

DAVID SHIMPE Clerk to the Council

Tel: (023) 8084 1411

Ext: 207

Fax: (023) 8084 2181

email:david.shimpe@btconnect.com

To:

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

AGAME118

27 March 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, 2 April 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. Notification of any other urgent business to be raised at the end of the meeting
6. Vandalism Report – 2 February 2007 to 23 March 2007
7. Ewart Recreation Ground Play Area
 - i) Outcome of Planning Applications for the perimeter fencing option (minute 449/06 refers)
 - ii) To discuss the consultation process
 - iii) To discuss interim security arrangements



8. Forest Front Open Space
 - i) Request for the provision of fencing to the rear of some properties that back onto Forest Front Open Space
 - ii) Request to site a BMX track on Forest Front Open Space
9. Hythe and Dibden Sports Club – Football Section
 - i) Progress report on the request to extend changing and storage facilities at Ewart Recreation Ground (minute 379/06 (a) (i) refers)
 - ii) Request to lay hardstanding along the far side of the football pitch at Ewart Recreation Ground
- 10) Drummond Court Open Space - completion of project (minute 258/06 refers)
- 11) Guidelines for dog owners/walkers
 - i) Grove Gardens
 - ii) Drummond Court Open Space
- 12) Vehicle replacement programme
- 13) Completion of PPG17 Assessment
- 14) Any other urgent business concerning the committee

HYPHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

AGENDA NOTES

AMENITIES COMMITTEE 2 APRIL 2007

Item 6 Vandalism Report –2 February 2007 to 23 March 2007

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

Cathay Gardens Play Area

Two litter bins have been destroyed by fire and have since been replaced. Investigations are taking place into purchasing a stronger bin in case the need arises in the future.

The cost to the Council is £120.00

Prospect Place Open Space

A wooden fence located in the open space was damaged. The cost to replace the small section of fence was £25.00

Langdown Lawn Play Area

The Multiplay unit had two of its small metal railings cut; two new pieces have been welded onto the unit. A metal bin liner was damaged and has since been repaired and reinstated into the bin.

Cost to the Council is £50.00

Gateways

The gateways at Fawley Road and Main Road have had a total of 13 plants stolen; these have not been replaced due to the lateness of the season.

The plants cost approximately £10.00

Forest Front Open Space

A car was driven onto the open space and subsequently burnt out. In order to gain access onto the area a piece of key clamp fencing was removed and has since been replaced. The car was removed by NFDC.

There have been numerous incidents of bottles being smashed in the skate park and children's play area, this has increased the time spent on the area by the maintenance team cleaning up and making the area safe.

A fence that surrounds the Skate Park was damaged and has since been repaired.

The reported cost includes the extra time taken by Council staff to clean the area at a rate of £10.00 per man hour.

Cost to the Council is £110.00

The total cost of vandalism for the period shown is £315.00. The total cost of vandalism for this financial year is £2648.90 compared to £1393.00 at the same time last year and £1645.00 in the financial year 2004/05.

All reports of vandalism are reported to the ACSO's at the earliest opportunity and reported to the police when appropriate to do so.

Item 7 Ewart Recreation Ground Play Areai) Outcome of Planning Applications for the perimeter fencing option (Minute 449/06 refers)

Members are asked to note that Planning Consent was not approved for the perimeter fences at Ewart Recreation Ground.

The grounds for refusal were:

"1) The proposed fencing would detrimentally impact on the visual quality of the open space, and would impede the use of the pedestrian and cycle way network in the area, whilst being unlikely to provide adequate security to the site. For this reason the proposal would be contrary to policies DW-E1 and DW-R1 of the New Forest District Local Plan First Alteration.

2) The proposed fencing would, by virtue of its location and alignment, threaten the retention of important mature trees as a result of damage and disturbance to the trees' root system. As such, the proposal would be contrary to policy DW-E8 of the New Forest District Local Plan First Alteration."

Members are asked to note that Landlord's Consent was given but it was subject to planning approval.

ii) To discuss the consultation process

It was agreed that a consultation would be held in order to establish the depth of the problem caused by the installation of the new play area at Ewart Recreation Ground and to decide upon what action, if any to take.

