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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

AGAME135

3 February 2009

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, 9 February 2009 at 8.00pm**

Yours faithfully

Clerk to the Council

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 January 2009.
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 to 12 December 2008 – 23 January 2009 - To receive and note the Report.
7. Clayfields Sports Centre – To receive an update and to consider and agree the proposed Booking Conditions to be implemented from 1 April 2009 (Minute number 160/08 refers).
8. Cosworth Drive Local Park – To receive an update on the community feedback presentations (Minute Number 287/08 refers)
9. Proposed partnership working with the Probation Service – To discuss and agree a way forward.
10. Any other urgent business concerning this committee.



HYTHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

AGENDA NOTES

AMENITIES COMMITTEE – 9 February 2009

Item 6 **Vandalism Report - 12 December 2008 – 23 January 2009 – To receive and note the report.**

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

Fern Hill

A swing seat was damaged beyond repair. The seat has been removed and the cost of a replacement is being sought. Offensive graffiti was drawn on the frame work of the swing, this has been removed.

The Safer Play Surface was also damaged. The play surface has been temporary repaired and made safe. A cost for a permanent repair is being sought.

Cost to the Council £30.00

Beechwood Way Pond

The Life buoys have been thrown into the pond 3 times during this period. On each occasion they have been replaced.

Cost to the Council £30.00

The total cost of vandalism for the period shown is £60.00

Comparison

The total cost of vandalism for this financial year is £3598.37 compared to £2211.20 for the same period in the last financial year.

The Cost for this financial year includes £693.58 of vandalism which has occurred at Beechwood Pond and £1112.00 which has been spent on repairs to the Safer Play Surface at Shore Road and Noadsway.

Members are requested to note the report.

Item 7 **Clayfields Sports Centre – To receive an update and to consider the proposed Booking Conditions to be implemented from 1 April 2009 (Minute number 160/08 refers).**

To receive an update

As Members will recall the Parish Council is to be responsible for the management of Clayfields Sports Centre from 1 April 2009. Options on how the Centre is to be managed were previously presented to this Committee and subsequently to the Council.

The decision to agree option 2 (key holder arrangements) was taken. In order to progress the changeover initial contact has been made with all current hirers of the facility and meetings are to be scheduled in the next few weeks.

It is anticipated that hirers who wish to continue using the Sports Centre after 1 April will enter into agreements with the Council which will enable the Centre to operate with the key holder arrangements outlined in the adopted management option.

Discussions have taken place with the Parish Council's Maintenance Team in order to gather further ideas about how the Centre could operate. In order for service levels to remain it has been necessary to slightly change the weekend working hours of the maintenance team to allow football pitch safety checks to be carried out at the weekends prior to matches.

Investigations into how the Centre is to be cleaned are ongoing however it is likely that a private contractor will be employed initially for a three month period. It is suggested that this initial period will allow the Council to monitor usage of the facilities and therefore cleaning requirements in order that a tender process can begin later on in the year.

The long term future of the Sports Centre will need to be investigated and it is planned to provide the Council with options to consider at the budget discussions for the financial year 2010/2011.

Members are asked to note the report.

Consider and agree the proposed Booking Conditions

Attached are the proposed Booking Conditions.

Following adoption and during the transition period it may be necessary for amendments to be made to the Booking Conditions in view of experience gained therefore it is suggested that these amendments be carried out by the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman or Vice Chairman of this Committee.

Members are requested to discuss and agree the Booking Conditions.

Item 8

Cosworth Drive Local Park – to receive an update on the community feedback presentations (Minute number 287/08 refers).

As reported in the Play Equipment Working Party notes adopted by this Committee on 10 November 2008 a number of planned community feedback days have now taken place.

In order to publicise the events the following took place.

- ✓ Over 800 letters were hand delivered to residents who live near the public open space
- ✓ Notices appeared on the Council's website and on notice boards
- ✓ Letters were sent to the people who previously indicated that they would like to be involved in the project.

The events enabled the various project partners to present the results of the consultation process to the public. The venues included the Horrill Centre, (2 different afternoons), Clayfields Sports Centre (a midweek evening) and The Grove (two full days including Market day). In addition the design was presented to pupils of Orchard and Noadswood Schools who had previously been part of the consultation period.

The feedback was offered in the form of a computer presentation which explained the consultation period and how the ideas that were received were incorporated into the design where possible. In addition the design was available to view. Members of the working party were present at the events and were available to discuss the project with members of the public. Concerns that were

raised by some visitors included who would be responsible for ongoing maintenance and who would respond to anti social behavioural issues.

Relevant officers from the working party were able to discuss the concerns and to reassure the public that the area will be maintained and that it would be patrolled and monitored by the community safety partners.

Although the number of attendances by the public was disappointing the overall reception to the project was encouraging with no major adverse comments.

In order to progress the project, Officers from the District Council are preparing detailed costings in order to produce tender documents. It is anticipated that they will be available to discuss late spring 2009.

Members are asked to note the update.

Item 9

Proposed Partnership working with the National Probation Service – To discuss and agree a way forward.

The Parish Council has the opportunity to work with the National Probation Service on projects within the parish. The first proposed project would be at Forest Front Skate Park and Toddler Area and could include the HANDY Trust.

The project is intended to improve the appearance of the area by repainting the fences that surround both the toddlers play area and the skate park. Additional work includes the repainting of the wooden play dividers and the painting of the ramps in the skate park with the HANDY Trust and its volunteers.

The fence surrounding the skate park has recently been repaired by the Councils Maintenance Team following the damage caused by joy riders and as yet has not been painted.

The HANDY Trust has paint available for use on the ramps as they were going to under take a project to repaint the ramps with local residents during the October half term holiday. This project was stopped by the HANDY Trust following incidents of anti social behaviour at the park.

The National Probation Service will provide labour of up to 10 workers and supervision for the length of the project.

The Parish Council will need to provide all other consumables for this project at a cost of £913.20 in addition the National Probation Service would like a donation of £50.00 to help cover their expenses.

If the proposed repainting work was under taken by the Maintenance Team, it is estimated that it would take in excess of 35 man hours at a cost of £350.00

Members' views are requested.