

**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 Monday 22 June 2009 at 8 pm

Members: \*Mr D Smith (Chairman) – in the Chair

*Mr J Bennett	*Mrs M Robinson
*Mr W Binns	oMr M Short
*Mr R Guy	oMr B Uglow
*Mr G Jones	oMr P Vickers
*Mrs M McLean	*Mr A Wade
*Mr G Parkes	*Mr M Wade

\* Indicates attendance  
o Indicates apologies for absence

In attendance: Mr D J Shimpe (Clerk to the Council)  
Mrs C Patterson (Minute Clerk)

Also present: Mrs A McEvoy- Hampshire County Councillor  
Mr C Harrison – New Forest District Councillor  
Mrs B Smith – New Forest District Councillor

Apologies: Mr B Dash – Hampshire County Councillor  
Mr S S Wade – New Forest District Councillor

**76/09 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**77/09 Minutes**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 11 May 2009.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Council held on 11 May 2009 be signed by the  
Chairman as correct.

**78/09 Public Forum**

There were no questions from members of the public.

**79/09 Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman was pleased to announce that the Association of Train Operating Companies had issued a list of potential projects on which the reopening of the Waterside Branch Line was a top priority.

Members agreed to investigate the best way in which to pursue the matter with the County Council.

It was also suggested that Southampton City Council be asked to include the matter on their Core Strategy Document to ensure an effective linked transport system is created.

**80/09 Reports of the County Councillors on County Council matters concerning the Parish**

The Chairman welcomed Councillor McEvoy to the meeting following her recent election.

Councillor McEvoy stated that she was looking forward to working with the Council and outlined the ways in which she hoped to communicate and help and advised members that she sits on

The Culture and Communities and Rural Affairs Select Committee and the Regulatory Committee A.

The Speed Indication Device employed on Frost Lane recently showed that the average speed of eastbound traffic was 31 mph although 85% of users were travelling at 36 mph.

81/09 **Reports of District Councillors on District Council matters concerning the Parish**

The Chairman of the Corporate Overview Committee has announced another scrutiny review.

A presentation from Building Works for 2008/2009 has revealed that 99% of requested jobs were completed with 96% satisfaction.

A lot of money needs to be spent on hostels to bring them up to acceptable standards so consideration is being given to selling them.

The pilot scheme for offering choice based lettings has been successful and it is hoped that it will be offered by all local authorities by 2010.

There are 4311 people in the priority band for housing.

The average time for homes to be empty between lets in 2008/2009 was 20 days.

Some sheltered housing in the area is not suitable for warden control and residents are unwilling to pay extra for floating support so there is a possibility of decommissioning them.

The Green Audit Project Board uses challenge events which have been found to be very successful. It was suggested that the Corporate Overview Panel use the template for these events for their own use although participation appears to be at the discretion of each committee.

An Environmental Protection Liaison Committee meeting held at Fawley discussed permissions regarding hazardous waste with Hampshire County Council and Pyros Environmental and other health and safety issues and all were found to be acceptable and well monitored.

The Times newspaper has applied for information on District Councillors' expenses under the Freedom of Information Act.

The Crime and Disorder Review Panel received a presentation on Alcohol Assault which revealed that more cases of alcohol abuse are found in physical assaults than drug abuse yet drug abuse receives more funding.

20 different organisations participate in the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

The provision of CCTV cameras is on schedule for completion in August/September.

At the inquiry into the Local Development Strategy Associated British Ports objected to the fact that Dibden Bay was not listed as a potential port. New Forest District Council agreed to modify the text to state the importance of the port of Southampton to the area.

82/09 **Reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies**

The Chairman attended the AGM of the New Forest Association of Local Councils but only 17 of the 45 member councils were represented.

Ringwood Town Council expressed their concern at the way the Association was being run and offered to set up a working group to look into improving matters.

Hampshire Association of Local Councils has previously given a grant to fund the NFALC Clerk but it is unlikely that this will happen again so it was decided not to have an elected Clerk.

It was decided not to accept the groups as set out on the agenda but suggested that groups are set up according to National Park areas. It was agreed to bring the issue back to a future meeting.

The twinning visit at the end of May was very successful and the visitors from Mauvres were very pleased with the hospitality received from the community.

