

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 9 August 2010 at 8 pm

- Members: *Mr D Smith (Chairman) – in the Chair
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|---------------|-----------------|
| *Mr J Bennett | *Mrs M Robinson |
| *Mr W Binns | oMr M Short |
| *Mr R Guy | oMr B Uglow |
| oMr G Jones | oMr P Vickers |
| *Mrs M McLean | *Mr A Wade |
| *Mr G Parkes | *Mr M Wade |
- In attendance: Mr D J Shimpe (Clerk to the Council)
Mr S Spencer (Deputy Clerk to the Council)
Mrs C Patterson (Minute Clerk)
- Also present: Mrs Moraig Forrest-Charde (Clinical Service Manager – Hampshire
Community Health Care)
*Mr B Dash – Hampshire County Councillor
oMrs A McEvoy - Hampshire County Councillor
oMr C Harrison – New Forest District Councillor
oMrs B Smith – New Forest District Councillor
*Mr S S Wade – New Forest District Councillor
1 Member of the Public
1 Member of the Press
- * Indicates attendance
o Indicates apologies for absence

The meeting began with an update on Hythe Hospital from Moraig Forrest-Charde, Clinical Service Manager at Hampshire Community Health Care.

The main problems preventing the reopening of Hythe Hospital to inpatients at the moment are the issue of satisfactory infection prevention and the recruitment of sufficient permanent staff to enable efficient operation alongside agency staff.

A feasibility study into infection prevention has not yet been finished, partly due to issues which have arisen during the study and partly due to the fact that challenges and guidelines have changed considerably during the last few years. It is hoped that this study will be completed in the next few weeks and the results forwarded to the Hampshire County Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee and this council by email

Hampshire Community Health Care had already been looking into the needs of the area and the hospital for the next 5 – 15 years in partnership with a practice based community group and these needs will be looked at alongside the results of the feasibility study so that future funding can be sought. It is thought that the provision of clinical services will strengthen the hospital's future position although it has to be borne in mind that some specialist clinics are not feasible in smaller hospitals.

Whilst the hospital has been closed to inpatients, outpatient services have still been running and increased in some cases such as phlebotomy and leg ulcer and well leg services. Additional beds at Lymington Hospital and re-enablement beds at Forest Court, Tatchbury have meant that patients have not had to spend any longer at Southampton General Hospital than they would if Hythe Hospital had been open.

Interviews for staff will be held next week. Various means of recruiting staff have been used in the past few months but there is optimism that these interviews will be more successful.

Members stressed that Hythe Hospital is a very important part of the community and there is considerable anxiety that assurances have been given on reopening that have not been kept.

There is also a concern that other local hospital improvements will divert funding from Hythe Hospital and prevent it from ever reopening to inpatients.

Members were assured that their concerns and wish to be kept informed of developments have been noted and every effort is being made to ensure that Hythe Hospital can operate in a clinically safe fashion.

The Chairman thanked Moraig Forrest-Charde for attending the Council Meeting.

74/10 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

75/10 **Minutes**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 12 July 2010.

Minute 56/10

It was clarified that the area referred to was Hythe Marine Park – not Marina Park as stated.

It was agreed that the 3rd paragraph should read, "The owner of the land, New Forest District Council, has indicated that it may charge for parking in the area..."

Minute 59/10

It was agreed that the final paragraph should read,

According to the adopted Development Strategy Plan Document there are 2 new housing sites designated in the New Forest but neither is in the Hythe and Dibden area. In addition included within the document is the provision for additional "Opportunity Housing" sites. Opportunity housing is specifically related to the provision of affordable housing subject to finance being available. Such developments would provide 70% of affordable housing. An initial 400 potential sites in the New Forest are currently being assessed against stringent criteria. If they meet the criteria they will go out to public consultation.

RESOLVED

That, subject to the above, the Minutes of the Council held on 12 July 2010 be signed by the Chairman as correct.

76/10 **Public Forum**

There were no questions from members of the public.

77/10 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman, Mrs McLean and young representatives of the Handy Trust attended the opening of the Orchard Wild Garden. There are some teething problems with the garden which are being addressed by New Forest District Council.

The Chairman had received a letter from a resident praising the floral displays within the parish which he read to the meeting.

78/10 **Reports of the County Councillors on County Council matters concerning the Parish**

The County Council is expecting a 25% reduction in grants from central government over the next 4 years. There is a possibility that this could escalate to 8-10% per annum.

Cuts of £6 million will be made in children's services in 2010/2011.

The county will be split into 2 areas – North and South. There will also be significant staffing changes with around 185 posts going of which 46 are managerial.

A target of a 20% reduction in carbon emissions by 2015 has been set. An investment of £1million in equipment for monitoring energy in schools has been made as schools are the largest energy users in the county.

New arrangements for winter maintenance have been made with a 4000 tonnes salt storage barn in Micheldever, 1000 extra blue salt bins and new salting routes some of which will be secondary routes.

79/10 Reports of District Councillors on District Council matters concerning the Parish

There was widespread disappointment that free swimming for 8 – 17 years olds and over 60's was withdrawn at short notice at the start of the school summer break. Whilst the scheme was known to be short term and subject to review members tried to "call in" the matter but were unsuccessful.

