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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

AGAME131

26 August 2008

Members of the Amenities Committee

are hereby summoned to attend the **AMENITIES COMMITTEE** to be held in **The Grove, 25 St John's Street, Hythe on Monday next, 1 September 2008 at 8.00pm**

Yours faithfully

Clerk to the Council

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2008.
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 20 June 2008 to 15 August 2008 – To receive and note the report.
7. Replacement play equipment, Shore Road Playing Field – To note an update on the installation. (Minute102/08 refers).
8. Clayfields Sports Centre – To consider future management options (Minute 431/02 refers).
9. Beechwood Way Pond – To note an update on the installation of lifebuoys and signage (Minute 103/08 refers).
10. Any other urgent business concerning the committee.



## HYTHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

### AGENDA NOTES

#### AMENITIES COMMITTEE – 1 September 2008

##### Item 6

##### Vandalism report- 20 June 2008 - 15 August 2008

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

A total of 40 plants have been damaged or stolen from the various displays around the parish. The locations that have suffered the losses are the Gateways at Netley View, the flower beds at Clayfields Sports Centre and Mullins Lane roundabout. All of the flowers have been replaced.

Cost to the Council £65.00

##### **Langdown Lawn**

A large section of safer surfacing was ripped up and destroyed. This has been removed. The area has been made safe.

Cost to the Council £80.00

##### **Noads Way Play Area**

The safer surfacing was damaged and graffiti was spray painted to the safety plates and the abacus frame. The graffiti was removed and the area made safe.

Cost to the Council £25.00

##### **Shore Road Play Area**

The safer surfacing under the spring fish rocker and the climbing frame has been damaged. The badly effected areas have been closed to the general public until the safer surfacing can be repaired.

Cost to the Council to make safe £15.00

##### **Forest Front Skate Park**

A senior swing seat was damaged beyond repair; it was replaced with a new seat. Graffiti was painted on the youth shelter. The graffiti was removed.

Cost to the Council £50.00

##### **Forest Front Infant Play Area**

The slide and surrounding area had blue paint tipped over it. The area was cleaned and made safe.

Cost to the Council £5.00

##### **Jones Lane Skate Park**

The skate ramps and equipment had a large amount of graffiti painted on it. This was cleaned off.

The area has suffered with large amounts of litter being left; also a large amount of bottles and glass had been smashed over the skate park.

Cost to the Council £60.00

**Ewart Recreation Play Area**

An identification plate on a seat had been prised up. This was filed down and made safe. On two occasions vomit has had to be cleaned off the slide and out of the dish roundabout. Broken glass and discarded nappies have been removed from the play area.

Cost to the Council £30.00

**Ewart Sport Pitches**

Broken bottles and beer cans have been removed from the edge of the football/cricket area.

Cost to the Council £10.00

**Fletcher Close**

The latch on the entrance gate to the play area has been cut off by vandals. The metal has been filed down and made safe.

Cost to the Council £10.00

**Fern Hill**

A junior swing seat has been replaced as it was damaged beyond repair and new nut covers installed on the other swings.

Cost to the Council £52.50

**The Grove Garden**

A number of broken bottles and beer cans had been discarded in the garden. The area was cleaned up and made safe.

Cost to the Council £10.00

**Prospect Place**

A fence was damaged, this was made safe.

Cost to the Council £15.00

**Rockery Close**

A number of trees have been damaged in the wooded areas around Rockery Close by persons unknown. The area has been made safe.

Cost to the Council £211.50 This relates to a tree surgery invoice in order to make the trees safe.

**Safer Surfaces at Shore Road and Noads Way**

The confirmed cost to repair the damaged safer surfacing at both locations is £982.00 This work is planned to take place in September.

The total confirmed cost of vandalism for the period shown is £1678.50

**Comparison**

The total cost of vandalism for this financial year is £2659.30 Compared to £1642.02 for the same period in the previous financial year.

**Item 7            Replacement play equipment – Shore Road (Minute 102/08 refers)**

Members will recall that at the last meeting of this committee it was decided to purchase some replacement play equipment. The equipment has been ordered and should be installed by the end of September 2008.