Age Concern and Help the Aged became Age UK on 1 April 2009 although the local Age Concern branch has not joined at the moment. The main reason for this is that all training etc is held in London which causes practical problems for many.

In order to streamline the organisation the number of voting members on the management committee has been reduced to 12 with 2 sub committees – business and fundraising.

The Good Neighbours Scheme has had an approach from Marchwood to join forces which is under consideration.

Ongoing plans for Age Concern include disable buggy training and assistance with the fuel poverty scheme in the autumn.

83/09 **Questions to District and County Councillors and Representatives on Outside Bodies arising from their reports**

Mr M Wade asked Mr Smith whether NFALC had understood that this Council would consider withdrawing from the Association if changes were not made and whether a review was planned.

Mr Smith stated that he had read the relevant minute from the last General Purposes and Finance meeting to the AGM and believed that there would be a review. It was agreed to review the matter after the next meeting of NFALC in September.

Mrs Robinson asked Mrs McLean why there seemed to be such a degree of secrecy involved in the review of sheltered housing and whether there was a possibility of younger tenants moving in.

Mrs McLean advised members that the Tenants Participation Panel has been consulted and a letter sent to each sheltered housing tenant regarding decommissioning. As funding will not be stopped until 2011 there will be time for further consultation and a request will be made for ward members to be kept informed. There is also a likelihood that younger tenants will be taken on.

Mr Guy asked Mrs McLean whether there has been underinvestment in hostel stock and the future policy for stock replacement.

Mrs McLean advised members that the hostels had originally been designed for short term (3-6 month) occupancy but some people had remained resident for 2-4 years. The facilities such as kitchens and bathrooms are not adequate for long term residency and need updating. If the facilities are closed residents will have to go to sheltered housing. More suitable properties will be built if the land can be sold.

84/09 **Questions under Standing Orders 25 and 26**

Mrs Robinson asked whether the Chairman was aware of a letter which she had received from It's Your Choice citing the pressures on providing children's services and the need to restructure It's management committee.

New management committee members are needed to continue the provision of children's services and it was agreed to enter dialogue to ascertain what support the Parish Council can offer.

85/09 **Reports of Committees**

**(a) Amenities Committee – 11 May 2009**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 11 May 2009.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 11 May 2009 be received and adopted.

**(b) General Purposes and Finance Committee – 11 May 2009**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the General Purposes and Finance Committee held on 11 May 2009.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the General Purposes and Finance Committee held on 11 May 2009 be received and adopted.

**(c) Planning Committee – 11 May 2009**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 11 May 2009.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 11 May 2009 be received and adopted.

**(d) Planning Committee – 1 June 2009**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 1 June 2009.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 1 June 2009 be received and adopted.

**(e) Amenities Committee – 1 June 2009**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 1 June 2009.

RESOLVED

That the recommendations of Minute 51/09 be accepted and the Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 1 June 2009 be received and adopted.

**(f) General Purposes and Finance Committee – 8 June 2009**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the General Purposes and Finance Committee held on 8 June 2009.

RESOLVED

1. Minute 63/09 – That NFALC be advised that unless acceptable progress is being made in the near future this Council will review its continued membership of the Association.
2. That the Minutes of the General Purposes and Finance Committee held on 1 June 2009 be received and adopted.

**86/09 Internal Audit Report (Final) 2008/09**

Consideration was given to the Annual Audit Inspection Report for 2008/09 and the proposed response.

RESOLVED

That the Annual Audit Inspection Report for 2008/09 be noted and the response be agreed and approved.

**87/09 Final Accounts and Annual Return for Year Ending 31 March 2009**

Consideration was given to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2009 along with the Annual Return for the same period.

## RESOLVED

That the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2009 along with the Annual Return for the same period be approved.

**88/09 Possible changes to the administration of concessionary travel – Consultation Paper**

Consideration was given to the above consultation document.

Whilst members felt that the economic savings of administering concessionary travel at upper tier authorities would be beneficial there was some concern that the lack of local knowledge may cause some problems with Hythe Ferry being a local example. However, it was hoped that paragraph 2.9 of the consultation paper would cover these concerns.

**89/09 Accounts for Payment**

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

## RESOLVED

That accounts as detailed in Vouchers 4996-5045 inclusive, totalling £53,979.96, be approved and paid.

The meeting closed at 9 pm.

Chairman

Date

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