

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 October 2010 at 8 pm

Members: *Mr D Smith (Chairman) – in the Chair

oMr J Bennett	*Mrs M Robinson
*Mr W Binns	*Mr M Short
*Mr R Guy	*Mr B Uglow
*Mr G Jones	*Mr 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: *Mr B Dash – Hampshire County Councillor
oMrs A McEvoy - Hampshire County Councillor
*Mr 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

* Indicates attendance
o Indicates apologies for absence

130/10 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

131/10 Minutes

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 6 September 2010.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Council held on 6 September 2010 be signed
by the Chairman as correct.

132/10 Public Forum

There were no questions from members of the public.

133/10 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman read a letter to the meeting which he had received from The Waterside Cancer Support Centre thanking the Parish Council and staff for all the assistance received during their recent move into The Grove and issuing an invitation to an Open Morning on 29 October 2010.

134/10 Reports of the County Councillors on County Council matters concerning the Parish

The County Council considered a motion to become a "Fair Trade" Council but the motion was rejected as there were concerns that it would have an adverse effect on local traders.

Consideration has been given to a proposal to introduce directly elected Police Commissioners. Concerns were raised over how the role would function alongside the Chief Constable in operational matters and how it would be scrutinised.

The County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel is supportive of the efforts to reopen Hythe Hospital to inpatients.

The charging policy for Adult Services has gone out for consultation.

The budget update means that savings of £9.2 million will need to be made this year in Children's Services. 132 redundancies are anticipated.

No schools in Hampshire took up the opportunity to become an Academy.

Hampshire Chief Executive was to advise Government on procurement following Hampshire's successful scheme.

135/10 Reports of District Councillors on District Council matters concerning the Parish

The Crime and Disorder Panel discussed the Government's Policing in the 21st century document. One Police and Crime Commissioner is proposed in Hampshire but the Panel feels that it will be better to improve the present set up rather than change it.

At a recent meeting of the New Forest Environmental Protection Liaison Committee a presentation was made by Npower about the work it does in the community.

There was concern that the views of the District Council were not taken into account by the County Council when a consultation was held about the asbestos facility at Fawley. The allegations will be discussed at the next meeting of the New Forest Environmental Liaison Committee.

The housing waiting list has increased in the last 10 years. This is thought to be due to the increase in property and rental prices and the fact that the District Council advertise a waiting list.

There are concerns that sole occupants are able to remain in 4 bedroom properties which would house families on the waiting list but they cannot be forced to move.

The housing maintenance team work on a 10 year programme to ensure that properties reach the Decent Homes Standard. Only 122 homes in the District do not currently meet this standard.

Visits are still being made to sheltered housing complexes to explain the changes that will take place in 2012. Tenants are unhappy at the loss of sheltered housing and wardens and the introduction of over 45's.

The Planning Development Control Committee went on an annual field visit to view the results of planning applications and appeals. This year it was to the Waterside area and members found it a useful experience.

The Planning and Transportation Review Panel received a presentation on the proposed draft of the Lymington Local Distinctiveness Planning Document.

Hythe had the lowest vacancy rates for primary and secondary shop frontages in commercial centres in the area.

136/10 Reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies

At the recent AGM of the Hythe and Dibden Woodland and Waterside Group members were advised that considerable work has been carried out in the past year including the laying of chippings and drainage channels, repairing of river banks, replacement of wooden boards and reed bed clearance. The plans for the coming year include replacement of wire on bridges, backfilling of river banks, repairs to paths and the introduction of bat boxes. The election of officers resulted in Ian Cottrell becoming Chairman and Brian Boniface becoming Treasurer.

Mr Smith attended the AGM of the New Forest Association of Local Councils with the Clerk to the Council. There were 11 councils in attendance who unanimously voted to disband the organisation.

The Clerk to the Council and the Clerk of Ringwood Town Council have been tasked with the formation of a new organisation. It is hoped that this will operate from Appletree Court, Lyndhurst with some assistance from the District Council.

A recent meeting of Hythe Ferry Users Group discussed issues such as the fact that the ferry will share the pontoon at Southampton with the Isle of Wight Red Jet for the foreseeable future. The repair work at the end of the Pier is taking time due to financial constraints. It will not be possible to run the ferry earlier on Sundays as this would require the implementation of 2 shifts on the day. The County Council is still looking into whether the ferry can be regarded as a bus in the concessionary travel scheme but it seems unlikely to be included.

137/10 **Questions to District and County Councillors and Representatives on Outside Bodies arising from their reports**

Mr A Wade asked Mr Dash how the redundancies in Children's Services would be handled.

Mr Dash responded that they would be handled in a compassionate way consistent with Hampshire County Council policy. Around 15 – 20 would be managerial posts.

138/10 **Questions under Standing Orders 25 and 26**

Mrs McLean asked the Chairman whether he was aware that a petition had been raised by residents who are unhappy at the likely loss of 3 jobs at Hythe Library.

The petition was handed to the Chairman with a request to pass it to Mr Thornber, Leader of Hampshire County Council, and ask him to commit to a fully funded library service.

139/10 **Reports of Committees**

Planning Committee – 6 September 2010

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 6 September 2010.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 6 September 2010 be received and adopted.

140/10 **Review of Arrangements for the operation of Zip Wire at Ewart Recreation Ground**

Following complaints from residents that the zip wire is taken out of use at Ewart Recreation Ground at weekends consideration was given to a solution.

Concern was expressed that leaving the zip wire in situ but chained up would result in damage to the equipment. It was suggested that residents are more likely to want to use the equipment outside of the normal hours when the days are longer and lighter and a solution should be sought before next summer which has minimal budgetary implications.

RESOLVED

That solutions be sought on how to increase the length of time the zip wire is available for use at Ewart Recreation Ground next summer and presented to a future meeting with budgetary implications.

141/10 **Proposed increase in annual fee for 2011/12 – HALC**

Consideration was given to how the Chairman should vote on a proposed increase in the annual fee for HALC at the forthcoming AGM.

Members felt that HALC should look initially at any savings which could be made before asking for an increase in fees.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman vote against the proposed increase in annual fee for 2011/12 for HALC.

142/10 **Recommendation of the Review of Internal Audit Working Party**

Consideration was given to the recommendation of the Review of the Internal Audit Working Party.

RESOLVED

That the recommendation of the Review of the Internal Audit Working Party be adopted.

143/10 **Consultation on changes to Big Lottery Grant Funding**

Consideration was given to a request for comments from NALC on the above consultation.

RESOLVED

That NALC be advised that this Council expresses regret at the loss of funding to community projects and feels that the scheme should remain as it is.

144/10 **Consultation on Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity**

Consideration was given to the above document.

RESOLVED

That the Consultation on Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity be noted.

145/10 **Notes of the Flood Working Party**

Consideration was given to the notes of the Flood Working Party.

RESOLVED

That the notes and recommendations of the Flood Working Party be adopted.

146/10 **Accounts for Payment**

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

RESOLVED

That accounts as detailed in Vouchers 6208-6317 inclusive, totalling £63,787.62, be approved and paid.

The meeting closed at 9.03pm.

Chairman

Date

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