

HYTHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Amenities Committee
held at The Grove, St John's Street, Hythe
on Monday, 5 April 2004 at 8.10 pm.

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

*Mr J Bennett	Mr M Short
oMr 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 Supervisor)

Also present: 3 Members of the Public

513/03 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 16 February 2004, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

514/03 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

515/03 **Public Participation Period**

1) Planning Committee timing

Mr Uglow expressed concern at the overrunning of the Planning Committee when Members of the Public are waiting for the next Meeting to start.

The Chairman reminded Mr Uglow of the new timings for Committee Meetings, which will run for a 6 month experimental period from 7 June 2004, which it is hoped will alleviate this problem.

2) Forest Front Skate Park

Mr Uglow advised Members that he had witnessed bullying at the Skate Park.

He was advised that this matter would be covered as an Agenda Item.

516/03 **Vandalism Report**

Consideration was given to the Vandalism Report for 7 February 2004 and the summary of the annual cost of vandalism.

Members felt that provision may need to be made in the budget for such costs as it was reported that due to the excess fee of £250.00, very few insurance claims can be made.

A Member queried the amount of damage done to bus shelters, particularly in Challenger Way. He was advised that the shelters belong to Adshel and all maintenance is their responsibility, although it was recommended that all incidents are reported to the Police.

RESOLVED

That the Report be noted.

517/03 **Forest Front Skate Park**

Consideration was given to the issues raised in a letter to Councillor Beck, the District Council's Crime and Disorder Portfolio Holder, relating to alleged problems at the Forest Front Skate Park.

It was felt that allegations of problems with the structure, design and maintenance of the Skate Park were unfounded and the area is well maintained.

Members were advised that the Handy Trust is in the process of employing a part time Youth Worker to work in the area, PRIME are looking into ways to solve the motorbike problem, the Forestry Commission are planning how to make the land less attractive to motorbikes and the District Council are trying to solve the problem of fly tipping.

RESOLVED

That sufficient action is being taken to remedy any problems.

518/03 **Ewart Recreation Ground****a) Request to replace hut**

Consideration was given to a request from Hythe and Dibden Youth Football Academy to replace the wooden storage hut on Ewart Recreation Ground with a 20 ft shipping line container.

Whilst wishing to be supportive of all the work that the Football Academy does in the Community, Members felt that a shipping line container would not complement future plans for the area. It was suggested that Shore Road Playing Fields would be more suitable for their needs.

RESOLVED

That a shipping container is not appropriate for this site.

b) Footpaths

Consideration was given to the alteration of two entrances to Ewart Recreation Ground in order to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

RESOLVED

1. That the access from West Hill Drive be altered as outlined at an approximate cost of £2400.00.
2. That the access from Jones Lane be investigated further prior to installing the footpath to ensure it is in the best possible location.

519/03 **Athletics Track – Shore Road Playing Field**

Consideration was given to an approach from the New Forest Junior Athletic Club to use Shore Road Playing Field as its base.

Members were most supportive of the concept, particularly if a joint development with Hythe and Dibden Youth Football Academy would be feasible.

RESOLVED

That further investigations are made.

520/03 **Gateways**

The Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor advised Members that the signs for the new Gateways have been ordered.

New Forest District Council have agreed to pay for resurfacing and it is hoped that work will be completed by the end of April.

Members complimented the maintenance staff on their efforts to keep local signage clean.

521/03 **Informal Open Space – Proposed residential development, Oak Road/West Road, Dibden Purlieu**

Consideration was given to a request from the developers for this Council to take over and maintain a small sitting area and an informal open space on the above development.

The developer would make a contribution for maintenance of the area of £4145.00, however Members felt that this was not sufficient for the amount of work involved on an annual basis.

RESOLVED

1. That the seating area will not be adopted.
2. That the informal open space will only be adopted if an increased maintenance contribution is offered.

522/03 **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.

523/03 **Potential Accident Claims****a) Ewart Recreation Ground**

Members noted details of an accident which occurred at Ewart Recreation Ground.

b) Malvern Drive – Bridge

Members noted details of an accident on the Malvern Drive footpath.

c) Damage to coat – Prospect Place

Members noted reports of damage to a coat from a seat at Prospect Place.

d) Wooden Hut – Ewart Recreation Ground – Risk Assessment

Consideration was given to the removal of the wooden hut at Ewart Recreation Ground which is in an unsafe condition.

The Deputy Clerk reported that plans and an initial request to site the hut indicated that ownership rested with Dibden Metros who formally merged with Hythe and Dibden Football Club and passed the keys to them.

RESOLVED

That a letter be sent to Hythe and Dibden Football Club, together with a copy of the risk assessment, stating that the building must not be used with immediate effect and must be safely removed from the site 28 days from the date of receipt of the letter. A further 28 days will then be allowed for the safe removal of the concrete base.

If they do not follow this course of action the building will be removed and they will be invoiced.

The Meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

Chairman

Date

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