

**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, 14 January 2002 at 8.05 pm.

- Members: \*Mr S S Wade(Chairman) – in the Chair
- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| *Mr B D Dash    | *Mr R E Podesta |
| *Mr G Dawson    | *Mrs M Robinson |
| *Mrs C Gradidge | *Mrs B Smith    |
| *Mr R Guy       | *Mr D Smith     |
| *Mr C Harrison  | *Mr M S Wade    |
| oMrs M McLean   |                 |
- \* Indicates attendance  
o Indicates apologies for absence
- In attendance: Mr B H Beaven (Clerk to the Council)  
Mr D J Shimpe (Deputy Clerk to the Council)  
Mrs C Patterson (Minute Clerk)
- Also present: Mr G Parkes  
Mr M Robinson (Senior Community Advisor)  
Mr A Strong (Chief Officer of New Forest Voluntary Service  
Bureau)
- Mr C Edwards (Shanks Chemical Services)  
Mr N Carleton (Shanks Chemical Services)  
1 Member of the Press

307/01 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 26 November 2001, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

308/01 **Public Participation Period**

There were no questions from members of the public.

309/01 **Presentation by Mr A Strong, Chief Officer of New Forest Voluntary Service Council**

Mr Strong, new Chief Officer of New Forest Voluntary Service Council, spoke to Members following concerns that the profile of the New Forest Voluntary Service Council on the Waterside had reached a low point. It had been felt that there was little point in considering Grant Aid applications from various organisations if no volunteers could be found to operate services. Mr Strong accepted that ground needed to be made up and outlined future involvement and initiatives including an additional base on the Waterside and the appointment of a Development Worker. He advised of the various organisations which were already receiving assistance and of those which were presently in discussions regarding future requirements.

Members accepted that there had been an improvement in feedback recently, but asked whether a quarterly report could be compiled to ensure that progress continued to be made. This was agreed.

The Chairman thanked Mr Strong for his presentation.

310/01 **Report of Senior Community Advisor**

Members considered the Report of the Senior Community Advisor.

RESOLVED

The Report was noted.

311/01 **Accounts for Payment**

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

1. **Voucher 464**

An enquiry was made as to the period of time this invoice covered. It was advised that this covered 6 weeks of visits.

2. **General**

RESOLVED

That, subject to the above, accounts as detailed in Vouchers 428-468 inclusive, totalling £39,772.05, be approved and paid.

312/01 **Grant Aid 2001/2002 (Late Applications)**

Consideration was given to the allocation of Grant Aid.

RESOLVED

(a) That grants be made to the following organisations for the amounts stated from the 2001/2002 Grant Aid budget:-

1. New Forest Voluntary Service Council	£1000.00
2. New Forest Dial a Ride	£ 150.00
3. Waterside Gymnastics Club	£ 200.00
4. New Forest, Totton & Romsey Victim Support Scheme	£ 200.00
5. Oakhaven Hospice	£ 200.00

(b) That the grant in respect of item 1. be made subject to a quarterly report being issued giving facts and feedback on targets relating to Hythe and Dibden.

(Mrs Robinson declared an interest in item 4 and took no part in the discussion)

313/01 **Buildings Insurance**

It was reported that an enquiry had recently been received from Dibden Allotments Charity concerning the level of insurance cover held in respect of subsidence at The Grove. As no specific cover was held, a quotation had been obtained from the Council's insurers for £328.00 per annum. Members considered the possibility of taking out such cover.

RESOLVED

That the Dibden Allotments Charity be asked the reason for their enquiry.

314/01 **Hythe Centre****(a) Farmers Markets**

Members debated the impact of the Farmers Markets on Hythe following a request from Hythe Traders that the Markets be held on a Sunday as opposed to a Saturday. A request had also been made by the County Council that this Council undertake various duties regarding organisation and Members views were sought so that a Meeting could be arranged.

RESOLVED

1. That the Farmers Markets be supported this year, but not at the expense of this Council

2. That future years need to be negotiated with the needs of both the traders and people of Hythe in mind.

**(b) Market Towns Health Check**

Members heard that the County Council is holding a free seminar at Lyndhurst Community Centre on 12 February 2002. The Deputy Clerk, Mr Podesta and Mr S Wade all agreed to attend and any other interested parties were asked to advise the Clerk. All who attend were asked to bring a report to the next meeting.

RESOLVED

That Mr Podesta, Mr. S. Wade and the Deputy Clerk be authorised to attend and report thereon to the next meeting of the Committee.

315/01 **Proposed St John's Street/New Road Link Road.**

Members were advised of a public consultation, expected to take place in the Spring, concerning the proposed St John's Street/New Road Link Road. It was debated whether any comments needed to be made to the County Council prior to this consultation.

