

## HYTHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Amenities Committee  
held at The Grove, St John's Street, Hythe  
on Monday, 2 June 2003 at 8.40 pm.

Members:                    \*Mrs M McLean (Chairman) – in the Chair

oMr J Bennett	*Mr M Short
*Mr G Dawson	*Mr D Smith
oMr C Harrison	*Mr M Wade
*Mr G Parkes	*Mr S Wade

\* Indicates attendance  
o Indicates apologies for absence

In attendance:            Ms S A Maitland (Deputy Clerk to the Council)  
Mrs C Patterson (Minute Clerk)  
Mr S Spencer (Foreman)

Also present:              Mr R Guy  
Mrs M Robinson  
3 Members of the Public  
1 Member of the Press

### 48/03    Minutes

The Minutes of the Meetings of the Committee held on 7 April 2003 and 12 May 2003, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

### 49/03    Public Participation Period

#### Echo Office, Hythe

Mr P East, local reporter for the Southern Daily Echo, advised Members that, due to the expiry of the lease, the local office of the Echo would soon be closing and all business would be transferred to the offices of the New Forest Post in Lymington.

Although assurances had been made that local coverage would continue, Members expressed regret at this retrograde step and requested that a letter be sent to the Southern Daily Echo suggesting that they reconsider the closure of such a well used facility.

#### Vandalism – Sir Christopher Court

Mrs V Morelli addressed Members on behalf of the residents of Sir Christopher Court concerning the amount of vandalism and intimidation by youths they are being subjected to in their own homes. Problems include the throwing of stones at windows, drug taking, drunken behaviour, urination in public, older youths joy-riding and children as young as 9 shouting abuse at 10.30 pm. The Police always attend when called, but are having problems catching the perpetrators in the act.

Mrs Morelli asked that the Council consider the purchase of CCTV cameras so that the Police could obtain photographic evidence in order to make a prosecution.

It was explained that the type of CCTV monitoring systems needed to provide this kind of evidence are beyond the budget of this Council, but Members agreed to look into the costings and feasibility of a recording system. This Council will also continue to press the District Council for inclusion on the New Forest CCTV monitoring scheme.

The problem of underage drinking was of concern to Members as most local Off-licences appear to have been successful in limiting the sale of alcohol to under 21's. It was suggested that the problem was brought to the attention of the Off-licence in central Hythe in a bid to alleviate it.

Members of the public were advised that regular meetings to look into the problem had already started and it was agreed to hold a public meeting to which Inspector Winchester would be invited.

It was agreed to investigate the possibility of employing Community Wardens, as used by Test Valley Borough Council.

It was agreed that the Security Company be asked to carry out security checks at The Grove gardens on Friday and Saturday evenings.

50/03 **Vandalism**

Consideration was given to the report on vandalism.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted and a similar one made for each meeting of the Committee (copy to Inspector Winchester).

51/03 **Dog Warden Patrol Report – February, March and April 2003**

Consideration was given to the Dog Warden Patrol Report for February, March and April 2003.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

52/03 **Play Area – Cathay Gardens (Minute 452/02)**

**(a) To form a Play Equipment Working Party.**

Consideration was given to the formation of a Play Equipment Working Party for the Cathay Gardens Play Area.

RESOLVED

That the Working Party comprise M Wade, G Dawson, D Lockyer, C Huxham, M McLean, the Foreman and the Deputy Clerk.

**(b) To arrange a date for a meeting of the Play Equipment Working Party.**

RESOLVED

That a meeting be held at the Grove on Tuesday 24 June 2003 at 6.15 pm.

53/03 **Mansell Close (Minute 433/02)**

Members were asked to reconsider their decision of September 2002 (171/02) in which they resolved to object to the proposal to sell amenity land to a householder.

RESOLVED

That there is no reason to alter the previous resolution.

54/03 **Parish Hall**

**(a) Entertainment Licence**

Consideration was given to extending the Parish Hall Entertainment Licence to include entertainment on Sundays.

As the current restrictions were originally intended to restrict the noise for local residents it was suggested that they be advised what sort of entertainment will be allowed on a Sunday and asked for their views.

## RESOLVED

That a letter be sent to local residents requesting their views on the proposed changes.

**(b) Performing Rights Licence**

Members were advised that a Performing Rights Licence is required at the Parish Hall as copyright music is used at some events

## RESOLVED

That a Performing Rights Licence be obtained.

55/03 **Policy Statements**

Consideration was given to the updated Policy Statements.

## RESOLVED

That the Policy Statements be approved.

56/03 **Forest Front Open Space Power Supply**

Due to the ongoing problems with vandalism at Forest Front Open Space, particularly with the electricity supply box, Members discussed the possibility of turning off the power supply permanently and removing the lighting columns. Whilst this would cure one problem, it was felt it may cause others with youngsters attempting to use the park in the dark and injuring themselves.

As the promise had been made to the Community to provide lighting, it was felt that every effort should be made to keep it for those who were not abusing the facility, but it was also felt that the Community should be assisting in protecting the facility.

## RESOLVED

That the electricity remains off for the present, whilst further investigations are made into how other Councils protect their facilities. The matter will be considered again at the next Meeting of the Committee.

57/03 **Land between Partridge Road and Lodge Drive (82/00)**

Members reconsidered a previous request to relocate the steps between Lodge Drive and Partridge Road, further to the previous resolution that the relocation of steps is not pursued.

## RESOLVED

That the relocation of the steps is not pursued.

58/03 **The Ex-Piggery Site**

Consideration was given to the most cost effective method of making safe the ex-Piggery site at Mountfield in view of the fact that the land owner refuses to fence it and both animals and children are wandering around the derelict and unsafe buildings.

Consideration was also given to a request from a resident whose land adjoins the property to purchase an adjacent strip of land which he currently rents.

## RESOLVED

(a) That this Council's Insurers be contacted to ascertain who is responsible in case of accident and whether cover is held for this.

(b) That the existing hedge be reinforced if necessary.

- (c) That investigations be made into ownership of the land to the south of the site with a view to obtaining access to remove rubble.
- (d) That the derelict buildings be razed to the ground if access cannot be obtained to remove them.
- (e) That the resident is not permitted to buy the land.

59/03 **Suspension of Standing Orders**

It was proposed and subsequently resolved that Standing Order 44.1 be suspended.

60/03 **Moorlands, Beaulieu Road, Amenity Land**

Consideration was given to the developer's proposals for landscaping the amenity land at Moorlands, Dibden Purlieu.

RESOLVED

That the Deputy Clerk and the Foreman liaise with the developer.

61/03 **Hythe in Bloom (Minute 317/02)**

Consideration was given to this year's Hythe in Bloom competition which was not being run in its usual format due to lack of interest in previous years. However, an enquiry had been received from a prospective entrant who had already made a considerable amount of effort.

Members were informed that the Hythe in Bloom competition, as advertised in the Waterside Herald, was for traders only this year and was to be judged in conjunction with the Waterside Arts Festival.

62/03 **Friends of St John's Church**

Consideration was given to the outline plans for the major refurbishment scheme being planned for St John's Churchyard.

Members also considered a request for a volunteer to join the Friends of St John's Church Committee.

RESOLVED

- (a) That a letter be sent to Rev. Baird agreeing to the principle of the outline plans.
- (b) That Mr Bennett be asked to join the Friends of St John's Church Committee.

The Meeting closed at 10.20 pm.

Chairman

Date

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