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To:

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

AGAME113

25 August 2006

Dear Sir/Madam

A Meeting of the **AMENITIES COMMITTEE** will be held at **The Grove, 25 St John's Street, Hythe on Monday next, 4 September 2006** at 8.00pm, 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 10 July 2006.
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 – 26 June to 18 August 2006.
6. Ewart Recreation Ground
 - a) To discuss the current status of the play area. (Min. 123/06)
 - b) Update on car parking on Ewart Recreation Ground. (Min 162/05)
7. Shore Road Playing Field
 - a) Provision of goal posts and nets.
 - b) Unauthorised use of the playing field by Hythe and Dibden Youth FC.



8. Prospect Place
 - a) Erosion of shoreline. (Min.397/05)
 - b) Shrubs alongside the footpath.
9. Bus Shelter at Hythe Pier – to discuss the adoption and future maintenance.
10. The Orchard, Challenger Way – to discuss the S.106 Land Transfer and maintenance.
11. St. John's Church, Hythe – Request for assistance with churchyard ground maintenance.
12. Any other urgent business concerning the committee.

HYPHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

AGENDA NOTES

AMENITIES COMMITTEE 4 SEPTEMBER 2006

Item 5

Vandalism Report – 26 June - 18 August 2006

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

Langdown Lawn Play Area

A senior swing seat was damaged beyond repair. A new seat has been installed.
A dog bin was destroyed by fire. A new bin is on order and will be installed on receipt.

Cost to the Council £235.00

Forest Front Skate Park

An area of fencing that surrounds the facility was damaged and has since been replaced. In addition 4 slats from a bench seat have been damaged beyond repair. The seat has been made safe and repairs will be made after the school holidays.

Cost to the Council £250.00

Fletcher Close Open Space

A dog bin was removed from its location and could not be found. A new dog bin has been installed.

Cost to the Council £185.60

Fern Hill Open Space

A dog bin has been vandalised beyond repair. A new bin is on order.

Cost to the Council £185.60

Cathay Gardens Play Area

A litterbin was destroyed by fire. A new bin will be installed at the end of the school holidays.

Cost to the Council £32.00

Ewart Recreation Ground

A no parking sign was removed from its location on West Street and has since been repositioned on a nearby lamppost.

Cost to the Council £20.00.

Shore Road Playing Field

A sign detailing information regarding byelaws and the exercising of dogs on the area was removed from its location. The same sign has been reinstalled.

Cost to the Council £20.00

Beechwood Way Lake

An information sign at the above location was removed from its concrete footing. The same sign has been installed again.

Cost to the Council £20.00

The cost of vandalism for the period is £948.20. The total cost of vandalism in this financial year is £1415.20 compared to £606.00 at the same period in the last financial year.

Item 6**Ewart Recreation Ground****a) To discuss the current status of the play area (Min 123/06)**

It was decided at the last meeting of the committee that a multi agency meeting should be arranged to discuss the problems that were being experienced by some residents since the installation of the new play area at Ewart Recreation Ground.

A meeting was held between the Clerk to the Council, the Deputy Clerk, the Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor, the Chairman of the Amenities Committee, the Vice Chairman of the Amenities Committee, the Handy Trust, an ACSO, Inspector Kenna, the Police Crime Prevention Officer and the County Councillor who was also representing Hythe Skate and Ride.

At the meeting the following measures were agreed and have been implemented:-

- The seat of the cable runway is dismantled each evening and at weekends;
- A static guard is employed to be on site each evening between 9pm and 2am;
- The ACSO's maintain a high presence when on duty;
- Two seats have been installed in the skate park;
- The Handy Trust is actively involved in talking to the young people;
- The police agreed support for the static guard if required.

An additional measure is the provision of CCTV. This is to be installed as soon as it is practical to do so. Discussions are currently taking place with the contractor regarding the provision of a power supply.

Further to this, the youth shelter was installed on 15 August in the Hythe Skate and Ride Skate Park.

It was agreed not to progress the provision of high level fencing, as it was not felt to be appropriate for the area.

It was agreed at this meeting that these measures should be given time to have an impact and that the group should meet again after the school holidays have finished. The purpose of the meeting will be to evaluate the impact of the measures and to decide whether it would be appropriate to have a public meeting as requested by some local residents.

No complaints have been received in the parish council offices in relation to the play area, the ACSO's have reported only a small number of calls and the police do not consider Ewart Recreation Ground or the play area to have any major problems.

Members of the maintenance team have reported that the users of the cable runway have frequently expressed their displeasure when the seat is removed.

Members are asked to note the update and to give consideration to:-

- 1) Leaving the seat on the cable runway during the evenings and weekends either permanently or for a trial period;
- 2) The future requirements for the static guard.

b) Update on car parking on Ewart Recreation Ground (Min 162/05)

Members will recall that at the meeting of the Amenities Committee on 5 September 2005 it was RESOLVED "That this committee recommends to Council that all vehicles except those of disabled badge holders and maintenance workers should be banned from Ewart Recreation Ground."