Members are asked to note the report.

**Item 8            Clayfields Sports Centre - To consider future management options (Minute 431/02 refers)**

Members will be aware that Clayfields Sports Centre has been managed since 2000 by New Forest District Council through its Applemore Leisure Centre. At that time it was felt that the facilities available at both venues would compliment each other and provide a more effective public service by operating under a single management umbrella.

In order to part fund the management arrangement the Parish Council has been paying a management fee. The fee for the current financial year is £15200. The fee for the next financial year would increase by approximately 3% to £15706. The management fee contributes to the cost of staffing Clayfields and the day to day expenditure of the site including utility bills and publicity. In addition to the annual management fee the Parish Council makes provision to pay business rates of £2200 and insurance premiums of £3900 and is responsible for planned building maintenance and the pitch maintenance. Day to day repairs are carried out by NFDC.

At present Clayfields is only staffed when there are bookings. The income received by NFDC from bookings for the last financial year was £10547.

During a recent meeting between Officers of both Councils the District Council announced that it had been experiencing problems in both staffing the facility from its existing workforce at Applemore and recouping expenditure. As a result there was a £10000 loss in the operating costs for Clayfields in the last financial year. In view of the difficulties being experienced it is not possible to maintain the status quo however, the District Council have suggested there are two options for the future management of the centre effective from 1 April 2009.

**Option 1**

New Forest District Council will continue to manage Clayfields however it is suggested that as the centre is generally underused it would benefit from a dedicated part time member of staff who will run and promote the facility in order to maximise its potential. In order to achieve this it is anticipated that an additional sum of around £20000 would need to be added to the current management fee.

**Option 2**

The Parish Council could decide that it wants to return to managing Clayfields itself. In order to achieve this it will be necessary for Members to decide upon their long term objectives for the site. In the short term it may be possible to work with the current users of Clayfields to discuss key holder type arrangements whereas the centre is let out to established and responsible groups who could provide access to the facilities to their members. A similar scheme already exists

with local football teams at the Shore Road Playing Field site. This has done away with the need for a member of staff to be on duty during football bookings.

At present the centre is booked on a regular basis by 4 established groups on 4 nights of the week. The activities include Weight Watchers and Slimming World in the Community Room and netball and tennis Clubs on the all weather courts. There is very little in the way of casual turn up and play income. The grass football pitches are booked to capacity at weekends and in the lighter evenings. Further investigations will be needed in order to develop a suitable way to staff or manage the weekend and evening football bookings.

General maintenance of the site is already carried out by the Parish Council's maintenance team and investigations into keeping the facility clean using a private cleaning company have begun.

### **Financial implications**

Option 1 – in order to proceed with the District Councils management plans for Clayfields Sports Centre for the next financial year, will cost the Parish Council approximately £42206 (£35706 in management fees and approximately £6500 for the business rates and insurances) the additional £20906 will equate to a minimum 3.8% increase in the precept.

Option 2 - In order for the Parish Council to take over the management of the centre further discussions with current user groups to investigate the key holder possibilities need to take place.

It is anticipated that there will be an impact on staff time both in the office and within the maintenance team however there are no precise details.

If the Parish Council was to choose option 2 then assuming that the current level of income is maintained the financial implications will be as follows (excluding pitch maintenance).

<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>
Booking fees	10547
<b>Estimated expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>
Management	5000 staff time
Cleaning	10000 private company
Utility bills	5000 gas, electric and water
Supplies and services	1000 telephone bill, alarm and goods
Business rates and insurance	6500
Contingency	5000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£32500</b>

The approximate net cost to run Clayfields will be £21953

The current budget for Clayfields is £21300

Members are requested to consider the options and to make a recommendation to Council.

**Item 9**            **Beechwood Way Pond – To note an update on the installation of lifebuoys and signage (Minute 103/08 refers)**

Members are asked to note that two lifebuoys and two new signs highlighting a deep water hazard have been installed at Beechwood Way Pond. This is as a result of a risk assessment supplied to the Council by RoSPA and agreed at the last meeting of this committee. The lifebuoys are of the same type being introduced by the District Council along its coastal areas.

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