

HYTHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Amenities Committee
held at The Grove, St John's Street, Hythe
on Monday 6 April 2009 at 8.15 pm.

Members: * Mrs M McLean (Chairman) – in the Chair

oMr J Bennett	*Mr D Smith
*Mr R Guy	*Mr B Uglow
*Mr G Jones	*Mr A Wade
*Mr M Short	*Mr M Wade

* Indicates attendance
o Indicates apologies for absence

In attendance: Mr S Spencer (Deputy Clerk to the Council)
Mrs C Patterson (Minute Clerk)
Mr M Kendall (Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor)

Also present: 20 Members of the Public

470/08 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 9 February 2009, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

471/08 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

472/08 **Public Participation Period**

Future use of Cussens Day Centre Site

As a representative of local residents, Mrs Neale expressed concern over the future use of the Cussens Day Centre site and asked what plans had been made in this respect.

Members were advised that the suggestions that had been made for the future use of the site had been forwarded to the District Council but, to date, no response had been received.

It was agreed that the Market Town Co-ordinator should be asked to survey local residents on the future use of the site and pass the results to the District Council.

Langdown Lawn Open Space Licence Review

Several residents of the area adjoining Langdown Lawn Open Space attended the meeting to express their concern over the fact that their licences will not be renewed when they expire according to Council policy amended in Minute 101/05.

The meeting was advised that the policy was amended following legal advice but circumstances may have changed in the intervening years and for this reason the matter would be discussed during the meeting.

473/08 **Notification of matters to be raised at the end of the meeting**

There were no matters mentioned.

474/08 **Vandalism Report 23 January 2009 – 20 March 2009 – To receive and note the Report**

Consideration was given to the vandalism report for 23 January 2009 to 20 March 2009.

RESOLVED

That the vandalism report for 23 January 2009 to 20 March 2009 be noted.

475/08 **Licences – to review the Council's policy. (Minute no. 101/05 refers)**

Consideration was given to the proposed amendment of the current Licence and Lease Policy Statement to allow the re issuing of Licences.

Members were reminded that the primary concern when amending the policy was that of insurance liability and it was agreed that if licences were reissued the wording should clearly indemnify this Council against any liability.

The Deputy Clerk advised members that if licences were to be reissued an inspection and maintenance routine would be introduced. It was suggested that the fees charged should reflect this cost.

RECOMMENDED

1. That the Licence and Lease Policy Statement be amended to allow the reissuing of Licences to properties adjacent to Langdown Lawn Open Space and Ewart Recreation Ground.
2. That consultation be held with the licence holders prior to any new licences being issued. A progress report will be presented to this Committee at a future date.

476/08 **Young Sports Person of the Year Award 2009 – Update (Minute 356/08 refers)**

Members were advised that Yasmin Chalmers had been chosen as the recipient of the Young Sports Person of the Year award.

477/08 **Forest Front Nature Reserve – update on maintenance works.**

Consideration was given to the update on maintenance works at Forest Front Nature Reserve.

A member expressed concern that removing a lot of larger vegetation had deprived birds of nesting places.

It was explained that the area is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest due to the presence of smaller plants such as Coral Necklace and that larger vegetation needs to be removed to allow these to flourish.

Concern was also expressed that small fires are once again being lit on the Nature Reserve but members were assured that the matter is being investigated by the Police.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

478/08 **Replanting – to note an update**

Members were updated on the current position with the replanting programme.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

479/08 **Tree Management Scheme – to note an update**

Consideration was given to the update on the tree management scheme.

RESOLVED

That the tree management scheme update be noted.

The meeting closed at 9 pm.

Chairman

Date

Mname136