

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 10 January 2011 at 8.05 pm

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

oMr J Bennett	*Mrs M Robinson
*Mr W Binns	*Mr 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: *Mr B Dash – Hampshire County Councillor
oMrs A McEvoy - Hampshire County Councillor
*Mrs B Smith – New Forest District Councillor
*Mr S S Wade – New Forest District Councillor
1 Member of the Public
Inspector A Reading (Hampshire Police)
Alison Barnes (New Forest National Park Authority)
Rob Ainslie (New Forest National Park Authority)

* Indicates attendance
o Indicates apologies for absence

229/10 Discussion with Alison Barnes, Chief Executive, New Forest National Park Authority

Members were pleased to welcome Alison Barnes, Chief Executive of the New Forest National Park Authority and Rob Ainslie, Head of Development Control, New Forest National Park Authority to the meeting.

Alison Barnes spoke of her first 6 months in the job and her view of the future. There are more than 90 stakeholders in the National Park Authority which can cause problems in pleasing everyone but it also gives an opportunity for a multi agency approach to running the authority.

Members expressed concerns that as only part of Hythe is in the New Forest NPA it may not be seen as a priority but they were assured that the boundaries are seen as very important and it makes sense for all areas to work together.

230/10 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

231/10 Minutes

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

Minute 204/10

It was agreed that minute 204/10 should be amended to include that Mrs Robinson had also been co-opted to the Hampshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Panel.

Minute 208/10

The Clerk read the response from Karen Murray at Hampshire County Council to a query about the Registrar ceasing to attend the Community Centre for registrations of births, deaths and marriages.

Members were not satisfied with the response given and it was agreed to formulate a further letter seeking further clarification.

Minute 211/10

The Clerk informed members that he had been advised that membership of HALC has been frozen at £900 pa for large councils.

RESOLVED

That, subject to the above, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 6 December 2010 be signed by the Chairman as correct.

232/10 Public Forum

There were no questions from members of the public.

233/10 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Alex Reading to the meeting and the area.

Inspector Reading asked members to advise him of the best way in which to share information at future meetings. It was suggested that the Clerk and Inspector Reading met to discuss requirements.

234/10 Reports of the County Councillors on County Council matters concerning the Parish

As a result of the South East Plan being scrapped the amount of sand and gravel expected to be extracted from the area should drop from an expected 6.3 tonnes per annum to around 1.7 tonnes pa.

There will no longer be concessionary fares on Hythe Ferry due to a significant reduction in government grants and the need for the new Hampshire County Council scheme to be uniform for all.

There are concerns over the withdrawal of funds from the schools budget in anticipation of schools taking up academy status.

235/10 Reports of District Councillors on District Council matters concerning the Parish

The medium term financial plan has been published. The New Forest District Council settlement will see a reduction of £2.6 million over 2 years (26%). The reduction for 2011/12 will be £1.7 million (16%). It is also anticipated that the cost of increases in fuel and loss of income from interest and grants will reduce income by a further £1.3 million in 2011/12.

If council tax is frozen for the next year a grant of £240,000 will be available.

This all means that savings of £2.7 million will have to be found in the next year. £2.5 million savings have been identified so far with the outstanding amount being worked on. Savings are hoped to be made by collaborating with other bodies.

A meeting of the Housing Panel is to be held to discuss sheltered housing and rents.

As a result of the Localism Bill the Community Infrastructure Levy is on track to replace developers' contributions.

Mrs Smith praised the collection of refuse in the recent inclement weather. It was agreed to write to the District Council in this respect.

236/10 Reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies

Mrs McLean advised members that a new Clerk has been appointed to the Dibden Allotments Fund to replace the present Clerk who will be retiring on 31 January 2011.

237/10 Questions to District and County Councillors and Representatives on Outside Bodies arising from their reports

Mr Binns asked Mr Dash whether the concessionary travel scheme whereby 17 year olds can obtain a 50p reduction on bus travel would be continuing.

Mr Dash responded that it was a District Council Scheme.

Mr Binns asked whether concessionary bus passes would be continuing after April and what timings would be involved.

Members were under the impression that concessionary bus passes would continue after April and be valid after 9.30 am.

238/10 Questions under Standing Orders 25 and 26

There were no questions under Standing Orders 25 and 26.

239/10 Reports of Committees

Planning Committee – 6 December 2010

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

RESOLVED

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

240/10 Young Sports Person of the Year Award – to appoint the working party

Consideration was given to the appointment of a working party to consider nominations for the Young Sports Person of the Year Award.

RESOLVED

That Mrs McLean, Mr A Wade and Mr Parkes form a working party to consider nominations for the Young Sports Person of the Year Award.

241/10 To review Direct Debit Payments

Consideration was given to the direct debit payment arrangements.

RESOLVED

That the direct debit payment arrangements be noted.

242/10 Consideration of Acceptability of Apologies from Jon Bennett

Consideration was given to the acceptability of apologies from Jon Bennett.

RESOLVED

That the reason for Jon Bennett's absence be approved.

243/10 Review of Governance Arrangements of National Parks – Consultation Document

Consideration was given to the review of governance arrangements of National Parks.

Members expressed concern that some element of direct election is not used in the formation of National Park Authorities. It was also felt that there should be a limit to the length of time which people are allowed to serve although this should take account of the fact that it can take a long time to learn and be effective in specialised positions.

RESOLVED

That views on improving links and engagement with local communities should be passed to the Clerk in order for him to formulate a response

to the Review of Governance Arrangements of National Parks Consultation Document in accordance with the comments above.

244/10 Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

Consideration was given to a request for views from the District Council on a review of polling districts and polling places.

RESOLVED

That the District Council be advised that this Council has no comment to add to the review of polling districts and polling places.

245/10 Reallocation of Funding in Hythe and Dibden

Consideration was given to the proposed reallocation of funding by the District Council's Transport Section which was originally secured for the construction of the Dibden Distributor Road Phase 3.

Members were sad to lose out on improvements to Claypits Lane but accepted that there was no viable alternative.

RESOLVED

That the proposed reallocation of funding in Hythe and Dibden be accepted.

246/10 Review of current meeting arrangements and proposed schedule of meeting 2011/12

A review was made of the new system of holding Council meetings on a monthly basis and consideration given to altering the meeting date to every second Wednesday of the month from May 2011.

The Clerk advised the meeting that, if agreed, the new meeting date would need to start from June 2011 due to regulations which prescribe meeting dates after an election has been held.

RESOLVED

1. That the Council continues to meet on a monthly basis.
2. From June 2011 meetings of the Council be held on the second Wednesday each month.

247/10 Signing of Documents

Transfer document – Public Open Space, Blue Bell Gardens, Hythe
Between Linden Homes Southern Ltd and the Parish Council

RESOLVED

That authority be given to sign the documents as required by the Clerk to the Council.

248/10 Accounts for Payment

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

RESOLVED

That accounts as detailed in Vouchers 6459-6521 inclusive, totalling £48,016.61, be approved and paid.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Chairman
Date
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