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To:

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

AGAME116

2 January 2007

Dear Sir/Madam

A Meeting of the **AMENITIES COMMITTEE** will be held at **The Grove, 25 St John's Street, Hythe on Monday next, 8 January 2007** 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 13 November 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 – 2 November 2006 to 15 December 2006
6. Hythe and Dibden Youth Football Academy – Presentation on land acquisition proposals
7. Ewart Recreation Ground
 - a) Hythe & Dibden Football Club
 - i) To consider a request for additional storage and changing facilities adjacent to existing buildings



- ii) To consider a request for a new clubhouse and new changing facilities on land adjoining the Parish Hall
- b) Play Area
 - i) Status update on the applications for permission to fence part of Ewart Recreation Ground (Minute 315/06 (b) refers)
 - ii) Costings of alternative security provision to ensure value for money (Minute 315/06 (c2) refers)
- 8. Forest Front Open Space
 - a) Request to allow gun dog training at specific times and in a specific area of the open space
 - b) Friends of Forest Front Nature Reserve for the disabled – Lease
 - c) Skate Park – vandalism
- 9. Policy Statement for recovery of costs
- 10. Beechwood Way Pond – remedial works
- 11. Dibden Bottom Farm – rural footpath
- 12. Young Sports Person of the Year 2007
- 13. Any other urgent business concerning the committee

HYPHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

AGENDA NOTES

AMENITIES COMMITTEE 8 JANUARY 2007

Item 5 Vandalism Report – 2 November 2006 to 15 December 2006

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

Noads Way Play Area

Two fires were set in the play area. One of the fires damaged a litter bin and the other caused superficial damage to the safety surface by the Multiplay unit.

The bin has been replaced and the safety surface whilst being safe will continue to be monitored. Repairs will be made when it becomes necessary to do so.

Cost to the Council is £55.00

Langdown Lawn Play Area

Two small fires were set near the litter bin and slide. Damage was minimal and both items remain serviceable.

Forest Front Skate Park

A safety railing was removed from the side of one of the skate ramps. In addition one of the other railings was tampered with rendering the safety feature unsafe.

The ramp that the railings were located on is central to the other ramps in the park and therefore it was decided to close the facility until repairs can be made.

The access gates onto the park have been locked and signs informing members of the public that the park is closed have been posted.

The matter has been reported to the police and a quote has been received for the repairs.

Cost to the Council £350.00. The figure quoted is to repair the damage caused however there is an alternative that can be discussed as part of item 8 on the agenda.

Oaklands Way Pond

A number of shrubs that were planted at the request of the police were removed from the area surrounding the pond.

The plants have been replaced.

In the period of this report two litter bins have been damaged by fire. These have since been replaced.

Cost to the Council £125.00.

Total cost to the Council for the period shown is £530.00. The total cost of vandalism for this financial year is £2118.00 compared to £1161.00 at the same time last year.

Item 6 Hythe and Dibden Youth Football Academy – Presentation on land acquisition proposals

Mr Uglow has identified a piece of land which he feels could be adapted for use by Hythe and Dibden Youth Football Academy.

A presentation will be made detailing the proposals. Members' comments will be invited.

Item 7 Ewart Recreation Ground**a) Hythe & Dibden Football Club**

Hythe & Dibden Football Club continue to have a senior team playing in the Sydenhams Wessex League and at this level of football, the Football Association standards are quite precise. Over the last few years compromise has been reached regarding the facilities but the FA are becoming more insistent on more of the requirements being met.

Hythe & Dibden Football Club has submitted the following proposals:-

- i) Additional storage and changing facilities adjacent to existing buildings and
- ii) A new clubhouse and new changing facilities on land adjoining the Parish Hall.

Brief plans are attached for i) and if members are supportive of this proposal the request can be put before the Ewart Recreation Ground Charity for consideration. Further to this, an application will have to be submitted to the Charity Commission for approval. Planning consent would also be required.

A letter is attached for ii) and if members would like to pursue this request, it is recommended that more detailed plans be requested along with a financial statement detailing how the project is to be funded.

