

**HYTHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Hythe and Dibden Parish Council  
held at The Grove, 25 St. John's Street, Hythe  
On Wednesday 8 January 2014 at 8.00 pm

Members: \*Mrs B Smith (Chairman) – in the Chair

*Mr J Binns	*Mrs M Robinson
*Mr B Dash	*Mr M Short
*Mr R Guy	*Mr D Smith
*Mr C Harrison	*Mr A Wade
*Mrs M McLean	*Mr M Wade
*Mr G Parkes	oMr S Wade

In attendance: Mr D Shimpe (Clerk to the Council)  
Mr D Melsome (Assistant Clerk to the Council/Finance Officer)  
Mrs B Edwards (Minute Clerk)

Also present: oMr M Harris (New Forest District Councillor)  
\*Mr P Fawkes (Hampshire County Councillor)

\* Indicates attendance  
o Indicates apologies for absence

**214/14 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**215/14 Minutes**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 11 December 2013. A misspelling of Councillor Robinson's name was noted within item 196/13.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 11 December 2013 be signed by the Chairman as correct.

**216/14 Public Forum**

The Chairman reported that at an earlier meeting, Mr R Podesta had thanked the Parish Council and staff for its presence and pro-active approach during the recent inclement weather and flooding alert.

**217/14 Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman had no announcements to make.

**218/14 Reports of the County Councillors on County Council matters concerning the Parish**

Malcolm Wade advised Members that the decision regarding the Waterside Rail link will be made by Hampshire County Council's Executive Member for Economy, Transport and the Environment later this month. It is anticipated that the project will be shelved.

Philip Fawkes advised Members of the importance of keeping the door of the Waterside Rail project open for the future.

Mr Fawkes attended a conference on Flood Risk Management where he was informed that the South Waterside area is not deemed High Risk.

Mr Fawkes reported that, in responding to a query from a resident regarding the new lighting in Frost Lane, Julian Higgins from Hampshire County Council (HCC) advised that an economy drive by HCC had resulted in a lighting reduction of 25% during the evenings and that the District Council should be the first point of contact if more lighting is required.

**219/14 Reports of District Councillors on District Council matters concerning the Parish**

Malcom Wade informed Members that the District Council has ceased providing additional street lighting as part of a cost cutting exercise.

Maureen Robinson attended an Audit Committee meeting on 10 January 2014. The total bad debt write off for 2012/13 was £780,304 compared to £597,994 in 2011/12. This represents 0.3% of the total income collected.

Mrs Robinson attended a briefing from the Director of Finance on Grant Funding Changes following the Local Government Finance Settlement Announcement. The Grant Funding December Forecast was £8,948,000. The actual settlement for 2014/15 will be £9,507,000. The biggest gain (£365,000) came from the New Homes bonus due to the reclassification of empty properties as new homes. It is unclear whether the bonus of £365,000 has been factored into the grants for Hythe and Dibden Parish Council and other parishes.

It is predicted that the Council Tax Freeze Grant will remain in place for 2015/16.

From 2015/16 the Disabled Facility Grant will be pooled to become the Better Care Fund. The fund will be overseen by Clinical Commissioning Groups.

**220/14 Reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies**

Brian Dash reported that the Stage 1 business case for the Hythe Hospital project has become more robust since re-organisation within the Health Service. A charter has been drawn up which commits to a number of services. A local G.P is overseeing and endorsing the provision.

**221/14 Questions to District and County Councillors and Representatives on Outside Bodies arising from their reports**

Graham Parkes asked the County Councillors, Malcolm Wade and Philip Fawkes, whether the new street lighting in Frost Lane used sensors causing the lighting to switch on at a later time. Mr Wade and Mr Fawkes responded that they would make enquiries.

Brian Dash asked the County Councillors to remind HCC that Frost Lane is not a lane but a major designated route for heavy industrial vehicles.

Mr Dash asked if the Chairman was aware of plans to replace traditional street lighting posts in the High Street which is a conservation area. Councillor Maureen Robison responded that at a previous briefing she had attended, the Private Finance Initiative Company had opened a dialogue which should be pursued. The Chairman asked the Clerk to the Council to contact the Company and Hampshire County Council for clarification.

**222/14 Questions under Standing Orders 25 and 26**

Graham Parkes asked if the Chairman was aware that, during recent flooding, sandbags had been placed in the wrong area on Prospect Place. The Clerk to the Council responded that he was aware.

Mr Parkes also asked whether any action can be taken to enhance the flood defences at Prospect Place. The Clerk to the Council responded that the matter would be looked into.

Alex Wade asked if Members were aware of a firework event taking place in Southampton on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2014 to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Queen Mary. He advised that the event may attract members of the public to Hythe to view the fireworks.

**223/14 Reports of Committees****Planning Committee - 11 December 2013**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 11 December 2013.

RESOLVED that

The Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 11 December 2013 be received and adopted.

**224/14 Public Seats – Fairview Parade Shops**

Consideration was given to the request by Hythe Police to remove the two public seats at Fairview Parade to deter anti-social behaviour. Members stated that the seats were well used by the general public and since there was only one reported incident of anti-social behaviour between 12/11/13 and 4/12/13, seat users should not be disadvantaged by their removal.

RESOLVED that

The seats remain at the location and the Police be asked to maintain their robust policing to resolve any anti-social behaviour issues.

**225/14 Forest Front Open Space**

Members had previously been made aware of ongoing discussions between the Parish Council and the Forestry Commission to determine whether it is possible to erect a new building on Forest Front Open Space for the purposes of a Youth Club. Members were asked to consider a request from the Forestry Commission on whether to have the land at Forest Front Open Space on a freehold basis.

RESOLVED that

The request to have the land at Forest Front Open Space on a freehold basis be supported, subject to a further report and valuation by the District Valuer.

**226/14 Internal Audit Report 2013-14 (Interim)**

Members had previously received a copy of the interim Internal Audit Report for 2013/14 and noted its contents. On behalf of the Members, the Chairman expressed thanks to the Clerk to the Council and staff for the efficient way in which the Parish Council is operated.

**227/14 Clayfields Working Party – to receive the notes**

Members had previously received the notes from the Clayfields Working Party.

RESOLVED that

The notes of the Clayfields Working Party be adopted.

**228/14 To agree the Budget, Fees and Parish Precept for 2014/15**

Consideration was given to the Budget, Fees and Parish Precept for 2014/15.

RESOLVED that

- a) The three year insurance deal commencing July 2014 is agreed.
- b) The proposed budgets for 2014/15 be adopted.
- c) The contract for the PCSO is terminated from April 2014.
- d) Hire fees and charges are held at the current level.
- e) The Council precept from the New Forest District Council for the year beginning 1 April 2014 be the sum of £595,665 pending the Government's announcement on capping.
- f) If the announcement on capping has an implication for the Parish Council, a special Council meeting be convened to reconsider the precept required.

**229/14 Youth Ambassador's Report**

Alex Wade had nothing to report.

230/14 **Accounts for Payment**

The Clerk submitted a schedule of accounts for payment, together with a supplementary list.

RESOLVED

That accounts as detailed in the schedule totalling £42,143.33 be approved and paid.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Chairman  
Date  
mncou176