RESOLVED

That no comments be made at this time.

316/01 **The HANDY Trust**

The Committee was advised that the HANDY Trust had now been registered with the Charity Commission and that the work of the Youth Worker Steering Group would pass to it as soon as arrangements had been made concerning insurance and pension. To this end the Council has been asked to act as guarantor when the pension was taken over by the HANDY Trust.

It had been decided that the Trust should work through an Advisory Group and members were asked to appoint Mr M Wade as the Council's representative on this Group.

RESOLVED

1. That the Council act as guarantor for the HANDY Trust's Pension Fund in respect of the Youth Project Worker
2. That Mr M Wade be appointed as the representative on the Advisory Group.

317/01 **Youth Offender Panels**

Members heard that the Wessex Youth Offending Team had agreed to establish Youth Offender Panels to assist in its work with young offenders. Consideration was given to who might be encouraged to join these panels.

RESOLVED

That the Youth Liaison Panel be asked for suggestions.

318/01 **Shanks Chemical Services**

**(a) Proposed disposal of radioactive waste**

Mr C Edwards and Mr N. Carleton of Shanks Chemical Services gave a presentation of Shanks Chemical Services involvement in the disposal of radioactive waste further to the Consultation Document issued by the Environment Agency. Members considered what representations they wished to make on the subject.

RESOLVED

That the Environment Agency be advised that , although this Council finds it difficult to comment on something that cannot be measured, it is still concerned about

- 1) The transportation issues along the A326, which is already heavily congested with commercial vehicles travelling to and from the Petro-Chemical Complex adjoining the Shanks site;
- 2) The principles of incineration close to centres of population; and
- 3) Whilst it is recognised that Shanks is a responsible Company there are concerns regarding the cumulative effect of the activities undertaken by this Company at this location

(b) **Disposal of fridges**

Mr C Edwards gave a short presentation on the disposal of fridges by Shanks Chemical Services in the light of new legislation and was congratulated for providing what seemed to be an acceptable solution to the problem.

319/01 **Local Government White Paper – Parish Proposals**

Members considered a Report from the DTLR regarding “The way forward for Parishes”. Members also asked for a copy of the response from the Working Party to the Consultation Paper on “Quality Councils” to be circulated.

RESOLVED

1. That the Report be noted.
2. That a copy of the Working Party’s response be circulated.

320/01 **Front Door – The Grove**

A request was made that the automatic opening front door at The Grove be further investigated as it is still not opening fast enough.

RESOLVED

That the matter be investigated.

321/01 **Development adjoining Esso Garage, Beaulieu Road**

The Committee was advised that a suggestion had been made to the County Council by the developers of the site of the former Conservative Club next to the Esso Garage to name the new development Lawnswood Close.

RESOLVED

That the Council has no objection to that name.

322/01 **Exclusion of Press and Public**

RESOLVED

That the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act of 1972.

323/01 **Staff Matters**

(a) **To receive the Minutes of the Meetings of the Personnel Sub-Committee held on 13 November 2001 and 28 November 2001.**

Members were asked to receive the minutes of the meetings of the Personnel Sub-Committee held on 13 and 28 November 2001. However concern was expressed by a Member that he had not received a copy of the Agenda of the Meeting of 28 November 2001, although a complaint had been made against him. It was only by chance that he had heard of the meeting, although an explanation and apology had been received for this.

It was felt that an preliminary investigation should be carried out to ascertain whether a full investigation was needed into any of the complaints. This had best been left until the employee had left so as not to cause further stress. It was suggested that a Member who was not on the Personnel Sub-Committee and had no complaints make against him should investigate the complaints.

RESOLVED

That Mr Dash investigate and report back to the next General Purposes and Finance Committee Meeting.

**(b) Employment Health Check**

Members studied the results of an Employment Health Check conducted by Moore and Blatch Solicitors further to a Seminar attended by the Clerk. It was recommended that various improvements could be made to the Contracts of Employment at a cost of £1000.00 plus VAT and to a document outlining a disciplinary and grievance procedure at a cost of £250.00 plus VAT.

RESOLVED

That the District Council and HAPTC be contacted for their views and the Chairman of the Council, Chairman of the Committee and Clerk be authorised to progress the matter to a maximum cost of £1250.00 plus VAT.

**(c) Superannuation**

Members were asked to note the information from the County Council that there is likely to be an increase in employers contribution rates with effect from 1 April 2002.

RESOLVED

That the information be noted.

324/01 **Rent Review – Dibden Allotments Charity**

Members were advised that a rent review was due on 1 January 2002.

RESOLVED

That the District Valuer negotiate direct with Dibden Allotments Charity.

The Meeting closed at 10.40 pm.

Chairman

Date  
mngpf67