Members are requested to give consideration to both requests.

b) Play Area

- i) Status update on the applications for permission to fence part of Ewart Recreation Ground (Minute 315/06 (b) refers)

An update on the current status will be given at the meeting.

Members are reminded that full consultation with the public on whether to provide fencing around the area can only be undertaken if planning and landlords consent are received. If consent is not received, residents will be informed that fencing is no longer an option for resolving any issues.

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

At the last meeting of the committee it was agreed to investigate the costs for the provision of security services for Ewart Recreation Ground Play Area to enable a comparison to be made and to ensure best value is achieved.

Comparison costs will be distributed at the meeting.

Members views are requested.

8. Forest Front Open Space**a) Request to allow gun dog training at specific times and in a specific area of the open space**

A request has been received from a gentleman who lives near to Forest Front Open Space and would like to train his gun dogs there.

The gentleman is a member of the gun dog association and carries insurance. He has suggested that, if approval is given, it be for a limited period, in a specified location and within certain times i.e. between November and February inclusive, Monday to Friday between 10am and 2pm and on a strip of land that runs parallel to the A326. The permission would be for him only and would be withdrawn if any valid complaints were received.

Mrs Smith has taken the opportunity to view the activity and has reported that the hand held launcher did not disturb anyone else who was using the area at the time.

Members are asked to consider the request.

b) Friends of Forest Front Nature Reserve for the Disabled

It would appear that the Friends of Forest Front have never been issued with a lease for the use of the nature reserve.

It is recommended that a lease be negotiated with the Friends of Forest Front.

c) Skate Park Vandalism

As Members will be aware Forest Front Skate Park suffered some vandalism which resulted in the park having to be closed to the public. One safety handrail on a ramp was removed which in turn has damaged some of the concrete. A separate handrail on the same ramp has had some of the fittings damaged.

The Council has received two quotations from the contractor that built the Skate Park. The first one is for £350.00 excluding VAT which will allow for the hand rails to be replaced as they were installed. In addition the damaged concrete will be replaced with a chemical compound that has been used successfully in the area previously.

The second quotation of £1846.00 excluding VAT allows for the handrails to be replaced using a modification that includes additional metal plates being welded to the existing handrails which allows for more fixings to secure the handrail to the ramp. This type of modification has been used on one of the other ramps within the park successfully. The repairs to the concrete is also included in this cost.

Members are requested to decide on which repair should be undertaken.

9. Policy Statement for recovery of costs

Members are asked to consider recommending to Council that a Policy Statement be drawn up to adopt a procedure for the recovery of costs when vandalism or criminal damage has been done to Council property and the culprit or culprits have been identified.

In the past, Members have agreed that perpetrators will be prosecuted or that some form of recompense will be sought but it has been necessary to determine this during the meetings of the Council or its Committees. This practice can lead to delays in the process of applying appropriate action.

10. Beechwood Way Pond

Part of the perimeter of the pond has subsided during the wet weather of November and December. Remedial work has been undertaken.

11. Dibden Bottom Farm – rural footpath

During the scheme to replace the bus shelters within the Parish, the contractors working for the Waterside Quality Bus Partnership noticed that there was an informal path from Ocknell Grove to the bus stop at Claypits Lane. The track also lined up with a woodland path on the other side of the road.

It has been proposed that Hampshire County Council install a new path which will be constructed from a gravel base with timber edging and a growth resistant membrane to ensure the prevention of the growth of weeds through the path. Although the County Council would meet the costs of installing the path, through the Waterside Quality Bus Partnership finding, this Council would be responsible for its maintenance and future upkeep. Funding has already been received for the future maintenance of the replacement bus shelters.

Members are asked to note the information.

12. Young Sports Person of the Year 2007

Nominations for the Young Sports Person of the Year Award 2007 have been requested and the closing date is Friday 16 February 2007. Members are asked to decide upon the membership of a working party to discuss the nominations and to decide the winner.

Members of the working party last year were the Chairman of the Council, Chairman of the Amenities Committee and the Chairman of the General Purposes and Finance Committee.

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