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To:

Members of the Amenities Committee
and remainder of the Council for information

AGAME103

5 July 2005

Dear Sir/Madam

A Meeting of the **AMENITIES COMMITTEE** will be held at **The Grove, 25 St John's Street, Hythe on Monday next, 11 July 2005**, at 8.00 pm, when your attendance is requested.

Yours faithfully

Clerk to the Council

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To sign the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 May 2005 and 6 June 2005.
3. To note any declaration of interest made by Members in connection with an Agenda item. The nature of the interest must be specified.
4. Public Participation Period.
5. Vandalism Report 21 May – 25 June 2005 attached.
6. Notes of the Play Equipment Working Party held on 8 June 2005.
7. To discuss banning alcohol on Play Areas within the Parish.
8. To review the Councils Licence and Lease Policy Statement.
9. Request for tree work at Ewart Recreation Ground.
10. Fern Hill Play Area.
11. Fly Tipping – Hardley Lane.
13. Hythe Skate and Ride Update (Min 515/04).
14. Any other urgent business concerning the Committee.

HYTHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

AGENDA NOTES

AMENITIES COMMITTEE – 11 July 2005

Item 5 Vandalism Report – 21 May 2005 – 25 June 2005

The following is a list of vandalism suffered by the Parish Council for the period shown.

Forest Front

The fence surrounding the skate park was damaged. This has since been repaired. In addition 12 fixing links on the swings were cut. The swing chains have been replaced and the cost shown includes the labour.

Cost to the Council £40.00

Shore Road

An area of safety surfacing was damaged. A temporary repair has been made, awaiting contractor's price to repair properly.

Flower displays

Clayfields

35 plants have been stolen and have been replaced. Due to the damage caused, the flower display is not looking as good as it should.

Unit cost of the flower is £0.82, allowing for compost and replanting the figure rises to £2.00 per plant

Cost to the Council **£70.00**.

Comparison

Total running cost of vandalism in this financial year is £190.00 compared to £200.00 at this point in the preceding financial year

Item 6 Notes of the Play Equipment Working Party held on 8 June 2005

The notes of the Play Equipment Working Party are attached. As agreed at the meeting, representatives met on site to discuss the location and a location has been recommended. The nearby residents have received letters, with maps attached, depicting the proposed area and comments have been requested.

Members are asked to adopt the notes of the Play Equipment Working Party and to agree to or recommend an alternative site for the proposed play area at Ewart Recreation Ground – a map is attached for reference.

Item 7 To discuss the prohibition of alcohol on Play Areas within the Parish

The issue of prohibiting alcohol on play areas within the Parish was raised at the Play Equipment Working Party held on 8 June 2005. It was felt that this should be discussed by this Committee.

From 1 July 2005 possession or consumption of alcohol will be prohibited on play areas under the control of Totton and Eling Town Council. Initially this will be a prohibition made by resolution. Byelaws have not been drawn up yet. This means that the possession or consumption will be a civil offence and will be dealt with by the security company that is employed by the Council.

Members are asked to discuss whether it would be appropriate to introduce a prohibition of this nature in this area.

Some items to consider and discuss are:-

- a) Whether it is appropriate
- b) Whether there is a need
- c) What would happen to the licensed premises at Ewart Recreation Ground
- d) Would there be an implication for the local sports club's fundraising day or other events such as Waterside Arts or the annual caravan rally.
- e) The powers that the Accredited Community Safety Officers have in relation to the confiscation of alcohol from under age drinkers.
- f) Displacement – i.e. Where would the displaced people go – would our actions cause a problem elsewhere. Section 17 of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act states that all relevant authorities (which includes Town and Parish Councils) have a duty to consider the impact of all their functions and decisions on crime and disorder in their local area.

Item 8 To review the Council's Licence and Lease Policy Statement

At the meeting of the Amenities Committee on 10 January 2005 it was decided not to renew any licences that granted access across the Council's play areas and open space. It was also decided to produce a Policy Statement to that effect (Min 379/04).

The Committee adopted the Policy Statement (attached) on 4 April 2005 (Min 520/04).

