

HYTHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Amenities Committee
held at The Grove, St John's Street, Hythe
on Monday, 9 January 2006 at 8 pm.

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

oMr J Bennett	*Mr M Short
*Mr R Guy	oMrs B Smith
*Mrs 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: 3 Members of the Public.

332/05 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 14 November 2005, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

333/05 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

334/05 **Public Participation Period**

Play Areas

Mr Moore began by congratulating the Council on Noads Way Play Area. However, after a recent visit to Langdown Lawn Play Area he was disappointed to see that one large piece of equipment had been removed along with some swing seats. There was also graffiti on a resident's wall. He asked whether Members were aware of the general run down appearance of the area.

Mr Moore was advised that the climbing frame was removed for safety reasons after it was vandalised. Langdown Lawn Play Area is next on the list for refurbishment after Ewart Recreation Ground Play Area is completed and is, therefore, only subject to running repairs for economic reasons. It was agreed to investigate the possibility of repainting the small climbing frame.

Members were advised that the graffiti is on private property and the owner has no interest in removing it.

ACSOs

Mr Thomas advised Members that he felt the ACSOs were not doing the job he expected in the area as vandalism and litter problems do not seem to have improved. He also made suggestions on where he felt they should be patrolling for the most effect.

The Deputy Clerk advised Mr Thomas that the ACSOs are now covering a much wider area and although the Parish Council can advise them of problem areas they cannot direct them. It is expected that this will improve with the introduction of 2 Community Wardens paid for by the Parish as they will be under the direct control of this council.

The Deputy Clerk also advised Members that the ACSOs had been instrumental in the conviction of 4 young graffiti vandals. They have been fined and ordered to pay compensation.

335/05 Vandalism Report – 3 November 2005 to 19 December 2005

Members noted the Vandalism Report for the period 3 November to 19 December 2005.

336/05 Youth Shelter

Members were advised of the up to date situation regarding the provision of a Youth Shelter at Ewart Recreation Ground.

It was agreed to keep this matter as an ongoing agenda item.

337/05 Partridge Road – to consider a request for hedging

Consideration was given to a request from a householder in Partridge Road to plant a Hawthorn hedge along the boundary of his property due to problems with vandalism and ball games.

Concern was expressed that this may set a precedent but it was agreed that each case should be assessed on its merits.

RESOLVED

That planting of a Hawthorn hedge should take place on both sides of the open space in Partridge Road subject to budgetary provision.

338/05 Graffiti Compensation

The Deputy Clerk advised Members that 4 children under the age of 16 had been given a large fine and ordered to pay the Parish Council a total of £250 compensation further to graffiti vandalism which they had caused in the area.

339/05 Walls in Dibden

The Chairman showed Members pictures of walls which had been demolished in Dibden.

The Meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Chairman

Date

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