

**HYTHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Amenities Committee  
held at The Grove, St John's Street, Hythe  
on Monday 13 July 2009 at 8 pm.

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

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| *Mr J Bennett | *Mr D Smith   |
| *Mr R Guy     | *Mr B Uglow   |
| *Mr G Parkes  | *Mr P Vickers |
| *Mr M Short   | *Mr A 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:                             3 Members of the Public

100/09 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 1 June 2009, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

101/09 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

102/09 **Public Participation Period**

**Cussens Day Centre**

Mr Neal advised members that no maintenance had been carried out at the Cussens Day Centre since Age Concern had vacated the premises in December 2008. He was concerned that the unkempt look of the area could encourage vandalism and asked if whoever is responsible for the site could be contacted and asked to maintain the site.

It was agreed to investigate the matter and keep Mr Neal informed of any progress.

103/09 **Notification of matters to be raised at the end of the meeting**

The Chairman advised members of a matter she wished to raise at the end of the meeting.

104/09 **Vandalism Report 16 May 2009 – 26 June 2009 – To receive and note the report**

Consideration was given to the Vandalism Report for the period 16 May – 26 June 2009.

It was agreed that any items taken from stock and used to replace vandalised items be given an approximate costing so that a rolling comparison can be made throughout the year.

Members praised the fact that the maintenance team remove any signs of vandalism so quickly that most residents are unlikely to realise that they occur. However, there was some debate on the merits of bringing the matter to the attention of the community in an issue of the Parish Picture. This could either be an article in the September issue or a dedicated issue to be brought out before the summer holidays.

It was agreed to ask the advice of the Clerk on the matter.

Members were also concerned at the amount of fly tipping which occurs in the parish and agreed to contact the District Council regarding their charges for the removal of waste.

RESOLVED

That the Vandalism Report for 16 May to 26 June 2009 be noted.

105/09 **Beechwood Way Pond – To review the continued provision of lifebuoys (Min nos 103/08 and 48/09 refer)**

Consideration was given to the continued provision of lifebuoys at Beechwood Way Pond following the constant vandalism of the lifebuoys and the advice given by the council's insurers.

It was suggested that permission be sought to use CCTV cameras in the area on the grounds that vandalism of the lifebuoys is a public safety issue.

RESOLVED

That the provision of lifebuoys continues at Beechwood Way Pond with a note being made of how often the maintenance team attend and how long the lifebuoys are not in use as a result of vandalism. The matter should be revisited in October after the lifebuoys have been in position for 12 months.

106/09 **To consider a request to provide dog waste bags (Min no 53/09 refers)**

Consideration was given to a request to provide dog waste bags.

Members felt that the cost of £2.50 for 100 bags charged by New Forest District Council is not prohibitive but did suggest that awareness of where to buy the bags could be raised.

RESOLVED

That the Parish Council are not willing to subsidise the provision of dog waste bags at this time.

107/09 **To receive the notes of the Play Equipment Working Party held on 1 July 2009**

Consideration was given to the notes of the Play Equipment Working Party and a request to earmark up to £10,000 from the Play Area Refurbishment Fund as a safety net should all the tenders come in over budget.

The Chairman expressed her gratitude to all those involved in the project, particularly the Deputy Clerk, the Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor and Jill Colclough, Dye Lockyer and Richard Payne from the District Council.

RESOLVED

1. That the notes of the Play Equipment Working Party be noted.
2. That up to £10,000 be earmarked from the Play Area Refurbishment Fund to supplement the provision of play equipment at Cosworth Drive if required.

108/09 **To accept a quotation for the provision of a grass cutting machine**

Consideration was given to the quotations received for the provision of a grass cutting machine.

RESOLVED

That the quotation from Longham Garden Machinery for a grass cutting machine costing £7231.00 be accepted.

109/09 **Noads Way Butterfly and Wildlife Garden**

As part of the Hythe and Dibden Community Action Plan a number of projects were identified by children from Orchard School. Two of these were combined, namely the provision of a picnic area and a butterfly garden, and a grant was received from Hampshire County Council Youth Opportunities in order to fund the project.

The maintenance team from the Parish Council and children from Orchard School worked in partnership to install 3 new picnic tables made from recycled bottle tops and waste plastic and plant butterfly friendly plants. A suitable grass cutting schedule was adopted which encouraged wildlife.

The Noads Way Butterfly Garden Project recently won the Environment and Culture Category of the South East England Action for Market Towns Awards. On the 21 July 2009 the project will go forward to be judged against other National Environment and Culture winners at Faringdon.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Chairman

Date

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