At the meeting of the Committee on 4 April 2005, Mrs Croxson of Muir House made a request that the policy be reviewed as the residents of Muir House have always enjoyed the use of Noads Way Play Area particularly when they had visitors. Without a licence the residents can only access the play area by taking the roadside route.

This item can be reviewed now, in line with Standing Orders.

Members are asked to review the Licence and Lease Policy Statement in respect of woodlands and open space.

Item 9 Request for tree work at Ewart Recreation Ground

Minor tree work has been carried out on trees that obscured the floodlighting at Ewart Recreation Ground. The work was requested by Hythe and Dibden Football Club, as it was a requirement of the football league. The work was approved by the Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor and was carried out at the Club's expense.

Further work is now required to ensure that the trees do not overhang the pitch sideline. This work is going to be more costly because for the health of the tree, the trees have to be balanced i.e. excess growth removed from the tree as a whole, not just on one side.

The work would not be harmful to the trees but in general circumstances is not necessary and would not be on the Council's maintenance schedule. The work would not be necessary either when the new play equipment is installed therefore Members are asked to ascertain whether the costs are to be met by Hythe and Dibden Football Club, in line with the Council's Arboriculture Policy Statement.

At this stage, Hythe and Dibden Football Club have not requested financial assistance.

Item 10 Fern Hill Play Area

A complaint has been received from a local resident regarding late night noise and under age drinking at Fern Hill Play Area. The complainant was given advice about contacting the Police when these problems arise. The Handy Trust and the Accredited Community Safety Officers have been informed of the problems and have been in contact with the complainant.

The play area is visited on a daily basis by the maintenance staff and the ACSO's make regular patrols. Occasionally there have been empty alcohol bottles and cans left in the area but there have not been any incidents of vandalism to the equipment.

WPC Hargreaves is aware of the situation and has been in contact with the office.

The area will continue to be monitored regularly and members are asked to note the situation.

Item 11 Fly Tipping – Hardley Lane

Historically there has been a problem with fly tipping in Hardley Lane. New Forest District Council and Hampshire County Council recently employed contractors to clear the fly tipping from their part of Hardley Lane and the rubbish left on Parish Council land was left behind. Initially, this Council was to be involved in the clearing of the entire site but due to an oversight by NFDC this Council's land was not cleared. Representations have been made, however this Council has a duty to clear fly tipping from its land. It would also be beneficial to clear the site as soon as possible so that the impact of the entire effort is gained.

A quotation to clear the site has been sought from NFDC's recommended contractor and the quote includes for the overgrowth to be mulched in order to aid visual impact.

The quotation for the work is £5355.00 and it is recommended that members approve the work to be done and recommend to the General Purposes and Finance Committee that funding be allocated.

Item 12 Hythe Skate and Ride (Min 515/04)

At the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 4 April 2005 the Trustees asked if this Council would be able to provide a litter check service and whether maintenance checks could be carried out by Council staff.

Hythe Skate and Ride is planning to replace the existing equipment and will retain the day to day maintenance and running of the site.

The idea of a partnership agreement was agreed in principle pending receipt of information. Investigations have been made on whether the Council could insure the site under the Council's policy and whether Council staff would be insured whilst carrying out work on the Hythe Skate and Ride site.

The Council's insurers have stated that it can only insure the site if the Council accepts responsibility for the running and maintenance of the park however, the Council's workforce would be covered by the Council's insurance if they are carrying out activities on behalf of the Council.

Approximate staffing implications for the Council are:

Daily litter check	3.5hrs per week
Weekly inspection with written reports	1 hr per week
Disposal of rubbish	10 skips pa (£1350.00)

Approximate annual cost to the council will be between £3500 - £4000

As there is no timescale for the project it is not possible to confirm the Council's ability to provide the manpower however, it is anticipated that the Council would seek to be in a position to assist and this issue will have to be addressed at the appropriate time.

It is recommended that Hythe Skate and Ride be made aware of this information and that the Committee discuss it further when Hythe Skate and Ride are ready to pursue the project.