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To:

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

AGAME117

6 February 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, 12 February 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 8 January 2007
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 – 16 December 2006 to 1 February 2007
6. Ewart Recreation Ground Play Area – update on status of security proposals (Minute 379/06 (b) (i) refers)
7. Forest Front Skate Park – update on floodlight provision (Minute 318/06 refers)
8. Forest Front Open Space – update on request to allow gun dog training (Minute 380/06 (a) refers)



9. Request for bench seat at Fernhill Open Space
10. Any other urgent business concerning the committee

HYTHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

AGENDA NOTES

AMENITIES COMMITTEE 12 FEBRUARY 2007

Item 5 Vandalism Report –16 December 2006 to 1 February 2007

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

Oaklands Way Pond

17 Hawthorn bushes were stolen from the replanted area that surrounds the footpath near the pond.

Cost to the Council £67.15

Beechwood Way Lake

An information sign was removed from its mounting and has not been recovered.

Cost to the Council £38.70

Graffiti

There have been 4 incidents of graffiti at various locations these have been removed.

Cost to the Council £20.00

Prospect Place

The conifer hedge suffered some snapped branches which has spoiled its appearance. Work to remove the damaged limbs has been undertaken as part of a regular pruning operation.

Forest Front Open Space

Two padlocks were cut from the Skate Park gates which have been replaced and a number of incidents of graffiti have occurred. The graffiti is mainly on the skate ramps however some has been sprayed on the footpath that links Holly Close to Forest Front. The offending items are not offensive and will be removed when the appropriate cleaning chemical is obtained.

A number of alcohol bottles were smashed across the Skate Park resulting in additional labour required to clear the area.

A picnic bench that is located in the play area was vandalised but has since been repaired.

Two Dragon's Teeth, that are used to deter motorcyclists from entering the open space, were partially damaged but remained in place. Repairs have been carried out.

Cost to the Council £70.00

Noads Way Play Area

A section of the dog proof fencing that surrounds the play area was damaged; this has since been repaired and reinstalled.

Cost to the Council £20.00

The total cost of vandalism for the period shown is £215.90. The total cost of vandalism for this financial year is £2333.90 compared to £1332.00 at the same time last year.

Item 6 Ewart Recreation Ground Play Area – update on status of security proposals (Minute 379/06 (b) (i) refers)

In order for public consultation to take place on addressing issues raised by some local residents in relation to the installation of the play area at Ewart Recreation Ground, planning consent was applied for, for the installation of security fencing.

Members will recall that in order to offer security fencing as an option it had to be established whether the installation would be approved by the planning authority.

An update on the status of the planning applications and the consultation procedure will be given at the meeting.

Item 7 Forest Front Skate Park – update on floodlight provision (Minute 318/06 refers)

Further to the request from a group of young people, via the Youth Worker, for the skate park to be floodlit for a trial period the Council's insurers recommended that a log of vandalism be recorded for a 3 month period in order for members to make a judged decision.

Attached are spreadsheets for November and December 2006 and January 2007 giving details of the occurrences over the 3 month period.

Whilst giving the request consideration Members are asked to bear in mind that the skate park was taken out of service on 27 November 2006 due to vandalism that rendered the area unsafe. Vandalism has still occurred whilst the area has been cordoned off.

It was agreed at the Amenities Committee Meeting on 8 January to implement the repairs but as yet the contractor has not been available to start the work.

Members previously agreed to authorise the Handy Trust to hold a trial event, using the floodlights subject to considering the information gathered in the 3 month vandalism log.

The electrical supply box was previously reported to be £580.00 plus VAT.

Members are requested to give further consideration, with the information provided, to the request to allow the floodlights to be used at the skate park for a trial session under the supervision of the Handy Trust.

Item 8 Forest Front Open Space – update on request to allow gun dog training (Minute 380/06 (a) refers)

Members agreed to allow gun dog training on Forest Front Open Space from November to February inclusive on Monday – Friday between 10am and 2pm if permission was obtained from the Forestry Commission as landowners.

The permission was for the applicant only and would be reconsidered should a justifiable complaint be received.

Members are asked to note that the Forestry Commission has no objections to this specific request.

Item 9 Request to install a public seat on Fern Hill Open Space

A request from a member of the public has been received for a seat to be installed at Fern Hill Open Space.

Members will be aware that last year a climbing frame that was located in the play area was vandalised beyond economic repair. In addition there were a number of reports of anti social behaviour occurring in that open space. Since the climbing frame was removed there have been no negative reports from residents.

Currently there is no financial provision available in the budget to provide a seat.

Members views are requested.