

**HYTHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Amenities Committee  
held at The Grove, St John's Street, Hythe  
on Monday 3 September 2007 at 8 pm.

Members:                               \* Mrs M McLean (Chairman) – in the Chair

oMr J Bennett	*Mr D Smith
oMr R Guy	*Mr B Uglow
*Mr G Jones	*Mr A Wade
*Mr M Short	*Mr M Wade

\* Indicates attendance  
o Indicates apologies for absence

In attendance:                       Mr D J Shimpe (Clerk to the Council)  
Mrs C Patterson (Minute Clerk)  
Mr P Elsey (ACSO)

Also present:                         Mr G Parkes  
4 Members of the Public

179/07 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 9 July 2007, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

180/07 **Declarations of Interest**

Mr Jones declared an interest in Minute 190/07 as one of his clients has submitted a tender for works for the lighting control box.

181/07 **Public Participation Period**

Accredited Community Safety Officers

Mr Wheeler advised the meeting that he had seen ACSOs out on bicycles in several locations in the Parish and was pleased to note their visible presence.

Play Equipment Working Party Notes - Queries

Mr Harrison asked the Chairman how much funding had been agreed for a one year contract for security provision to cover Play Areas.

He was advised that an exact figure could not be given as tenders are being sought but a sum of around £18000 had been agreed as appropriate.

Mr Harrison pointed out that spending that money on an extra 3 PCSOs would not be an option as the Police would not be able to provide them.

Mr Harrison sought confirmation on who had asked whether the fencing of some of the recreation ground could be revisited and was advised that it was the local member, Mr Vickers.

Ewart Recreation Ground Play Area

The Chairman read a letter from Mrs Summers to the meeting concerning the problems she has encountered at the Ewart Recreation Ground Play Area.

Of the points mentioned, it was agreed to investigate the removal of the benches from the Skate Park with a view to having them replaced, to ask a District Councillor to investigate the provision of more bins in the Skate Park and to readjust the CCTV camera.

It was agreed that Mrs Summers should be advised that whilst written questions are permitted at this point on the agenda, standing orders state that they should be from members of the public attending meeting.

182/07 **Notification of matters to be raised at the end of the meeting**

The Chairman advised members that she wished to raise a matter at the end of the meeting.

183/07 **Vandalism Report – 28 June 2007 to 23 August 2007**

The Vandalism Report for 28 June 2007 to 23 August 2007 was noted by the committee.

184/07 **To receive the notes of the Play Equipment Working Party held on Monday 6 August 2007**

Consideration was given to the notes of the Play Equipment Working Party held on Monday 6 August 2007.

RESOLVED

That the notes of the Play Equipment Working Party held on Monday 6 August 2007 be received.

185/07 **Ewart Recreation Ground – to consider the recommendation of the Play Equipment Working Party**

- (a) Consideration was given to the recommendation of the Play Equipment Working Party that “the Amenities Committee recommend to the General Purposes and Finance Committee that the Clerk pursue the possibility of part funding an additional 3 PCSOs and that if this is possible that the security patrols be suspended”.

RESOLVED

That this recommendation is not accepted.

- (b) Consideration was given to the recommendation of the Play Equipment Working Party that “the Clerk write to Goff Beck, the Portfolio Holder, giving a supporting statement of the reasons why Hythe and Dibden should be included within NFDC’s CCTV network”.

RESOLVED

That this recommendation is accepted.

- (c) Consideration was given to the recommendation of the Play Equipment Working Party that “the provision of CCTV at Ewart Recreation Ground Play Area be put on hold until NFDC has decided whether to include Hythe and Dibden within its scheme”.

RESOLVED

That this recommendation be accepted and NFDC asked to include a camera at Ewart Recreation Ground if the scheme goes ahead, to be funded by NFDC or this Parish, as necessary.

186/07 **Noads Way Play Area closing times update (Minute 122/07 refers)**

Members noted with regret that the closing time for Noads Way Play Area had reverted to 6 pm, soon after the attempt to keep it open later, due to vandalism.

It was felt by some members that this may have caused some of the problems to be moved to the green at Haynes Way. However, it was agreed that it was not practical to keep Noads Way Play Area open later at this time and Mr Elsey, the ACSO, advised members that regular patrols are made at Haynes Way to ensure that any potential problems are identified and dealt with early.

187/07 **Forest Front Skatepark**

- (a) Skatepark competition

Members were shown photographs of the skatepark competition held at Forest Front organised by the Handy Trust in partnership with the Forestry Commission, Fire Brigade, Parish Council and Dibden Allotments Charity.

It was hailed as a great success and a good example of a partnership effort in the community.

(b) Floodlighting (Minute 58/07) refers

Consideration was given to the reinstatement of the floodlights at Forest Front Skatepark.

Members were advised that the detached youth worker for the area does not recommend reinstating the lights at present, particularly as some local children feel that the vandalism taking place at the moment is spoiling it for all of them and the presence of lighting will only cause more problems.

Members expressed concern over the provision of an electricity supply and whether it will be possible to provide a vandal proof junction box.

It was agreed to advertise any decision made in the November/December issue of the Parish Picture highlighting community safety.

RESOLVED

That users of the Forest Front Skatepark be advised, via the detached youth worker, that if no broken glass or wilful damage are found in the area in the 6 weeks until the end of October, this Council will investigate the cost of a vandal proof box for the electricity supply with a view to turning the lights on.

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

188/07 Hythe Skate and Ride

Members were advised that the installation of the new skate park was completed on Thursday 30 August 2007 and it is being very well used and enjoyed at present.

189/07 Bus shelter, Beaulieu Road, Dibden Purlieu – update (Minute 450/03 refers)

Members were advised that the bus shelter for Beaulieu Road, Dibden Purlieu had been ordered and installation is due in early October.

190/07 Alcohol Free Areas

Mrs McLean advised members that people feel intimidated in the centre of Hythe by men and youths who wander around with cans of alcohol in their hands. She suggested that a new byelaw should be introduced to prevent the consumption of alcohol in certain areas.

It was agreed to investigate the feasibility of this suggestion and put the matter on a future General Purposes and Finance Committee Agenda.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Chairman

Date

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