

HYTHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Hythe and Dibden Parish Council
Held at The Grove, 25 St. John's Street, Hythe
On Monday 11 December 2006 at 8 pm

Members: *Mrs B Smith (Chairman) – in the Chair

*Mr J Bennett	*Mr R Podesta
oMr R Guy	*Mrs M J Robinson
*Mr C Harrison	oMr M Short
*Mrs M McLean	*Mr D Smith
*Mr G Parkes	*Mr M S Wade
	*Mr S S Wade

* Indicates attendance
o Indicates apologies for absence

In attendance: Mr B Dash – Hampshire County Councillor
 Mr D J Shimpe (Clerk to the Council)
 Ms S A Maitland (Deputy Clerk to the Council)
 Mrs C Patterson (Minute Clerk)

Also present: 4 Members of the Public

353/06 **Declarations of Interest**

Mrs Robinson declared an interest in Minute 357/06 as she is the Chair of an NHS Trust. Mr Podesta declared an interest in Minute 362/06 as he owns a shop in Hythe.

354/06 **Minutes**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 6 November 2006.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Council held on 6 November 2006 be signed by
the Chairman as correct.

355/06 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman had no announcements to make.

356/06 **Reports of the County Councillors on County Council matters concerning the Parish**

New guidance has been issued on the setting of local speed limits and the County Council Cabinet will review the matter at its next meeting. Transport issues will also be considered by Hampshire Action Teams.

The Southampton University Hospitals Trust have decided to have a midwife led maternity unit in Ashurst despite the fact that the District Council wished to maintain the status quo or keep the maternity unit at Hythe open. It was felt that the Portfolio Holder had not accurately reflected the views of the District Council to the SUHT consultation which had affected their decision and therefore the County Councillor would be pursuing the matter. It was agreed to write to the PCT supporting the County Councillor's letter.

A lorry ban has been requested on the Hythe/Marchwood Road. Analysis of data taken will take place after Christmas.

357/06 Reports of District Councillors on District Council matters concerning the Parish

The bus companies are going to challenge the government on the issue of free bus passes particularly for those in the 60 – 65 year age group who are still in employment and use peak time travel.

It is believed that 18 out of 34 County Councils would like unitary status.

The Crime and Disorder Review Panel enjoyed a presentation from Chief Superintendent Anne Wakefield on the subject of PCSOs and felt that they would be a useful addition to crime prevention. It was, therefore, disappointing to hear that the funding from central government would be cut by £2 million resulting in a reduced expenditure plan.

A survey on CCTV is needed in order to maintain the system correctly. It is thought that towns with CCTV may be asked for a contribution towards the cost.

The Cabinet Panel decided to recommend to the SUHT consultation that the status quo of maternity care in the Waterside should be maintained with the retention and upgrading of Hythe Hospital as the second option. Unfortunately these views were not passed to the SUHT consultation and a 12 bed unit at Lymington hospital was recommended as the second option with the retention of Hythe as the third. The matter is being pursued.

The viability of sheltered housing in the district is being reviewed. Points to be covered are whether the service offers value for money, whether the people using the service still need it, decreasing ratio of managers to homes and the discontinuation of the emergency call out service. It has been agreed that an interim facility will be provided when the call out service is discontinued.

£2 million more than necessary has been allocated in the budget to the Decent Home Standard for Housing.

It has been decided that it is not necessary to introduce wheelie bins into the district at the present time as it is thought that recycling targets can be reached without them.

The Review of the Code of Conduct is due soon. It is thought that there will be some relief for dual hatted members and that members who declare an interest will be able to address the meeting before withdrawing.

Mr Harrison has put forward his motion to the District Council that the £80 parking clock should be withdrawn from Hythe as it is causing more problems with traffic management than it solves.

It appears that the District Council funded ACSOs are not providing the anticipated value for money.

The PPS 3 has come through on planning. Mr Parkes will advise further on its contents at the next meeting.

The Economy in Planning Panel has assessed the fees charged in District Council car parks and it is thought that the sharp increase in cost after 3-4 hours is preventing people from browsing and relaxing in the area.

The new Local Development Framework has resulted in the general budget in Economy in Planning being increased to £109,000, revised from this years £24,000. Some savings are expected to be made through on street parking charges and the fact that a member of staff is on secondment at the New Forest National Park but there is concern that these are only temporary measures.

It is anticipated that on street car parking charges will be introduced.

It has been agreed to secure green planning notices on street furniture with plastic gripper bands which can be removed without causing damage.

(Mrs Robinson declared an interest in this item but remained in the meeting during discussion thereof)

358/06 **Reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies**

The Handy Trust Christmas Party was well attended and very successful.

Some vandalism has occurred at the Forest Front Skate Park but the Youth Worker and ASBO co-ordinator have met with the perpetrators and their parents who voluntarily advised the Police of their actions.

There is a new home link worker based at Wildground School.

The Child of the Wild Scheme is going well in association with the Forestry Commission to show youngsters what wildlife is available on their doorstep.

1700 teenagers and youths have been seen by the Handy Trust in the last 12 months with 80-90 receiving one to one assistance.

