

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, 1 December 2003 at 8.05 pm.

Members: *Mr S S Wade (Chairman) – in the Chair

*Mr R Guy	*Mr M Short
*Mr C Harrison	*Mrs B Smith
*Mr R Podesta	*Mr D Smith
*Mrs M Robinson	*Mr M 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: Mrs M McLean
Mr G Parkes
1 Member of the Press

346/03 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 20 October 2003, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

347/03 **Declarations of Interest**

Mr Podesta declared an interest in Minute 349/03 and Minute 358/03 as he is the owner of 25 High Street.

348/03 **Public Participation Period**

There were no members of the public present.

349/03 **Accounts for Payment**

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

1. Voucher 424

A Member queried whether a cheaper alternative for security maintenance was being actively sought as previously agreed.

The Clerk replied that it was.

2. General

RESOLVED

That, subject to the above, accounts as detailed in Vouchers 399-426 inclusive, totalling £24,742.51, be approved and paid.

(Mr Podesta declared an interest in this item, remained in the Meeting, but did not vote)

350/03 **Final Accounts 2002/2003 – External Audit**

Members noted the completion of the Audit process for 2002/2003.

351/03 Reserves and Budget 2004/2005

Consideration was given to the repayment of the Council's loans to the Public Loan Board using existing reserves and to the proposed budget for 2004/2005.

RESOLVED

That the existing loans be repaid from reserves and the proposed income and expenditure relating to this Committee as shown in the Budget Papers be agreed.

352/03 Equal Opportunities Policy

Members noted the changes to the Equal Opportunities Policy.

353/03 Grant Aid Application

Consideration was given to an application for Grant Aid.

RESOLVED

That a grant of £1000.00 be made to Community First – New Forest from the 2003/2004 Grant Aid budget.

354/03 Subsidence Insurance – Clayfields Sports Centre

Consideration was given to insuring Clayfields Sports Centre against subsidence further to the fact that the Council's insurers had declined to offer cover.

It was felt that a reasonable premium, if any, would be difficult to source.

RESOLVED

That the matter be investigated further.

355/03 Community Safety Initiative – Street Lighting

Consideration was given to the submission of a bid for next year's programme of improved street lighting.

RESOLVED

That the existing list be updated and reviewed by this Committee before submission.

356/03 Subsidised Local Bus Services

Consideration was given to which local bus services required subsidy by Hampshire County Council when the present agreement runs out.

It was suggested that the bus operators may consider restarting withdrawn services if CCTV or radios are installed on the buses or Community Wardens become involved.

RESOLVED

1. That all the existing subsidised routes are still required.
2. That Mr Smith will take the comments to the next Annual Transport Representatives Meeting.

357/03 Letter of Condolence

It was agreed to write a letter of condolence to the family of the late John Coles.

358/03 **Community Wardens**

Mr M Wade advised Members of the possibility of funding being available for Community Wardens during this financial year.

An item seeking the Council's views would appear in the next Council agenda. A draft of the proposed item was circulated to members and members' comments were noted.

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

The Meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Chairman

Date

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