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To:

Members of the Amenities Committee
and remainder of the Council for information

AGAME106

8 November 2005

Dear Sir/Madam

A Meeting of the **AMENITIES COMMITTEE** will be held at **The Grove, 25 St John's Street, Hythe on Monday next, 14 November 2005**, at 8.00 pm, when your attendance is requested.

Yours faithfully

Clerk to the Council

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To sign the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 October 2005.
3. To note any declaration of interest made by Members in connection with an Agenda item. The nature of the interest must be specified.
4. Public Participation Period.
5. Vandalism Report - 24 September to 2 November 2005.
6. Request to use floodlights during football training sessions at Shore Road Playing Field.
7. To identify suitable locations for two public seats.
8. Woodland Management Survey.
9. Fly Tipping – Hardley Lane (Min103/05).
10. Drummond Court – Amenity Land (Min 432/99).
11. Budget 2006/07.
12. Any other urgent business concerning the Committee.

HYTHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

AGENDA NOTES

AMENITIES COMMITTEE – 14 November 2005

Item 5 **Vandalism Report – 24 September to 2 November 2005**

The following is a list of vandalism suffered by the Parish Council for the period shown.

Forest Front Skate Park

The fence that surrounds the facility was damaged and has since been repaired.

Cost to the Council £20.00

Prospect Place Open Space

Two of the bench seats were cut and damaged. This has resulted in several of the wooden slats being replaced. In addition commemorative plaques that were fixed to the seats were damaged and had to be replaced.

Cost to the Council is £300.00 which includes the fitting of new wooden slats and two replacement plaques.

Graffiti

There have been five reported items of graffiti. These have since been removed.

Cost to the Council £25.00

Item 6 **Request to use floodlights during football training sessions at Shore Road Playing Field**

Hythe and Dibden Youth Football Academy train at Shore Road Playing Field on Tuesday and Friday evenings between 5pm and 7pm. They have requested permission to use floodlights during their training sessions. The floodlights are of a free standing/portable type that runs on generated power and they will be stored away after each session.

The Youth Academy have asked that members give consideration to granting permission for the floodlights for training purposes only and have suggested that the Committee might prefer to grant permission for a trial period initially in order to monitor whether they cause a nuisance to neighbours.

Members are requested to consider the request and if it is granted, to set the length of the trial period and consider whether permission will be revoked immediately if serious complaints are received.

Item 7 **To identify locations for two seats**

When the amenity land at Lawnswood Close, Dibden Purlieu, was transferred to the Parish Council in 2005 it was decided not to put public seating in that area. The developers have provided two seats to be located elsewhere within the Parish.

Members are requested to identify suitable areas for the seats.

Item 8 **Woodland Management Survey**

As part of the Council's proactive approach to managing its trees, a Woodland Management Scheme has been introduced.

Due to the number of trees maintained by the Council it has been necessary to divide the scheme in to a number of different phases. Phase one of the survey commenced in November 2004.

A consultant was contracted to visually assess trees on the following areas.

- Ewart Recreation Ground
- Noads Way Recreation Ground
- Capella Gardens Play Area
- Dibden Bottom Farm Open Space
- Fern Hill - All trees located alongside dog walking areas and the play area

During the visual assessment a total of 359 trees were assessed. From the initial inspection, 26 trees were identified as having potential problems which required further investigations. This equates to 7.2% of the total trees surveyed.

As part of the second assessment the 26 trees were tagged with unique numbers and their location was plotted on a map for future reference.

The further investigations into the 26 trees revealed that,

4 required remedial work
11 were either felled or coppiced
9 required further climbing inspections and remedial surgery
2 were placed on annual assessments and are monitored

All work has now been completed and phase one of the scheme is finished.

During the last year, new computer software has become available to Arboriculture Consultants which allows for digital mapping and the recording of individual trees onto a database. Once a tree's details are recorded it will be possible for members of staff to deal quickly and efficiently with any enquiries from members of the public. The system should be available to the Parish Council in the New Year and it is planned to commence phase 2 of the Woodland Management Scheme when it is available.

Members are asked to note the report

Item 9 Fly Tipping – Hardley Lane (Min 103/05)

As Members are aware part of Hardley Lane is located behind the Netley View Estate. Some of the lane is managed by the Parish Council and the remainder by New Forest District Council.

The area has suffered large amounts of fly tipping which both authorities have a statutory obligation to remove. As a result, the District Council arranged for their area of responsibility to be cleared earlier this year.

The Parish Council consulted the Accredited Community Safety Officers and in turn the Probation Service with a view to removing the rubbish from Parish Council land. Unfortunately due to staffing issues the Probation Service were unable to assist on this occasion.

Further fly tipping continued on the land maintained by the Parish Council and funding was allocated by the Council's General Purpose and Finance Committee in order to clear the area. The work has been carried out by one of New Forest District Council's approved contractors at a cost of £5,355.00.

As part of the work, it was decided to remove some areas of scrub in order to make it easier for the Parish Council's maintenance team to inspect and if necessary remove any further dumped items.

A letter is being sent to all residents of the Netley View estate alerting them to the costs and implications of fly tipping.

Members are asked to note the report.

Item 10 Drummond Court – Amenity Land (Min 432/99)

The area located between Drummond Court and No.1 Prospect Place has been transferred to the Parish Council from the District Council along with a maintenance contribution of £2348.10. The area is designated as public open space.

During an Amenities Committee meeting on the 17 April 2000 ways of improving the area were discussed and it was,

“RESOLVED

Preference is given to a paved area with shrubs. Bollards should be provided across the boundary with Prospect Place to prevent vehicular access.”

Due to the time span between the resolution and the transfer of the land and the way in which the Parish Council likes to consult with the public it was decided to gather some more information about improving the area.

The Parish Council sent a letter to the residents of Drummond Court, Prospect Place and the occupiers of adjacent business premises requesting suggestions for any improvements.

A total of 11 replies were received. The residents of Drummond Court, who replied, specifically requested that public seating is not provided. In addition, there were concerns that in making the area attractive it may entice large numbers of visitors to the space.

Four people requested that the improvements allow for some sort of hard surface to be incorporated into the scheme. Examples of materials which could be used were cobbles, timber or paving. It was also suggested that a planting scheme could be amalgamated into this proposal.

The provision of a statue or sculpture was requested by three people. It was suggested that the feature could have some relation to the history of Hythe. Ideas that have been suggested are a Spitfire, Hythe Pier, a Hovercraft, Sir Christopher Cockrell and Flying Boats. One resident took the idea even further by requesting that the space is transformed into a sponsored sculpture garden featuring plinths on which local artists could display their work for various amounts of time.

There were two requests for the area to be fenced with low level fencing. One person requested that a seating area be provided and one organisation responded but did not offer any suggestions.

One of the replies pointed out that there is a watercourse running adjacent to Drummond Court however the Environment Agency is unable to be more specific as to where the water travels.

A concern has been raised regarding the planting of shrubbery close to any property which could cause damage and block out views from windows.

Members are asked to note the report and decide on a way forward.

Item 11 Budget 2006/07

See attached report.