

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

Mr J Bennett

Vice Chairman

Mr B Uglow

Mr R Guy

Mr A Wade

Mr G Jones

Mr M Wade (ex officio)

Mrs M McLean

Chairman

Mr D Smith (ex officio)

Mr M Short

and remainder of the Council for information

AGAME124

6 November 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 November 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 8 October 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 – 25 September – 26 October 2007.
7. Forest Front Floodlighting (Minute 187/07 refers).
8. Removal of Play Equipment – Cathay Gardens and Shore Road Play Areas.
9. To receive the notes and consider the recommendations of the Play Equipment Working Party Meeting held on Thursday 25 October 2007.



10. Allotments.
11. Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 – Dog Control Orders.
12. To consider a request to hold a wedding reception in The Grove Garden.
13. Proposed Budget 2008/09.
14. Any other urgent business concerning the committee.

**HYPHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

**AGENDA NOTES**

**AMENITIES COMMITTEE – 12 November 2007**

**Item 6      Vandalism Report –25 September to 26 October 2007.**

The following is a list of vandalism for the period shown.

**Forest Front Skatepark and Play Area**

Part of the fence that surrounds the Skatepark has been damaged and since been replaced.

The safety guards located at the foot of the rope climbing frame were removed. These have since been found and replaced.

There have been several incidents of smashed glass and other items requiring attention at the Skatepark

Cost to the Council £70.00

The total cost of vandalism for the period 25 September to 26 October 2007 - £70.00

**Comparison**

The total cost of vandalism for this financial year is £1817.02 compared to £1951.20 at the same time last year.

**Item 7      Forest Front Floodlighting (Minute 187/07 refers).**

Members will be aware that as a result of advice received from the Council's insurance company an ongoing record of vandalism has been kept in order to establish whether or not it would be advisable to reinstall the electricity supply to the floodlights at Forest Front Skatepark.

The following was resolved at the meeting of this committee on 3 September 2007.

**RESOLVED**

That users of the Forest Front Skate Park be advised, via the Detached Youth Worker, that if no broken glass or wilful damage is found in the area in the six 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.

Attached is a record of vandalism at Forest Front for the six week period stated in the resolution.

As a result Members are recommended not to proceed with the investigations into reconnecting the power supply at Forest Front Skatepark.

**Item 8      Removal of Play Equipment - Cathay Gardens and Shore Road Play Area**

Members are advised that the wooden swing unit that was located at Cathay Gardens and a climbing frame that was located in Shore Road Play Area have been removed on safety grounds. The pieces of equipment were approximately twenty years old and had come to the end of their useful life

Cathay Gardens Play Area does not have any items of play equipment left but it is anticipated that play provision in Dibden will be enhanced by the Cosworth Drive/ Challenger Way Local Park in 2008.

Shore Road Play Area is an important and well used facility. There is approximately £9000 in the play equipment refurbishment fund which could be used to provide a new piece of play equipment in this area.

Members are asked to note the report and consider providing an additional piece of play equipment for Shore Road Playing Field

**Item 9      To receive the notes and consider the recommendations of the Play Equipment Working Party meeting held on Thursday 25 October 2007.**

The meeting notes of the Play Equipment Working Party meeting held on the 25 October 2007 are attached together with a plan showing the proposed layout of the site.

Members are asked to consider and adopt the notes.

**Item 10      Allotments.**

**a) Allotment improvements**

As part of the Council's ongoing programme of improvements across its allotment sites the following is planned for this autumn. There will be additional soil made available to tenants of Jones Lane Allotments in order that levels can be made up on individual plots. In addition it is planned to renew or refurbish all of the vehicle access gates on all of the allotment sites.

These works are a continuation of the improvements which have been carried out over recent years these include the installation of new notice boards and storage containers at all three sites. Work to improve the drainage at West Street has been successful and following a request from some tenants a load of soil has been distributed to restore the levels to some plots.

Members are asked to note the improvements

**b) Spraying of Mares Tail on Parish Council Allotments**

A Member of the public has requested that the Parish Council treat the Mares Tail present on his plot with pesticide.

Mares Tail is prevalent on most of the Council's allotment sites however it seems to be managed successfully by the majority of tenants by continual maintenance. The Council has sought advice from the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners and a copy of their response is attached

Also attached is a copy of the Council's Policy Statement relating to chemical applications on public areas which states that "Spraying is only undertaken when considered essential and other means are not able to realistically achieve the desired result".

Members are asked to consider the request.

**c) Allotment provision**

The Parish Council has 143 plots on its 3 allotment sites at Jones Lane, West Street and School Road.

