

HYTHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Amenities Committee
held at The Grove, St John's Street, Hythe
on Monday 8 January 2007 at 8 pm.

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

*Mr J Bennett	Mr R Podesta
*Mr R Guy	*Mrs B Smith
oMrs 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)

Also present: 20 Members of the Public
1 Member of the Press

374/06 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 13 November 2006, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

375/06 **Declarations of Interest**

Mr S Wade and Mr Bennett declared an interest in Minute 380/06 (b) as they are trustees for the Friends of Forest Front. Mrs Smith declared an interest in Minute 378/06 as she is a trustee of Waterside Arts and the proposal may include facilities for music events.

Mr S Wade advised the Committee that, as he was a Member of the New Forest National Park's Development Control Committee, he wished it recorded that he would not be offering an opinion on Minute 378/06, as his views may change when any application comes before the New Forest National Park's Planning Development Committee.

Mr Parkes advised the Committee that, as he was a Member of the District Council's Development Control Committee, he wished it recorded that he would not be offering an opinion on Minute 378/06, as his views may change when any application comes before the District Council's Planning Development Committee.

376/06 **Public Participation Period**

Ewart Recreation Ground Play Area

Mrs Hunter advised the committee that she had spoken to the Managing Director of the company who installed the Play Area and been given an estimate of £60,000 to move and make good the area, although some equipment would be lost in the move, and asked that the equipment be moved and used to form the proposed new Play Area at Challenger Way.

Mrs Hunter had also asked Sound Measurement Ltd how best to stop the noise from the Play Area. They had suggested an earth bund or solid fence as close to the area as possible but advised that this would do no more than halve the sound.

Mrs Hunter suggested that providing alternative facilities for young teenagers would go some way to solving the perceived anti-social behaviour problem.

Members were advised of problems with "knock and run" and it was suggested that the security guards park so that they can see the Recreation Ground and that the ACSOs do not wear high visibility jackets all the time as it is obvious that they are approaching.

Vandalism

Mr Moore referred to the vandalism report which shows that the cost of vandalism is higher for this part of the year than for the same period last year and asked that the Community Warden Service be justified in light of this.

The Chairman responded that no detailed reports of the costs of vandalism were recorded for previous years.

377/06 Vandalism Report – 2 November 2006 to 15 December 2006

Members noted the vandalism report for 2 November 2006 – 15 December 2006.

378/06 Hythe and Dibden Youth Football Academy – Presentation on land acquisition proposals

Mr P Uglow gave a presentation on behalf of Hythe and Dibden Youth Football Academy outlining their proposals to build a complex including 2 adult pitches, 2 junior pitches, a bowling green, clubhouse, changing rooms and car park, possibly on land currently belonging to ABP.

As it is such an ambitious project it is hoped to procure funding from grants, lotteries, sponsorship and local fundraising with the work being completed in stages.

Members were supportive of the idea in principle as such a facility would be of great benefit to the community.

It was suggested that the Hythe and Dibden Youth Academy consult New Forest National Park Planning Authority and the New Forest District Council Sports Development Officer for advice.

Mr Uglow requested assistance from the Playing Field Working Party to help to progress the project.

(Mr Parkes, Mr S Wade and Mrs Smith declared an interest in this item but remained in the meeting during the presentation)

379/06 Ewart Recreation Ground**(a) Hythe and Dibden Football Club****(i) Additional storage and changing facilities adjacent to existing buildings**

Consideration was given to a request from Hythe and Dibden Football Club to site additional storage and changing facilities adjacent to existing buildings.

Whilst realising that planning permission must be obtained, together with the permission of the Ewart Recreation Ground Charity and the Charity Commission, Hythe and Dibden Football Club stressed the urgency of this matter in order to be allowed to continue playing in the Sydenhams Wessex League.

It was agreed to write a letter to the Club supporting this proposal subject to the necessary permission being granted by the relevant authorities.

It was further agreed to set up a meeting for the Trustees of Ewart Recreation Ground Charity.

(ii) A new clubhouse and new changing facilities on land adjoining the Parish Hall

Consideration was given to a request by Hythe and Dibden Football Club for permission to build a new clubhouse and new changing facilities on land adjoining the Parish Hall.

Whilst the council supports the idea in principle it was suggested that a Working Party is needed to look into the facilities provided at the Parish Hall.

It was agreed to ask the County Council, as landowners, for their approval before the project is progressed.

(b) Play Area**(i) Status update on the applications for permission to fence part of Ewart Recreation Ground (Min 315/06 (b) refers)**

Members were advised that 2 Planning Applications have been submitted to the District Council, one with the footpath shown within the Play Area and the other without, and the Landlord's consent has been applied for.

(ii) Costing of alternative security provision to ensure value for money (Min 315/06 (c2) refers)

Consideration was given to the comparison costs for the provision of security services at Ewart Recreation Ground Play Area.

It was agreed to continue with the present arrangements.

380/06 Forest Front Open Space**(a) Request to allow gun dog training at specific times and in a specific area of the open space**

Consideration was given to a request to allow gun dog training on a strip of land close to the A326 on Forest Front Open Space.

Concern was expressed that this could disturb other walkers and dogs and be a hazard but members were assured by Mrs Smith, who had witnessed the training, that disturbance and hazards were minimal.

RESOLVED

That gun dog training be allowed on Forest Front Open Space from November to February inclusive on Monday – Friday between 10am and 2pm for the gentleman specified if permission is obtained from the Forestry Commission as landowners.

(b) Friends of Forest Front Nature Reserve for the disabled – Lease

Consideration was given to the negotiation of a lease for the use of the nature reserve at Forest Front as one has never been issued. However, the Deputy Clerk advised members that the Forestry Commission were reluctant to enter negotiations due to various concerns including the number of able bodied people who would be available to assist. They are also covered by their own insurance.

Members felt that this would be an ideal opportunity to look at the needs of the facility in order to ensure its long term future. Therefore it was agreed to speak to the Friends of Forest Front to ascertain their needs so that the matter could be progressed.

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

(c) Skate Park Vandalism

Due to an act of vandalism at Forest Front Skate Park consideration was given to whether to replace the hand rail to the condition in which it was installed or to an increased level of security and safety.

RESOLVED

That the quotation of £1846.00 excluding VAT be accepted for the more secure fixing and, subject to funding, the contractors be asked to inspect the rest of the skate park and improve any other hand rails to bring them up to a similar level of safety.

381/06 Policy Statement for recovery of costs

Consideration was given to the formulation of a Policy Statement for the recovery of costs.

Whilst members wished to give out a “zero tolerance” to vandalism message, caution was urged to differentiate between the recovery of costs and the need for a prosecution and the potential harm which could be caused by the prosecution of minors.

RESOLVED

That options for Policy Statements be prepared for consideration at the next meeting of the committee.

382/06 **Beechwood Way Pond**

Members noted that remedial work has been undertaken at Beechwood Way Pond.

383/06 **Dibden Bottom Farm – rural footpath**

Members noted that Hampshire County Council will be providing a path to the bus stop in Claypits Lane.

384/06 **Young Sports Person of the Year 2007**

Consideration was given to the formation of a working party to discuss the nominations and decide on the winner of the Young Sports Person of the Year 2007.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman of the Council, Chairman of the Amenities Committee and Chairman of the General Purposes and Finance Committee form a working party to decide on the Young Sports Person of the Year 2007.

The Meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Chairman

Date

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