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To:

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

AGAME120

29 May 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, 4 June 2007, at 8.00 pm** 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 2 April 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 – 24 March to 22 May 2007.
7. Ewart Recreation Ground
 - i) Play Area Consultation – update (Minute 516/06 (ii) refers).
 - ii) Recreation Ground seat (Minute 513/06 refers).
8. Noads Way Play Area – fencing.
9. Hythe Skate and Ride – request for funding.



10. Forest Front Skate Park – to discuss floodlight provision (Min 450/06 refers).
11. New Forest District Council's Project Management Framework.
12. Challenger Way (Cosworth Drive) Play Area – update (Minute256/06 refers).
13. Ball games on small amenity areas.
14. Policy Statements – to agree changes to existing policies.
15. Tree management programme - update.
16. Any other urgent business concerning the committee.

HYTHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

AGENDA NOTES

AMENITIES COMMITTEE – 4 JUNE 2007

Item 6 **Vandalism Report – 24 March to 22 May 2007**

The following is a list of vandalism for the period shown. Members are asked to note that the period of time that this report covers is for two months due to the local Council elections.

Graffiti

There were 4 incidents of graffiti in different locations within the parish. As Members may be aware the maintenance team carry graffiti kits in their vehicle which enables them to remove graffiti when it's on the Council's property.

The approximate cost to remove an item of graffiti equates to £5.00 for a small item and is increased by increments of £5.00 depending on the labour and material costs taken to remove larger incidents.

Cost to the Council to remove the 4 items of graffiti was £30.00

Ewart Recreation Ground

Three litter bins were burnt out and completely destroyed, one was located in the play area and the other two were located at different locations close to the access points onto the area. All of the bins have since been replaced.

Cost to the Council £212.50

Langdown Lawn Play Area

A hole was dug in the play area and several bottles were smashed in and around the items of play equipment (£15.00 labour cost).

A litter bin was damaged beyond repair; this has since been replaced (£35.00).

Cost to the Council £50.00

Prospect Place Open Space

The wooden fence that is located within the area has been damaged on two occasions. On one occasion it was necessary to replace a complete section of fencing.

Cost to the Council £120.00 (cost includes materials and labour).

Forest Front Open Space

There have been a number of occasions when bottles have been smashed in around the skate park and play area. This has resulted in a call out for a

member of staff to attend out of hours and increased man hours spent tidying up and making the area safe to use (£122.00).

The fence that surrounds the skate park has been damaged a number of times resulting in materials being purchased and additional man hours (£80.00).

Four protective sleeves that were attached to the climbing net in the play area were badly cut. The items have since been replaced (£190.00).

Cost to the Council £392.00

Noads Way Play Area

The dog proof fencing around the play area was damaged on two occasions, in order to rectify the problem some of the posts had to be dug out and concreted back in whilst the area was closed to the public.

Cost to the Council £300.00 (the cost includes materials and the labour costs of carrying out the work).

Total cost of vandalism from 24 March to 22 May 2007

The total cost of vandalism for the period shown is £1004.50.

Comparison

The total cost of vandalism for this financial year is £1004.50 compared to 210.00 at the same time last year and £120.00 at the same point in the financial year 2005/6.

Item 7

Ewart Recreation Ground

i) Play Area Consultation – update (Minute 516/06 refers)

At the meeting of the committee held on 2 April 2007, it was decided to undertake consultation to establish the depth of the problem caused by the installation of the new play area at Ewart Recreation Ground in order to decide upon what action, if any, to take.

The consultation has been undertaken. The consultation document was posted on the Council's website, notices of the consultation were displayed within the Parish, schools were given a questionnaire form for every pupil to take home and houses around the locality of the play area had questionnaires hand delivered.

224 Questionnaires have been completed and returned and as soon as the collation of the details has been finished a meeting of the Play Equipment Working Party will be called. Following this, the Working Party will invite members of the public to join it to prepare an action plan for the Amenities Committee (Minute 516/06 3) refers).

Unfortunately, the timescale given has not allowed for the meetings of the Working Parties therefore, Members are asked to consider whether to defer making any decisions on any actions to be taken at the Play Area until the next meeting of the Amenities Committee on 9 July 2007.

The Deputy Clerk will circulate the initial outcome of the questionnaires at the meeting.

ii) Recreation Ground Seat (Minute 513.06 refers)

At the meeting of the Amenities Committee on 2 April it was agreed to temporarily remove the public seat from its location close to the play area.

The seat has been removed and the response from the public has been mixed. Some members of the public have asked for its reinstatement because it is a valuable amenity during the daytime. Some members of the public have stated that its removal has been beneficial during the evenings because the young people cannot congregate around it.

The HANDY Trust has not received any comments from young people regarding the removal of the seat.

The ACSO's have noted that during the evenings the young people will sit wherever seating is available and are keen to seek a balance between the needs of those who use the seat for rest and relaxation and those who use the seat to congregate and cause a nuisance.

Members are asked to decide whether to reinstate the seat or not.

Item 8

Noads Way Play Area – fencing

It has become apparent that access is being gained onto Noads Way Play Area through the adjoining property in Noads Way. The young people are following the line of the fence and gaining access through the neighbour's hedging. The hedging has now become trampled and the "alternative entrance" is clearly visible.

