

DAVID SHIMPE Clerk to the Council

Tel: (023) 8084 1411

Ext: 207

Fax: (023) 8084 2181

email:david.shimpe@btconnect.com

To:

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

AGAME104

26 August 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, 5 September 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 11 July 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.
 - a) Report 25 June – 22 August 2005 attached.
 - b) Fern Hill.
6. Car Parking on Ewart Recreation Ground
7. Banning of alcohol at designated Play Areas within the Parish – update of information (Min 99/05).
8. Noads Way Play Area security
9. Any other urgent business concerning the Committee.

HYTHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

AGENDA NOTES

AMENITIES COMMITTEE – 5 September 2005

Item 5

Vandalism

a) Report – 26 June - 22 August 2005

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

i) Flower displays

The following flower display has had plants stolen:-

Clayfields

25 plants have been stolen at a unit cost of £0.82

Cost to the Council £20.50

Sizer Way Gateway

2 plants were stolen at a unit cost of £0.82

Cost to the Council £1.64

ii) Workshop

The workshop compound was broken into and a section of fence was damaged. The fence has been repaired and the incident has been reported to the police.

Cost to the Council £25.00

iii) Graffiti

There have been 3 reported items of graffiti

Cost to the Council £15.00

iv) Fern Hill

See item (b) below.

v) The Grove

A new litter bin was installed in the Grove Garden. The bin was removed from its fixings and has since been replaced.

Cost to the Council £15.00

There is no cost comparison for this period as the costs of damages at Fern Hill are unknown. Members will be updated as to the cost when they are available

b) Fern Hill

As Members will be aware Fern Hill play area was attacked by vandals resulting in the complete destruction of two pieces of play equipment. The cost to the Council is unavailable at the time of writing.

The police have recommended that the Council make a feature in its newsletter about the cost of vandalism to the Council and request that the public spirited members of the community submit any information relating to vandalism/graffiti to either the police or to the Council.

Plans for the future of Fern Hill play area will be discussed at the next meeting of the Play Equipment Working Party.

Item 6. Car parking on Ewart Recreation Ground

Historically, Hythe and Dibden Cricket Club have had permission to park cars along the perimeter fence within Ewart Recreation Ground.

A member of the public has expressed health and safety concerns about having cars parked on the recreation ground. The main concern was public safety, particularly that of children playing and not expecting to have to look out for vehicles.

A potential problem was highlighted on a separate occasion, when a cricket match was scheduled to follow after a Summer Sports session and the cricket club opened the gates and the vehicles were driven to the perimeter of the grounds while the children were playing.

There is no record of accidents however, members are asked to give consideration to whether parking should be allowed on Ewart Recreation Ground particularly in the light of the installation of the new play area due in March/April 2006.

Item 7. Banning of alcohol at designated Play Areas within the Parish – update of information (Min 99/05)

At the meeting of the Amenities Committee on 11 July 2005, it was agreed to pursue the introduction of byelaws to prohibit the drinking of alcohol in specified areas.

Initial investigations have focussed on enforcement and whether byelaws are the best way forward. The Government has proposals to improve procedures for confirming byelaws. The objective is to "a) Ensure that byelaws for regulating public behaviour are made only when other solutions have been fully explored and where it is clear that the creation of a criminal offence is necessary and b) where byelaws are judged to be necessary, to reduce the time taken to confirm them".

Defra proposes to request byelaw making authorities, when seeking confirmation of byelaws, to set out what alternative approaches they have explored and why these are not sufficient to meet identified needs. A proforma would be introduced for this purpose.

Totton and Eling Town Council have banned the consumption of alcohol at children's play areas by resolution and security guards employed by the Council will move anyone caught drinking on.

a) Enforcement

The police would not be able to enforce a byelaw prohibiting alcohol. Enforcement would have to be carried out by a security company appointed by the Council. The police would become involved if the person/people found with alcohol in their possession refused to move on.

The police are only able to be involved when a law is being broken.

b) Designated Public Place Orders

Attached is a briefing letter that has been produced by Stephanie Sutton, New Forest District Council's Community Safety Co-ordinator. The letter gives information on issues that need to be considered if the council should choose to implement Designated Public Place Orders (DPPO's).

c) ACSO's

A verbal report on the amount of alcohol that has been confiscated in this area will be given at the meeting.

The ACSO's have stated that they will be monitoring the results following the action of Totton and Eling Town Council and have suggested that it would be wise for this Council to do the same.

The introduction of a ban such as this is likely to lead to displacement and to monitor the subsequent results in the Totton area could give an indication as to what lessons, if indeed any, should be learned from an exercise of this type.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 states that parish and town councils have a duty to consider the impact of all their functions and decisions on crime and disorder in their local area.

Members are asked to comment on the information.

Item 8.

Noads Way Play Area Security

The security company, employed by the Council to visit and lock Noads Way Play Area, has sent reports stating that a group of young people have gained access to the play area after it has been locked.

The maintenance team found that part of the security fencing had been dismantled and has been repaired, a search for alternative accesses was fruitless. The ACSO's have conducted a leaflet drop to the properties adjoining the play area and this contained a note from the Council asking for information on how access could be gained. Initial feedback has been positive and will be followed up.

The security company has been asked to make an additional call to the play area after locking up time for a defined period.

Members are asked to note the information.