Members are asked to give consideration to

- Who should be consulted i.e. a specific area or the whole parish?
- Is the draft consultation letter (attached) suitable and does it cover all relevant aspects?
- How will the results of the consultation be collated i.e. will a working party be formed to report to a future meeting of the committee or will the committee discuss the results at a future meeting?
- What is the timescale for the consultation?

iii) To discuss interim security arrangements

No budget provision has been made for security at Ewart Recreation Ground for 2007/08 other than in the proposed fencing provision. This will allow the security to be provided up to week ending 13 May 2007.

The funding that had been set aside to fence Ewart Recreation Ground can be re-allocated in line with the Council's Financial Regulations and recommendations should be made through the General Purposes and Finance Committee.

Members are requested to decide upon what security arrangements are to be made for the Play Area at Ewart Recreation Ground while the consultation process is being undertaken and until recommendations from the consultation are agreed.

Members are also required to decide on whether the cable runway remain out of action during the evenings, weekends and bank holidays.

Item 8 Forest Front Open Spacei) Request for the provision of fencing to the rear of some properties that back onto Forest Front Open Space

A letter has been received from Chris Ancrum, Conservative Spokesperson for Butts Ash and Dibden Purlieu. Mr Ancrum has written on behalf of concerned residents in Elm Crescent, Netley View Estate who would like this Council to fence the rear of their properties if funding is available.

The letter from Mr Ancrum and a letter from the Deputy Clerk in response are attached.

Members are requested to consider the request.

ii) Request to site a BMX track on Forest Front Open Space

The Forestry Commission has approached the Council with a request to build a BMX track on Forest Front Open Space. They have secured funding to install the track and would be looking to this Council to maintain it. Assurance has been given that it is "low maintenance".

The proposal has arisen from the need to try to dissuade BMX cyclists from the forest.

Members are asked to give the request consideration and are advised to examine the effect that the proposal would have on the open space and nearby residents i.e. parking; influx of motorcycles, additional noise.

Pictures of the proposed style of track are attached.

Item 9 Hythe and Dibden Sports Club – Football Section

i) Progress report on the request to extend changing and storage facilities at Ewart Recreation Ground (Minute 379/06 (i) refers)

At the meeting of the Committee on 8 January 2007 it was agreed to support Hythe and Dibden Sports Club with its proposal to extend the changing and storage facilities at Ewart Recreation Ground. This was subject to no objections being raised by the Charity Commission.

Members are asked to note that no objections were raised by the Charity Commission and officers are working closely with the Sports Club with regard to planning issues and siting of the temporary structures.

ii) Request to lay hardstanding along the far side of the football pitch at Ewart Recreation Ground.

Attached is a letter from Hythe and Dibden Sports Club's football section regarding their request for hardstanding.

As well as this being a requirement of the Football Association, hardstanding will prevent excessive wear and tear on the grassed area and will assist the disabled spectators.

Members are asked to consider this request. Should approval be given it is recommended that the work is undertaken to the satisfaction of the Amenities and Facilities Supervisor and that the area in question is included within the Football Section's licence.

Item 10 Drummond Court Open Space

Members are asked to note that the project at Drummond Court has been completed.

Item 11 Guidelines for dog owners/walkers

i) Grove Gardens

The gardens to the rear of the Grove are very popular with visitors and locals. It is also becoming a popular area for exercising dogs off their leads.

Some dogs foul and the owners clear up but some is left. This is a concern because children play there and families picnic on the grass.

Members are asked to consider whether to allow dogs on the garden and if they are allowed, whether they should be kept on leads. Signage will be put in place when a decision has been made.

ii) Drummond Court Open Space

Members are asked to consider whether dogs should be kept on leads in this area. Appropriate signage can be put into place upon a decision.

Item 12 Vehicle replacement programme

As Members will be aware the Council has a Vehicle Replacement Programme which allows for the purchase of new plant and vehicles. The current financial year (2007/08) has financial provision for the replacement of the white Nissan van which was purchased new by the Council in 1995.