There will be another Battle of the Bands at the Parish Hall on 29 December at 7.30 pm with proceeds going to Hythe Skate and Ride.

Community Safety is giving £1500 to restart the SNAP Discos.

There is a possible road safety hazard at the Forest Front Nature Reserve. Attempts are being made to move the gate to the A326 further back to ensure there is enough space for a fire engine to be parked whilst opening it.

There is to be a meeting on the state of Road Transport in the New Forest.

The National Park has given £90,000 to various projects such as a Water Wheel, Lepe Beach, an Environmental Centre in Southampton, woodland management and the provision of 10 electric cars for hire.

The proposed £36 million expansion at Bournemouth Airport could have relevance to the New Forest National Park.

359/06 **Questions to District and County Councillors and Representatives on Outside Bodies arising from their reports**

Mr Smith asked Mrs Robinson what sanctions could be taken if a Portfolio Holder did not represent the views of the majority.

Mrs Robinson replied that, in the case she had mentioned earlier, she would be asking for an apology and for the Portfolio Holder to consider her position as she had exceeded her authority.

Mr Podesta asked Mrs Robinson to ask the District Council to consider addressing the ratio of the issue of pink/clear refuse sacks.

The Chairman advised members that there is a bid in the budget to increase by 10 the number of clear sacks issued.

Mr Podesta asked Mr Harrison if he knew the number of £80 car parking clocks which were sold annually.

Mr Harrison responded that approximately 1500 yearly clocks are sold and 1100 half yearly which equates to 2000 per annum which is around 4% of the total clocks sold.

360/06 **Questions under Standing Orders 25 and 26**

There were no questions under standing orders 25 and 26.

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At this point the Meeting adjourned to allow a Public Forum to be held.

The Promenade

Mr Vickers advised members that residents of The Promenade had complained that the area was being used to drive cars dangerously and asked what measures were being taken to combat this.

The Chairman advised the meeting that the Clerk had contacted the District Council on 26 October 2006 and a site meeting had subsequently been held. Solutions such as a key barrier had been put forward and rejected.

It was agreed to refer the matter back to the General Purposes and Finance Committee.

Beumaris Gardens

It was suggested that a pavement should be provided close to the new flats as people are having to walk in the road.

Members were advised that the lack of pavement was objected to by the Parish Council in the original planning application.

It was agreed to refer the matter to the General Purposes and Finance Committee.

Car Parking – Mousehole Lane

Mr Vickers advised members that cars are being parked in Mousehole Lane and causing a road safety hazard.

The Chairman advised the meeting that these cars are thought to be displaced long term parkers and it is hoped that this problem will be considered with the other problem areas in due course.

Fixed Penalty Notices

Mr Uglow asked whether Mr Maskall from the District Council had responded to his question from the last council meeting regarding Fixed Penalty Notices.

He was advised that no response has been received as yet.

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The Council Meeting then resumed.

361/06 Reports of Committees

(a) Planning Committee – 6 November 2006

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 6 November 2006.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 6 November 2006 be received and adopted.

(b) Planning Committee – 13 November 2006

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 13 November 2006.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 13 November 2006 be received and adopted.

(c) Amenities Committee –13 November 2006

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 13 November 2006.

- (i) Minute 321/06
- (ii) It was agreed to clarify the recommendation made in Minute 321/06 by reiterating the resolution made in Minute 315/06 (b) and amend Minute 321/06 (1) to read:-

"It was agreed that one of the options for Ewart Recreation Ground may be to fence it and to put funds aside for this purpose."

- (iii) General

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 13 November 2006 be received and adopted.

(d) Planning Committee - 27 November 2006

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 27 November 2006.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 27 November 2006 be received and adopted.

(e) General Purposes and Finance Committee – 27 November 2006

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the General Purposes and Finance Committee held on 27 November 2006.

- (i) Minute 342/06

Consideration was given to the recommendation in Min 342/06 and it was resolved to amend the Standing Orders accordingly.

- (ii) Minute 345/06

Consideration was given to the recommendation in Min 345/06 and it was resolved to accept the Budget Papers for adoption.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the General Purposes and Finance Committee held on 27 November 2006 be received and adopted.

362/06 **Accounts for Payment**

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

RESOLVED

That accounts as detailed in Vouchers 2789 - 2839 inclusive, totalling £24,567.77, be approved and paid.

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

363/06 **Budget and Precept for 2007/2008**

Consideration was given to the Budget Papers for 2007/2008.

Amenities Committee

It was agreed that provision should be made in the budget for fencing or other necessary security measures for Ewart Recreation Ground.

General

RESOLVED

1. That the budgets for the Amenities and General Purposes and Finance Committees be accepted.
2. That the Council Precept for 2007/2008 be accepted.

364/06 **Casual Vacancy**

Following the resignation of Councillor George Dawson consideration was given to filling the vacancy created.

Members were advised that notices had been displayed on the Parish Notice Boards from 1 December 2006 asking for expressions of interest and it was agreed to consider any that may be forthcoming at the next meeting of the Council.

The meeting closed at 10 pm.

Chairman

Date

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