

HYTHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Amenities Committee
held at The Grove, St John's Street, Hythe
on Monday, 7 June 2004 at 8 pm.

Members: *Mr C Harrison (Chairman) – in the Chair

*Mr J Bennett	*Mr M Short
oMr R Guy	*Mr D Smith
*Mr M McLean	*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: 4 Members of the Public.

52/04 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 5 April 2004, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

53/04 **Declaration of Interest**

Mr S Wade declared an interest in Minute 62/04 as he rents an allotment.

54/04 **Public Participation Period**

Byelaw Signs

Mr Uglow advised Members that the new byelaw signs which had been erected in the Forest Front area had been removed immediately by vandals and suggested a letter drop to local residents advising them of their responsibilities and acceptable behaviour.

It was agreed to discuss the problem as a future agenda item.

Orchids

Mr Uglow complained that the grass cutting on the Forest Front Open Space had been stopped too early preventing the orchids from flowering again this year.

The Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor explained that he follows a cutting programme as advised by English Nature but agreed to clarify the position with them.

55/04 **Vandalism**

Members noted the report on vandalism.

56/04 **Gateways**

The Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor advised Members that the signs for the Gateways are in place and the flowers have been planted. The District Council will apply the new road surfaces in the near future.

57/04 **Forest Front Footpaths**

The Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor advised Members that two tarmac footpaths have been installed at Forest Front and that they are compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act. An update on additional works will be brought to a future meeting as the matter is presently being discussed with the Forestry Commission.

58/04 Byelaw notices

The Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor advised Members that the new byelaw signs which were recently concreted in at Forest Front had been stolen the next day. They were subsequently found and reinstalled in the same week but had now been vandalised.

59/04 Hanging Baskets – Dibden Purlieu

Members were advised that hanging baskets will be installed on four lamp-posts in Dibden Purlieu this year.

60/04 Anti-Social Behaviour**Noads Way Play Area**

Consideration was given to altering the time for closure of Noads Way Play Area from 8 pm to 6 pm following a recommendation from the Security Firm.

RESOLVED

That the closure time be altered to 6 pm for the summer months and kept under review.

Ewart Recreation Ground

Consideration was given to the problems encountered recently at Ewart Recreation Ground with anti-social behaviour.

It was felt that a lot of problems come from underage drinking, a problem which needs to be addressed in conjunction with the Police who are attending the next General Purposes and Finance Meeting. The Deputy Clerk advised Members that she had received a letter from Stephanie Sutton at New Forest District Council concerning the law on drinking in public places which she would circulate to them.

RESOLVED

That the Security Firm patrol Ewart Recreation Ground at weekends for the rest of this financial year.

61/04 Play Equipment Working Party

Consideration was given to the notes of the meeting of the Play Equipment Working Party which was held on 25 May 2004.

RESOLVED

That the notes and the recommendation made be adopted.

62/04 Allotments**Rules and Conditions for Allotment Gardens (Minute 267/03)**

Consideration was given to the draft Rules and Conditions for Allotment Gardens.

RESOLVED

1. That the final word of rule 13 should change from acceptable to permitted.
2. That a new rule should be added as No. 14 to read, "The tenant shall use environmentally friendly, non-chemical brands of weed killer as recommended by MAFF".
3. That rule 22 (now 23) should continue, "unless it is personal compostable kitchen waste".

4. That, subject to the above, the Rules and Conditions be adopted.

Deposits and Rotovation

Consideration was given to the revision of certain procedures.

RESOLVED

That the following procedures be adopted:-

1. Raise the deposit for all separate allotment tenancies to £40.00 for new tenancies.
2. The deposit will not include a free rotovation but the plot will be cleared and strimmed as necessary prior to a new tenant taking over the allotment.
3. Rotovations will be undertaken at a charge of £30.
4. Rotovation will not be undertaken between 1 June and 1 October unless under extreme circumstances e.g. poor health, personal circumstances.
5. Deposits will be refunded when the tenancy is terminated provided that the allotment can be re-let without any maintenance or clearance work having to be undertaken by the Council's workforce.

Notice Boards

Consideration was given to the provision of notice boards at allotment sites after a request from the Allotment Association.

RESOLVED

That a notice board be provided at each allotment site. Each should be wooden 1270mm x 868mm at a cost of £639.63.

(Mr S Wade declared an interest in this item and left the meeting during consideration thereof)

63/04 **Dog Warden Scheme (Minute 327/03)**

Consideration was given to entering into a Service Level Agreement with New Forest District Council for Dog Warden Services until a Community Warden is employed.

It was suggested that Clayfields is included in any new agreement as it appears to have a problem with dog fouling.

RESOLVED

That a new SLA is entered into for a minimum of 1 hour per week, rising to 2 hours subject to budgetary provision. The new agreement should include Clayfields.

64/04 **The Parish Hall – Provision of baby changing facilities**

Consideration was given to the provision of baby changing facilities at the Parish Hall following a request from a Member of the Public.

Members agreed that a table, if provided, should be in the disabled toilet where there is more room and both parents can enter. It was also agreed that a fortnightly change of nappy bin was not hygienic.

RESOLVED

That nappy changing facilities be provided at the Parish Hall and nappy disposal bags made available for users.

65/04 **Lakes/Ponds at Beechwood Way and Oaklands Way**

Consideration was given to the maintenance of the above ponds/lakes prior to the receipt of safety reports.

Members were introduced to Tony Rogers, who has been trained to maintain ponds by the Waterside and Woodland Conservation Group, and has been doing so with the help of local volunteers for some time.

RESOLVED

1. That the safety issues be dealt with upon receipt of the reports from RoSPA.
2. That Mr Rogers and the Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor liaise and formulate a strategy for maintaining the ponds/lakes safely and keep the committee updated.

The Meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Chairman

Date

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