This resolution was passed following a discussion about complaints from members of the public who were concerned for the safety of the children using the recreation ground when the cricket club have a match and park their cars on the perimeter and leave the gates open.

To date this has not been put before the Ewart Recreation Ground Charity however, further complaints have been received with the emphasis on the increase in the use of the recreation ground since the play area has been installed.

A detailed Risk Assessment was carried out and is attached.

It would appear that this is an ongoing problem and has never been conclusively addressed. The minutes of the Parish Council's Highways Committee dated 19 December 1983 refer to the problem caused by vehicles being driven onto the recreation ground and it was resolved to lock the gates. Also, the current Byelaws prohibit vehicles on the recreation ground.

Discussions have taken place with the cricket club and they have been advised that if they wish to continue to park on Ewart Recreation Ground they will have to apply for permission from the Ewart Recreation Ground Charity. Advice from the Charity Commission states that this should be a decision made by the Trustee but should only be granted if it is in the best interest of the Charity and to the advantage of the Charity.

The cricket club has stated that parking in the Brinton Lane Car Park is not an option for them due to cost and have said that visiting teams would not expect to have to pay to park. The club has also stated that it does not have any funds available to make a car parking area on the recreation ground even if the Charity agreed to the request.

A solution could be for this committee to recommend to the General Purposes and Finance Committee that it approves s137 Grant Aid to assist with additional costs that may be incurred if the Cricket Club decided to reimburse parking fees. This course of action would prevent the necessity of the Ewart Recreation Ground Charity having to make a decision on parking on the recreation ground and any subsequent hardship for the cricket club.

Members are asked to comment on what assistance the Council could consider in order to help the Cricket Club.

Item 7

Shore Road Playing Field

a) Provision of goal posts and nets

The ACSO's received a request from a group of young people who were causing a bit of a nuisance by playing football in various car parks in Hythe. The group said that they were bored and they requested a goal post so that they could play informal football and they didn't mind whether it was at Ewart Recreation Ground or at Shore Road Playing Field.

It was felt that Shore Road Playing Field would be the most appropriate place for the facility and a goal post has been put up and a net provided.

Members are asked for support of the action taken.

b) Unauthorised use of the playing field by Hythe and Dibden Youth FC.

Members will be aware of the unauthorised activities of Hythe and Dibden Youth Football Club. The details are attached.

A letter of apology has been received by the football club and is attached.

Member's comments are invited.

Item 8

Prospect Place

a) Erosion of shoreline (Min 397/05)

Members were informed in February 2006 of the need to carry out remedial work to the shoreline in Prospect Place.

Members are asked to note that an order has been placed for the necessary works to be carried out and work is due to commence in mid September 2006.

b) Shrubs alongside the footpath

The shrubs that grow alongside the pavement in Prospect Place were planted by Hampshire County Council and should be maintained by the County Council. Over the years the shrubs have overgrown the chain link fencing and have become unsightly causing this Council to undertake some trimming in order to prevent the shrubs from becoming a nuisance.

The County Councillor has been actively trying to find a remedy to the problem and asked whether this Council would be prepared to maintain the area.

It has always been felt that the shrubs were unsuitable for that specific area therefore adoption and maintenance would not be appropriate. Hampshire County Council has offered to remove the shrubs if this Council agrees to maintain the area in the future.

A more suitable planting scheme can be provided by this Council and routine maintenance can be incorporated with the maintenance work that is carried out regularly at Prospect Place. This will result in an enhanced area that will compliment the green at Prospect Place.

Members are asked to give consideration to the matter and it is recommended that the Deputy Clerk pursue the offer.

Item 9 Bus Shelter at Hythe Pier – to discuss the adoption and future maintenance

At the last meeting of the Committee, members resolved to accept the offer from Hampshire County Council's Quality Bus Partnership scheme to replace or repair the bus shelters in this Council's ownership. Part of the scheme was also the provision of a sum of money in the region of £1000 - £1500 per bus shelter for future maintenance.

The notes presented at that meeting should have made reference to the bus shelter at Hythe Pier. Ownership and responsibility for that shelter could not be established and it has been asked if the Council will accept responsibility for the replacement bus shelter at Hythe Pier and a future maintenance sum of approximately £1000 - £1500.

Members are requested to consider taking responsibility for the bus shelter and its future maintenance.

Item 10 The Orchard, Challenger Way – to discuss the adoption and future maintenance

A letter has been received from New Forest District Council enquiring as to whether this Council is prepared to take on the maintenance responsibilities for The Orchard, Challenger Way, Dibden.

The letter is attached and members' views are requested.

Item 11 St. John's Church, Hythe – Request for assistance with churchyard ground maintenance.

The Reverend Eileen Wetherell of St. John's Church, Hythe has sent a letter enquiring as to whether this Council could assist in the mowing of the middle of the churchyard.

Preliminary enquiries suggest that this is not something that could be done on a regular basis however, members are asked to consider whether this is something that could be referred to New Forest District Council or whether further investigations should be entered into to ascertain whether a grant aid donation would be of benefit, in which case the details can be considered at a future meeting of the General Purposes and Finance Committee.

The letter is attached for information.