

HYTHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Amenities Committee
held at The Grove, St John's Street, Hythe
on Monday, 14 July 2003 at 8.10 pm.

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

*Mr J Bennett	*Mr M Short
*Mr G Dawson	*Mr D Smith
*Mr 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)
Mrs C Huxham (Youth Worker)

Also present: Mr R Podesta
8 Members of the Public
2 Members of the Press

118/03 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 2 June 2003, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

119/03 **Declarations of Interest**

Mr C Harrison declared an interest in Minute 128/03 as he is a Governor of Applemore College.

120/03 **Public Participation Period**

Cathay Gardens Play Area Nuisance

Residents from the houses adjoining the Cathay Gardens Play Area addressed the Committee on the problems they have encountered from some young people. Problems include bottle throwing, foul language, noise, vandalism, trespass and intimidation.

The Chairman sympathised with the residents, but explained that this is a growing problem which will take time to tackle. In the short term it was suggested that a letter be sent from the Council to Inspector Winchester reminding him of the problem and asking that extra patrols be sent to the area to act as a deterrent.

It was agreed that the Working Party should look into the future use of the Play Area when the equipment reaches the end of its lifespan. Investigations into any byelaws relating to Play Areas should also be made.

121/03 **Dog Warden Report – May 2003**

a) Signage at Ewart Recreation Ground

Consideration was given to the removal of the signs which state "no fouling of maintained areas" at Ewart Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED

That the signs be removed.

b) Service Level Agreement

Members were advised that the District Council are no longer able to provide a 12 month contract for the Dog Warden Scheme. The Council now need to sign up for 3 months.

The Council gave consideration to entering into the 3 monthly rotational Service Level Agreement.

RESOLVED

That the new Service Level Agreement be entered into, with a letter sent to the District Council deploring the fact that there are insufficient funds to maintain a 12 month contract.

c) Report

Consideration was given to the Dog Warden Report for May 2003.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

122/03 Play Equipment Working Party Meeting Notes (Min 52/03 (b))

Consideration was given to the Meeting Notes of the Play Equipment Working Party and the recommendations made.

RESOLVED

That the recommendations be adopted with the potential Play Areas at Cathay Gardens/Cosworth Drive, and Scott-Paine Drive/Shore Road Picnic Area being added to the prioritisation list.

123/03 Parish Hall Entertainments Licence (Min 54/03 (b))

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

Letters had been sent to local residents requesting their views on the proposal. One letter of support and two letters of disapproval had been received.

It was felt that certain forms of entertainment may be unsuitable for Sundays, but this could be catered for within the Conditions of Hire.

RESOLVED

1. That a Licence is applied for.
2. That the Conditions of Hire be reviewed.

124/03 Forest Front Open Space (Skate Park) Power Supply (Min 56/03)

Consideration was given to the removal of the power supply at Forest Front Skate Park should it become unsafe.

RESOLVED

That the power supply be removed if necessary after consultation with the Chairman of the Council, The Chairman of the Amenities Committee and the Clerk to the Council, or their deputies in their absence.

125/03 Sir Christopher Court Public Meeting

Consideration was given to the notes of the Meeting held at The Grove on 17 June 2003, concerning Vandalism and Nuisance.

RESOLVED

That the notes be amended to include the names of Mr Podesta, Mr Smith and Mr Short who attended the meeting and Mr Harrison who sent his apologies.

126/03 **Public Seat – Beaulieu Road**

Consideration was given to the provision of a seat close to the Hospital Bus Stop in Beaulieu Road

RESOLVED

That a seat be provided.

127/03 **Noads Way Play Area**

The Foreman advised the Committee that work was progressing well at the Noads Way Play Area and should be finished on schedule.

Consideration was given to the time of closure of the Play Area in winter following the advice of the Security Firm that it is difficult to enforce a time which is not specific.

RESOLVED

That the Noads Way Play Area be closed at 8 pm in summer and 4.30 pm during the winter months.

128/03 **Beechwood Way/Applemore College boundary fencing.**

Members were advised of a proposal to clear some land adjacent to Applemore College playing fields and then fence it in order to prevent it being used as a shortcut to the College and Tesco. The College are presently awaiting a specification for the works from the County Council.

The work could involve a request for the Council to provide some boundary fencing on its boundary.

RESOLVED

That the proposal be noted and investigated further when specification has been received from Applemore College.

(Mr Harrison declared an interest in this item, but remained in the Meeting during discussion thereof.)

129/03 **Shore Road Picnic Area**

A Member advised the Committee that there is no play provision for children living in the Britannia Gate/Ligherman Quay area and suggested that the Shore Road Picnic Area would be a good site to provide a new area.

It was mentioned that there is already a Play Area at Shore Road but parents may not be happy to allow younger children there unaccompanied. The Youth Worker advised Members that a Fun Day will soon be held at the Shore Road Play Area to let local children know where it is and what is on offer.

Members were advised that an area of Amenity Land adjacent to Scott-Paine Drive was specified for use as a Children's Play Area on the original plan, but has not yet been made over to this Council.

RESOLVED

That the District Council be advised that this Council will not accept the transfer of Scott-Paine Drive amenity land unless Planning requirements are met.

130/03 Signage at Cheviot Drive

Consideration was given to the provision of a "no ball games" sign at Cheviot Drive Open Space as the residents are suffering anti-social behaviour from a minority of people kicking footballs at their walls.

RESOLVED

That the legal position regarding enforcement of a sign be investigated.

131/03 Vandalism

Members were requested to note the Vandalism Report for the period 24 May 2003 to 4 July 2003.

RESOLVED

That the Report be noted.

132/03 Notice Boards

A request was made that Council notices are not obscured by other notices on the notice boards.

133/03 Instructions on speaking at Meetings

A Member reminded the Committee that it had been agreed previously to hand out instructions to the public on how to participate in the Public Participation Period of Meetings.

The Deputy Clerk agreed to investigate the matter.

134/03 Langdown Junior and Infant Schools Amalgamation

A Member referred to the Meeting regarding the proposed amalgamation of Langdown Junior and Infant Schools and asked that the matter be taken to the next meeting of the Council so that discussions could take place on how this Council would be kept informed of the process.

135/03 30 Partridge Road – Steps

A Member informed the Committee that the owners of 30 Partridge Road are presently in dispute with the District Council over ownership of the land containing the steps and the matter would be brought back to Committee when progress had been made.

136/03 Cutway – Challenger Way/Orchard Schools

Members were advised that a verbal agreement made by parents not to park cars in Orchard Way when collecting children from school was being abused causing problems with safety.

It was agreed to consider the possibility of parking restrictions on a future agenda.

137/03 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.

138/03 Call out Rota

The Chairman advised Members of a recent incident in which a telephone call from a member of the public was made to the home of a member of staff from the numbers issued on the confidential voluntary call out rota.

Members were reminded that these telephone numbers should only be used by those to whom they are issued at New Forest District Council, the Police, ADT and Councillors.

The Meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Chairman

Date

mname85