Investigations have taken place into finding a suitable replacement; possibilities have included diesel fuelled vehicles, LPG and electrically powered vehicles. Listed is a summary of the results of the investigations.

LPG

Discussions have taken place with New Forest District Council's Transport Manager to gather information about the use of LPG in vans and pick up trucks. Following in house trials and the receipt of information from other larger Councils the District Council does not have any LPG vehicles within their fleet. The reasons for this include the unreliability of the vehicles, the additional purchase costs together with increasing fuel costs. In addition the government has withdrawn a grant scheme that was in place to encourage local authorities to convert to this fuel source.

Electric

At present there are no pick up sized electric vehicles available in the UK market place however discussions have taken place with a manufacturer who has produced bespoke vehicles for the Royal Parks in London together with various milk float type vehicles. The approximate cost of the electric transport in use in the royal parks is £30,000.

Due to nature of the Councils work which includes travelling short distances transporting men and machinery, the vehicle would need to weigh approximately five tons with most of this being attributed to the strength of the chassis required to carry the batteries to power the vehicle.

Batteries for this type of vehicle cost approximately £6000.00 each and a vehicle of this size would need at least two to provide enough power and durability for the type of work. The batteries would need to be charged overnight after use and their life expectancy is approximately 2 years.

Diesel

There are various diesel pick ups on the market and this form of fuel still remains the most cost effective way of running a commercial vehicle.

Manufacturers of new vehicles are required by law to supply cleaner burning engines therefore reducing CO2 emissions. In 2005 the European Union introduced the Exhaust Emission Directive Euro IV. The directive requires manufacturers to produce new vehicles which CO2 emissions fall within a certain level or they cannot be sold in the Union. Euro IV means that any new diesel vehicle purchased by the Council will reduce it's emissions by approximately 50% compared to the white Nissan.

Result

Due to the mixed results of the investigations into alternative fuelled vehicles, further research has been carried out into the purchase of a new diesel van.

Three different pick up vehicles have been identified as being suitable to the Council's needs, the results are listed below.

The Council has been offered approximately £500.00 as a part exchange allowance for the existing Nissan pick up and this has been subtracted from the cost excluding VAT figures.

VEHICLE	FORD RANGER	TOYOTA HILUX	NISSAN NAVARA
COST EXCLUDING VAT £	10,625 (Includes discount 1781.50)	11,861 (Includes discount 1149.50)	10,753 (Includes discount 1032.75)
WARRANTY	3 years/ 60000 miles	3 years/ 60000 miles	3 years/ 60000 miles
SERVICING FREQUENCY AND COST	10000 Miles/ annual £150.00 - £200.00	10000 Miles/ annual £250.00 – £350.00	6000 Miles/ 6 months £175.00 - £350.00
EURO IV COMPLIANT	YES	YES	YES

The cost includes the £208.00 which covers the Road Fund Licence and the First Registration Fee (this applies to all new vehicles).

Financial implications

Both the Ford Ranger and Nissan Navara are within the Council's budget provision but due to the servicing schedule and the accompanying costs of the Nissan Navara it is recommended that the Council purchase a Ford Ranger.

As Members will be aware the Council has to comply with its standing orders when making all purchases.

Standing Order 73.5 states that quotations/tenders are not required to be invited if the price is wholly controlled by a trade organisation or government order and no reasonable satisfactory alternative is available or if for some reason there would be no genuine competition.

This will apply in this case because vehicle main dealers operate on a franchise territory system and a formal tender procedure would not provide genuine competition between the rightful territory holder and a competitor from outside.

During the investigations it was made very clear to the various dealers representing all makes of vehicle that other makes of vehicle were being considered and cost would be a part of the process.

Recommendation

Members are asked to approve the purchase a Ford Ranger pick up at a cost of £10625.00

Item 13 Completion of PPG17 Assessment

A copy of the PPG17 Assessment for Open Space, Sport and Recreation has been received from New Forest District Council. The Parish Profile has been attached.

NFDC will create a strategy from it and it will be a useful document for this Council.

Members are requested to note the document and bear in mind that this Council and New Forest District Council are aware that there are some minor discrepancies.