The District Council is to begin building its own housing again with the provision of 9 homes at Pennington. After a £600,000 grant has been received a further £800,000 will be needed. It is no longer permitted to borrow this from the open market so proposals for raising this amount are being discussed through the scrutiny panels.

80/10 Reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies

Mr Smith attended a meeting of the Butts Ash Community Association on 29 July 2010. Hampshire County Council provided a training session on the duties of trustees which members found very informative.

No particular issues emerged at a meeting of Hythe Ferry Users. The sharing of a jetty with Red Jet at Southampton causes occasional problems such as during the Isle of Wight Festival. A general meeting of any ferry users will be held at the Community Centre on 23 September 2010.

A recent meeting of NFALC was chaired by Barrie Foley, formerly the interim Chief Executive of the New Forest National Park. The meeting was attended by representatives of Totton and Eling Town Council, New Milton Town Council and Fawley Parish Council although they are no longer members of HALC. Presentations were given by Alison Barnes, Chief Executive of the New Forest National Park, and Councillors Malcolm Wade and Nigel Clarke who spoke of the way forward for an association of local councils in the New Forest district. An informal vote taken at the end of the meeting suggested that members were in favour of winding up NFALC so it is likely that a resolution will be put forward to a future meeting.

It is proposed that the Chairman and Vice Chairman will be elected from members of HALC and NALC. It is hoped that other councils, including those in the National Park will wish to join but they will not have voting rights. Task and finish groups will be responsible for specific tasks and it is hoped that local councils will assist them.

From 1 April 2011 all administration for concessionary bus passes will be dealt with by Hampshire County Council. Consideration is being given to ways of dealing with the scheme which will be equitable to all parties as various district councils currently run it in differing ways. A consultation open to all is available on the passenger transport section of the County Council's website.

81/10 Questions to District and County Councillors and Representatives on Outside Bodies arising from their reports

Mr Parkes asked whether it would be possible for the County Council to be asked to consider Hythe Ferry as part of the bus service for the concessionary travel scheme.

Mr A Wade asked Mr Smith whether any comments had been made at the Hythe Ferry Users Group on the first impression made by the appearance of the area when arriving on the ferry at Hythe.

Mr Smith replied that it had not been raised at this particular meeting but he was aware that it is an ongoing concern.

Mr Guy questioned Mr Smith on the fact that it is not always possible to buy a ferry ticket at Southampton.

Mr Smith replied that there is usually a member of staff selling tickets and there is also a ticket machine.

82/10 Questions under Standing Orders 25 and 26

Mrs McLean asked the Chairman whether he was aware that the proposed £1.5 million cut in library spending by the County Council would result in the loss of 3 positions at Hythe library by the end of the year.

Mr Smith replied that he was aware that there would be cuts but not the scale.

83/10 Reports of Committees**Planning Committee – 12 July 2010**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 12 July 2010.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 12 July 2010 be received and adopted.

84/10 Financial Monitoring for period ending 30 June 2010

The Clerk presented the financial monitoring information for the period ending 30 June 2010.

RESOLVED

That the financial monitoring information for the period ending 30 June 2010 be accepted and approved.

85/10 Hampshire County Council Consultation on Proposed Local Transport Plan 3 Strategy

Consideration was given to a response to the Hampshire County Council Consultation on Proposed Local Transport Plan 3 Strategy.

RESOLVED

That a working party comprising Mr Smith, Mr Guy and Mr A Wade respond to the Hampshire County Council Consultation on Proposed Local Transport Plan 3 Strategy.

86/10 New Forest District Council Consultation on Statement of Licensing Policy Section 5 – Licensing Act 2003

Consideration was given to a request from new Forest District Council for comments on its Statement of Licensing Policy consultation.

RESOLVED

That New Forest District Council be advised that this council currently considers that no amendments need to be made to the Statement of Licensing Policy.

87/10 Grant Application 2010/11

Consideration was given to a grant of £500 being given towards the cost of alterations to a bank at Waterside Bowling Club.

RESOLVED

That a grant of £500 be allocated to Waterside Bowling Club.

88/10 Local referendums to veto excessive council tax increases – consultation

Consideration was given to the above consultation document.

Members agreed that this council already consults on relevant issues such as the introduction of a community safety team and holding a referendum would be a waste of valuable funds.

It was felt that the fact that non council tax payers would be able to vote in a referendum would be likely to adversely influence any result.

A member suggested that a percentage cap on smaller councils could cause major problems as a percentage of a small precept may not allow sufficient funds for one off projects.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk and Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council formulate a response to the consultation on local referendums to veto excessive council tax increases.

89/10 **Accounts for Payment**

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

RESOLVED

That accounts as detailed in Vouchers 6087 - 6149 inclusive, totalling £73,050.62, be approved and paid.

90/10 **Exclusion of Press and Public**

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12 of the local Government Act 1972.

91

/10 **Lease Arrangements – Office Accommodation – The Grove – Wessex Cancer Trust**

Consideration was given to the lease arrangements of office accommodation at The Grove to Wessex Cancer Trust for the setting up of a Waterside Cancer Support Centre.

RESOLVED

That Wessex Cancer Trust be offered:-

1. a seven year lease with annual break clauses and rent reviews on the 3rd and 5th anniversary of the lease.
2. a rent free period (service charges still to be payable) for the period 1 October 2010 to 31 March 2011.

once the necessary alterations have been made to the building.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Chairman

Date

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