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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

AGAME133

4 November 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, 10 November 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 8 October 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 19 September 2008 to 24 October 2008 – To receive and note the Report.
7. Shore Road Playing Field, replacement play equipment – To note the receipt of a grant.
8. Vehicle and plant renewal - To consider and accept a tender for a replacement tractor.
9. To receive and adopt the notes of the Play Equipment Working Party meeting held on 4 November 2008 (Cosworth Drive Local Park project).
10. Beechwood Way Pond - To note a report regarding the lifebuoys.
11. Claypits Lane Allotments – To consider a request from the Dibden Allotment Charity.

12. Proposed budget 2009/10 – To consider the budget and make a recommendation to Council.
13. Any other urgent business concerning the committee.
14. Exclusion of Press and Public
15. Rent Review, Ewart Recreation Ground - Hythe and Dibden Sports Club.

## HYTHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

### AGENDA NOTES

#### AMENITIES COMMITTEE – 10 November 2008

**Item 6**      Vandalism Report- 19 September 2008 – 24 October 2008.

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

**Shore Road Playing Field**

A back stay was broken off a junior football post. This has now been repaired.

Cost to the Council £10.00

**Forest Front Skate Park**

Several incidents have occurred during the period.

A large section of fencing that surrounds the facility was damaged by joyriders in a car. Additional damage was caused to the informal kick-about area. Repairs to make the area safe have been carried out, however permanent repairs are planned. The cost of these repairs will be reported at a later date.

Obscene graffiti was spray painted onto the youth shelter on three different occasions each time this has been removed.

A large amount of glass and beer bottles were smashed over the equipment and broken computer equipment had been scattered around the play area. This was removed and the area made safe.

A section of rail from the fence surrounding the skate park was removed. This has been replaced from materials kept in stock.

Cost to the Council £60.20

**Langdown Lawn**

Two junior swings were damaged beyond repair, these were removed and new swings have been installed. The replacement swings were provided to the Council free of charge in lieu of delays to the installation of the new play equipment at Shore Road Play Area.

Cost to the Council £20.00

**Beechwood Pond**

The lifebuoys have been thrown into the water 7 times in this period. One life buoy has been removed by persons unknown and has not been found. A cost to replace the missing buoy is being sought from the suppliers.

Cost to the Council £70.00

The total confirmed cost of vandalism for the period shown is £160.20

**Comparison**

The total cost of vandalism for this financial year is £3531.29 compared to £1817.02 for the same period in the previous financial year.

Members are asked to note the report.

**Item 7**      **Shore Road Playing Field, replacement play equipment – To note the receipt of a grant.**

Following information received from Councillor Mike Short, a grant application to offset some of the cost of the new piece of play equipment in Shore Road was made to the Hampshire Playing Fields Association. The application was successful and the Council has received a £1000.

Members are asked to note the report.

**Item 8**      **Vehicle and Plant renewal – To consider and accept a tender for a replacement tractor.**

The Council has made budget provision in the Vehicle and Plant Renewal Fund to purchase a new tractor in this financial year. The tractor to be replaced is a Kubota B2150 and was purchased in 1992. At present the machine is used for football pitch maintenance, providing power for the Council's Wood Chipper, the movement of materials with its front loader attachment and other general duties.

Following trials by the maintenance team it is proposed to purchase a Kubota B2530 tractor with a cab, front loader, turf tyres and the necessary hydraulic attachments. As part of the contract it will be necessary to part exchange the existing tractor in order to offset the purchase cost of the replacement.

In order to comply with the Council's Standing Orders a tender process has been entered into. The tender estimate was £11000 and the following three companies were asked to tender.

**Longham Garden Machinery**  
Carters of Swanwick  
Christchurch Power tools

The tenders received in ascending order were

**£10093.40**  
£13798.75  
£13977.50

Members are recommended to accept the tender supplied by Longham Garden Machinery at a cost of £10093.40.

**Item 9**      **To receive and adopt the notes of the Play Equipment Working Party meeting held on the 4 November 2008 (Cosworth Drive Local Park project).**

The notes of the Play Equipment Working Party are attached.

Members are requested to consider and adopt the notes

**Item 10**            **Beechwood Way Pond – To note a report regarding the lifebuoys. (Minute 161/08 refers)**

As members will recall the life buoys and new signage were installed as a result of a risk assessment supplied to the Council by RoSPA.

The lifebuoys have been targeted by vandals on 11 different occasions since they were installed on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008, this has mainly consisted of the buoys being thrown into the pond but on two occasions the emergency throw lines have been cut.

On each occasion the lifebuoys have been retrieved by a member of the Maintenance Team or an ACSO using a grab line or nearby fallen branch. This has not only cost and time implications but is also a safety concern. Following the last act of vandalism one lifebuoy was removed by persons unknown and has not been located. A cost to replace the missing buoy has been sought from the suppliers.

Both information signs warning of the dangers of deep water have been removed by persons unknown with one of the posts being pulled out of the ground. The replacement signs have been relocated to a more suitable position which should result in the reduction of vandalism to the signs.

The ACSO's regularly patrol the area and in addition they are going to visit local schools to inform the head teachers and ask for the matter to be raised at an assembly.

Members are requested to note the report.

**Item 11**            **Claypits Lane Allotments**

The Dibden Allotments Charity has requested the Council to consider the purchase of the Claypits Lane Allotment site from them. Any sale of the land will be subject to approval by the Charity Commission.

Member's views are requested.

**Item 12**            **Proposed budget 2009/10 – To consider the proposals and make a recommendation to Council.**

A copy of the proposed budget is attached, Members are asked to consider the proposals and make a recommendation to Council.