

HYTHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Amenities Committee
held at The Grove, St John's Street, Hythe
on Monday, 24 November 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 (Maintenance and Facilities Manager)

Also present: Inspector M Buckle

322/03 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 13 October 2003, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

323/03 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

324/03 **Public Participation Period**

There were no members of the public present.

325/03 **Vandalism**

(a) Report

Members noted the vandalism report for the period 4 October to 7 November 2003.

(b) Forest Front

Inspector Buckle attended the meeting in order to answer questions from Members regarding the continuing nuisance from the unauthorised use of motorcycles and quad bikes at Forest Front.

Concern was expressed at the slow Police response to calls from members of the public. Inspector Buckle explained that this was due to the fact that from the details being given the problem was given a slow time response grade. If it was felt that there was threatening behaviour or danger to life involved the emergency 999 number should be called and this fact made obvious. He also requested that more calls be made at the time of the incident.

Inspector Buckle advised that he was in the process of reforming Neighbour Watch groups and hoped that this would be of assistance in preventing vandalism and nuisance.

RESOLVED

1. That the County Council be asked to block all the unauthorised access points to the A326 and investigate the possibility of reinstating the ditch.
2. That the District Council be asked to close the cycle passageway to Elm Close.

3. That the possibility of leaving 8 access points, only 3 of which comply with the Disability Discrimination Act, be investigated.
4. That Inspector Buckle's comments be communicated to residents together with the mobile phone number of the local 'beat bobby', PC Woodhead, as necessary.
5. That the Security Firm be asked for their views on providing a presence at Forest Front for a short period of time in order to gather information.

326/03 **Budget**

Consideration was given to the draft Budget Paper for 2004/2005.

2600

Clarification was sought on the Village Green income.

1600 /1/3

There was concern that this amount was too high for petrol and diesel.

The Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor advised that this figure included the rental cost of a temporary vehicle.

1600 /1/5

The Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor advised these funds had been spent and the bills were awaited.

RESOLVED

That the proposed income and expenditure relating to this Committee as shown in the Budget Papers be agreed and recommended to Council for adoption.

327/03 **Dog Warden Scheme**

It was felt that the current scheme was unsatisfactory and that investigations should be made into buying the service from another organisation.

RESOLVED

That investigations be made into receiving a dog warden service from alternative organisations.

328/03 **Flagpoles**

Members considered the plans for the provision of two flagpoles on the front wall of The Grove.

RESOLVED

1. That the provision of angled flagpoles on the building not be pursued.
2. That the provision of upright flagpoles be considered for health and safety reasons and for ease of use.

329/03 **Woodland Footpath – Tates Copse**

Consideration was given to the provision of a Woodland Footpath in Tates Copse by Hythe and Dibden Woodland Group. A quotation of £350 had been received and the Woodland Group had asked this Council to fund this.

RESOLVED

That the quotation is accepted and funding provided.

330/03 **Footpath – Cheviot Drive**

Members were advised that a new footpath is due to be installed between Ashburton Close and Cheviot Drive in the New Year as part of the section 106 agreement. It is hoped that Hampshire County Council will adopt this path but in order for this to happen the streetlight will have to be installed by their nominated contractors.

RESOLVED

That under Standing Order 78, Standing Order 73.5 be suspended in relation to Quotations and Tenders on the basis that Hampshire County Council has nominated contractors to deal with the installation of streetlights.

331/03 **Land off Brecon Close, Dibden Purlieu**

Consideration was given to the future use of land off Brecon Close.

RESOLVED

- (a) That an environmental assessment is made of the land.
- (b) That licences be offered to homeowners for the use of land as residential gardens to ensure the land is retained and maintained as the Council would wish.
- (c) That letters are sent to all residents in Brecon Close at least once every ten years informing them that they must not retain any of the Parish Council's land within their boundaries.

332/03 **Inspection of Open Spaces and Amenity Areas**

Consideration was given to the proposal that all land entrusted to the Parish Council as Open Space and Amenity land should be inspected annually to ensure that boundaries are not encroached upon.

RESOLVED

That all boundaries are inspected annually with appropriate records being maintained and immediate action taken.

333/03 **Parish Hall – Terms and Conditions for the Hire of**

Consideration was given to the Terms and Conditions for the Hire of the Parish Hall as certain points needed clarifying for ease of use.

RESOLVED

1. That preferential hire rates continue to be given for charitable events providing the applicants are members of a Registered Charity and able to provide the Registered Charity Number.
2. That Note 4 which states "booking from organisations/bodies from outside the Parish, plus 10%" be deleted.
3. That a Commercial let be defined as one where the operator retains surplus money or part thereof for their own use.

334/03 **Plain English Campaign**

Consideration was given to the training and services offered by the Plain English Campaign.

RESOLVED

That the Deputy Clerk attend a Plain English Campaign training course.

335/03 **Tap at School Road Allotments**

The Deputy Clerk read Members a letter from a School Road allotment holder in which he thanked the Parish Council for the provision of an additional tap at School Road Allotments.

336/03 **Heatherstone Avenue – Parking**

Concern was expressed at the number of cars parking on the grass island at Heatherstone Avenue when parents collected their children from school.

Members were advised that negotiations are ongoing with Paul Monk and a report will be made at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm.

Chairman

Date

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