The householder is keen to make his property secure again and members views are requested on providing an extension of the existing fencing to the householder's garage in order to secure the property and to secure the fencing around Noads Way Play Area.

The cost to supply and install additional fencing is £791.05. Additional hedging would not be appropriate in this instance.

Item 9

Hythe Skate and Ride – request for funding

Hythe Skate and Ride are keen to reinstate the skate park in Jones Lane. A recent Big Lottery Fund bid was turned down. A letter, attached, requesting financial assistance has been received from Hythe Skate and Ride.

An application to the Dibden Allotments Charity has been successful in as much as it has undertaken to meet 50% of the project costs to a maximum of £40,000.

This Council has always recognised the need to make provision for young people within the Parish and the need for the skate park is supported by the Police, the ACSO's and the HANDY Trust. Although the analysis of the Ewart Recreation Ground Play Area consultation has not been finalised, initial findings indicate that the public are keen to see facilities provided for the teenagers.

Members are reminded that the land is sub-leased to the Hythe Skate and Ride Charity by this Council for the charity to provide and manage a skate park. The initial equipment was taken out of use because it came to the end of its useful life and posed a health and safety risk, since then the charity has been active in trying to secure funding to replace the equipment. 3 applications for lottery grants have been turned down over the last 18 months.

Members are asked to give consideration to the request for financial assistance to Hythe Skate and Ride for skate park equipment to be installed at the Jones Lane skate park. Details of the cost to provide equipment is on the attached letter.

If in agreement, Members are also requested to recommend to the General Purposes and Finance Committee to support the bid for funding and to identify funds.

Item 10 **Forest Front Skate Park – to discuss floodlight provision (Minute 450/06 refers)**

At the meeting of the Amenities Committee on 12 February 2007, it was decided that vandalism in this area be monitored for a further two months following the repairs to the vandalised railings on the ramps.

The background to this item is that it was requested that the floodlights be reinstated to allow the skate park to be used during the hours of darkness.

Local residents were asked for their opinions of having the floodlights reinstated and the response was mixed.

It was agreed that, subject to the advice of the Council's insurers that the floodlights could be brought back into use at specific times and under supervision.

It was recommended by the insurers that a suitable electrical supply be sought and that vandalism be monitored over a period of time. With this information the committee should then be in a position to decide whether the reinstatement is a safe and practical thing to do.

Due to the vandalism of the hand rails at the skate park the area was taken out of operation and the recording of vandalism was not considered to be a true reflection of situation at the skate park.

Attached are the spreadsheets, noting the vandalism, from January to mid May 2007 and members are asked to consider whether to reinstate the floodlights for use as per the resolution made on 9 October 2006 (Minute 255/06 (a) refers).

“RESOLVED

That the HANDY Trust be authorised to hold a trial event which finishes by 9pm

Item 11 **New Forest District Council's Project Management Framework**

Attached is a copy of New Forest District Council's Project Management Framework.

The document has been produced to promote the partnership between NFDC and Town and Parish Council with regard to the provision of open space or community facilities funded with developer's contributions.

Members are asked to note the document bearing in mind that refinements can be made if and when necessary.

Item 12 **Challenger Way (Cosworth Drive) Play Area – update (Minute 256/06 refers)**

At the meeting of the committee on 9 October 2006 the duration of the remaining lease on the open space at Cosworth Drive was to be confirmed. The lease, when it is transferred to the Parish Council will be for 99 years.

At the same meeting, the Working Party composition was agreed.

“RESOLVED

That the Play Equipment Working Party comprise the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Amenities Committee, the local ward member, the Deputy Clerk, the Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor, the HANDY Trust, New Forest District Council's Play Development Officer and local residents.”

Initial consultation with local residents commenced last year and will be stepped up now that NFDC has been successful in its lottery bid for this project. Funding will also be available from the developer's contributions.

NFDC's Project Management Framework will be used for this project and a sign has been erected on site giving information on the start of the project.

Members are requested to note the update.

Item 13 **Ball games on small amenity areas**

Within the Parish there are several pockets of informal green amenity land, many of which are in residential areas.

The Accredited Community Safety Officers (ACSO's) have been asked to patrol some of these amenity areas recently due to householders complaining that children are playing on them, often playing ball games.

Members are asked to discuss and decide upon the Council's position on children playing on informal open spaces on residential areas.

Item 14 **Policy Statements – to agree changes to existing policies**

Some of the existing Policy Statements have been reviewed and the proofs are attached.

Members are requested to approve and adopt the changes.

Item 15 **Tree management programme – update (Minute 275/05 refers)**

The results of the woodland and open spaces tree surveys for this financial year have been received.

The first seven areas that appear on the schedule were inspected together with woodland adjacent to Malvern Drive in Dibden Purlieu. Malvern Drive was added

to the inspections following an incident that occurred when an adjacent land owner's tree fell on a private vehicle. Following the inspection at Malvern Drive six trees were identified as requiring urgent felling, this work has now been carried out.

The inspection programme came within the budget allocation.

A number of trees across all of the sites were identified as having defects requiring either the trees removal or pruning work within six months. One tree located in Langdown Lawn woods will need to be inspected by a bat expert prior to work being carried out.

A schedule of works is being prepared prior to entering into the quotation process. The budget estimate to carry out the work on all of the trees that have been identified is £4,500.00 which is available from the tree work budget.

Members will be kept updated and are asked to note the report.

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