minors.

Inspector Leckey ended the discussion by advising members that he feels that the Youth Projects introduced by the Parish Council are paying dividends.

549/07 **Community Safety**

(a) General

Consideration was given to whether a community safety item should appear on the agenda of every meeting.

RESOLVED

That a community safety item should appear on the agenda quarterly and the Clerk should email ward members of any matters which may be of interest to them.

(b) Accredited Community Safety Officer's Reports

Members noted the fortnightly report from the ACSOs and asked that it be sent to committee members regularly.

(c) 20 mph Speed Limits

Members agreed that whilst enforcement of speed limits is the best way to change driving habits, a Speed Limit Reminder device may slow enough drivers down to make a difference and at a reasonable cost. It was agreed to investigate the matter and put it on a future agenda.

It was agreed to investigate the new regulations regarding a 20 mph speed limit to see whether it would be possible to introduce it in the area and add it to a future agenda.

550/07 **Accounts for Payment**

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

RESOLVED

That accounts as detailed in Vouchers 3768-3829 inclusive, totalling £48,245.78, be approved and paid.

551/07 **Financial monitoring – period ending 31 December 2007**

Members noted the financial monitoring information for the period ending 31 December 2007.

552/07 **Grant Applications 2007/08**

Consideration was given to the allocation of Grant Aid, in conjunction with the recommendations of the Grant Aid Working Party.

RESOLVED

1. That grants be made to the following organisations for the amounts stated from the 2007/2008 Grant Aid budget:-

(a) Waterside Baton Twirlers	£250
(b) Hythe and Dibden Woodland And Waterside Cons. Group	£500

2. That grants be made to the following organisations for the amounts stated from the amount budgeted for garden waste bags which will not now be used:-

(a) Vitalise	£718
(b) Families Matter at Hythe URC	£250

(Mr Smith declared an interest in this item but remained in the meeting)

553/07 **Update on Public Buildings**

- The Grove
- Parish Hall

Members noted the report on maintenance which has been carried out on the buildings above.

554/07 **Market Town Initiative – Survey on a need for a Hotel**

Consideration was given to the need for a survey to analyse whether a hotel is required in the area following several requests on various occasions.

RESOLVED

That Hotel Solutions be asked to investigate and report on the need for a hotel in the area up to a maximum cost of £2000.

The meeting closed at 9.08 pm.

Chairman

Date

Mngpf124