In order to cope with demand the Council has been sub dividing larger plots when they have become vacant this has helped reduce the waiting list and subsequent waiting times.

Currently there is a waiting list of 67 people, of these 46 reside in the parish with the remaining 21 from Marchwood (13) and Fawley (8). Plots tend to become vacant at this time of year and since the 12 September 2007 15 have changed tenants. During the rest of the year there are very few plots which become vacant. At present the longest person on the list has been waiting for one year.

At present the 15 allotments provided by the Dibden Allotment Charity are fully allocated and there is a waiting list of 20 people. It is not known how many appear on both the charities and parish waiting list.

Land adjacent to the current Dibden Allotment Charity's allotment site in Claypits Lane has been earmarked for additional allotments in the Local Development Plan and is something that could be pursued either through partnership working with the Charity or a Parish Council venture.

Member's views are requested.

**Item 11**

**Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 – Dog Control Orders**

The Parish Council, as a result of the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 has a discretionary power to declare Dog Control Orders (DCO) on any land belonging to the Parish Council.

The DCO covers a range of issues relating to dog owners such as the removal of fouling, keeping dogs on leads and the restriction of how many dogs can be brought onto an area by a person at any one time. Enforcement of the control order can be carried out by delegated persons such as the Accredited Community Safety Officers.

New Forest District Council is seeking the views of Parish and Town Council's about whether they intend to use their powers and if so how the District Council can assist.

A copy of the letter received from the District Council is attached which offers 4 possible options.

Member's views are requested in order that a response can be given to the District Council

**Item 12 To consider a request to hold a wedding reception in The Grove Garden**

The Council has received a request from a member of the public who would like to hold a wedding reception in the Grove Garden on Saturday 24 May 2008. The proposal includes the erection of a marquee by a private company (picture attached) and the request to use the Council Chamber to make tea and coffee.

The event is scheduled to last from 9am until 7pm and portable toilet facilities will be provided by the hirer. In order to provide security for The Grove it will be necessary for a Member of staff to be on duty for the period of the booking.

Members are asked to consider the proposal.

**Item 13 Proposed Budget 2008/2009**

**1. Introduction**

Attached are copies of the budget papers for this Committee which include the following assumption and charges.

**2. Income and Charges**

Where income and charges are not covered by a contractual arrangement income is based on present income plus likely trend. Charges have been assumed to increase by 3%.

- Income  
Workshop parking, this budget head reflects the agreement with Hampshire County Council for parking ASCO's vehicles at Frost Lane.

**3. Expenditure (Core and Non Core)**

- Wages  
This budget reflects the manpower budget agreed at the Personnel Sub-Committee on 22 October 2007.
- Business Rates  
The actual rates for this current year are less than estimated. Therefore the estimate for next year is based on this year's actual plus 3%.
- Gas, Electric and Water  
Each individual budget head has been reviewed against actual usage, current price, length of time remaining or existing contracts and likely price for next year. As a result there is no proposed increase in these budget headings.
- Insurance

- The increase in insurance reflects a 3% increase in premiums over this year's actuals.
- Whilst the number of skips has remained constant with the amount of rubbish collected from play areas and open spaces, there will be a substantial increase in landfill tax (166%) therefore the budget has been increased accordingly.
- Grass seed/fertilisers/pesticides have been increased by more than 4% to repair work to be carried out at Forest Front as a result of the increased use of the kick about area.

- Floral Displays

This budget has been increased to reflect the additional ongoing planting out of beds, baskets and includes Mullins Lane roundabout previously included in special funds budget. Negotiations are in hand with a potential sponsor of the roundabout.

- Licences at Parish Hall

This budget head has been reduced to reflect the fact we no longer have to apply for an annual licence, but only have to pay a contribution to the Performing Rights Society.

- Following adoption by Council of the projects and financial contribution for next year in relation to the "Young Persons Involvement Strategy" a budget head for a youth drop in centre has been included.
- Other expenditure headings have been reviewed on an individual basis.

#### **4. Special Expenditure**

The annual provision to the vehicle and machinery renewal fund has been set at £8000 to allow for the replacement vehicle. The vehicle is approximately 13 years old.

In accordance with the Council's previous decision provision has been made for the refurbishment of play areas. It is suggested that this budget head is used to fund any new youth shelter (as agreed as part of the "Young Persons Involvement Strategy") once a suitable location is identified.

#### **Recommendations**

Members are asked to consider the draft budget and to make recommendation to the Council meeting to be held on 10 December 2007.