

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 28 September 2009 at 8 pm

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

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

Also present: Mr B Dash – Hampshire County Councillor
Mr B Foley (New Forest National Park)
Mr C Harrison – New Forest District Councillor
Mrs B Smith – New Forest District Councillor
Mr S S Wade – New Forest District Councillor
1 Member of the Public

Apologies: Mrs A McEvoy (Hampshire County Councillor)

193/09 Declarations of Interest

Mrs Robinson declared an interest in Minute 199/09 as she is a trustee of a charity that provides counselling and advice to alcohol misusers in Hampshire. She did not consider her interest to be prejudicial and remained in the meeting.

194/09 Minutes

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 3 August 2009.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Council held on 3 August 2009 be signed by the Chairman as correct.

195/09 Introduction of Barrie Foley – Interim Chief Executive, New Forest National Park

Barrie Foley, the Interim Chief Executive of the New Forest National Park Authority, gave a presentation which was originally given at a public meeting held earlier in September.

He outlined the way in which the Authority wishes to act as a forum to gather knowledge from the 93 stakeholder groups such as the Verderers, commoners, businesses and tourism and pull together that expertise to set up forums which will investigate ways to run the National Park in a way which will benefit all those with an interest in it.

He stressed that the National Park Authority appreciates that this will be a challenge as various groups have different ideals but it is necessary to alleviate problems such as wear and tear on the area and the effects of changing flood plains and the pests and diseases which are proliferating in the warmer climate.

The future plan for the area will be split into 3 separate documents – The Management Plan, The Core Strategy and The Recreational Management Plan. All will have between 3 and 6 weeks available for public consultation.

It was suggested that a member of the New Forest National Park Authority sit on the Parish Council Dibden Bay Working Party in order to share expertise.

196/09 **Public Forum**

Waterside Arts

Mrs Smith passed on the thanks of the Waterside Arts committee to the Parish Council and its staff for all the assistance provided in helping to make the Big Boats and Bands Day such a success which was hugely enjoyed by all who attended.

197/09 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman had no announcements to make.

198/09 **Reports of the County Councillors on County Council matters concerning the Parish**

It has been agreed that Hampshire County Council is opposed to the proposed Dibden Bay development outlined in the Port of Southampton Master Plan 2009 Consultation Document.

The previous Dibden Bay Inspector's Report stated that substantial damage would be caused by the proposals and damage would be done to the character and appearance of the New Forest Heritage Area. It would seem that this has not changed.

The Planning Policy Statement will be released in draft form at the end of the year.

199/09 **Reports of District Councillors on District Council matters concerning the Parish**

Sunbeds are to be removed from the District Council's Health and Leisure Centres.

The Portfolio holder's Annual Parking Report indicated that from 7395 Penalty Charge Notices 6567 were paid at the discounted rate. 2325 PCNs were informally challenged and 1432 were cancelled as a result of these challenges.

The total surplus in the off street parking account was £1,215,805 which was transferred to general funds to contribute towards concessionary fares for the disabled, younger and older people.

There were 107 on the waiting list for the disabled facilities grant, mainly due to understaffing. It is hoped to reduce the waiting list to 50 by 2010.

The floating support service which is funded by the County Council benefits 112 clients. It enables those not in sheltered housing to maintain their independence. Wardens will visit clients in their own homes.

The change of supplier for the Lifeline service seems to have been successful as users are satisfied.

The District Auditor's report on the case involving the Leisure Centre Sports Hall Floors was critical of the inadequate specification given for the tendering process. It was also unclear who allowed the case to go to court as there was little discussion with members.

Mrs Smith was unable to persuade the District Council to sign up to a pledge to reduce its carbon footprint by 10% by the end of 2010. It was suggested that the Parish Council investigate the possibility of participating.

The Standards Committee scored well in a recent assessment.

The remaining CCTV camera pole due to be located at Fairview will be sited in a suitable location.

An internet survey has taken place on young people's consumption and misuse of alcohol. Whilst £3 million is spent on drug rehabilitation in Hampshire, only £80,000 is spent on alcohol rehabilitation. More funds are needed to enable the education of young people and their parents on the misuse of alcohol.

Contrary to other areas, shop occupancy in Hythe is holding up well with only 6.5% of primary shopping frontage unoccupied after 8.8% was unoccupied for the last 2 years. However there are concerns that the balance of hairdressers and retail premises has altered. Shops in Fairview have full occupancy and, on average, there is only one unit empty in Dibden.

There was a low response to a survey carried out by the Citizens and Young Peoples Panels on transport. However it was felt that the wording of the questionnaire may have contributed to this.

The local distinctiveness in planning project is running behind schedule so the start date for this area has been delayed.

A verbal update on the Core Strategy has been given and it is felt that the District Council Officers have done an excellent job.

(Mrs Robinson declared an interest in this item)

200/09 **Reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies**

The Chairman attended a meeting of the New Forest Association of Local Councils on 17 September 2009 at which he expected to discuss a new constitution. A special meeting to discuss this has now been convened for 17 December 2009.

Minstead Parish Council are expected to propose the disbanding of NFALC at this meeting but Councillor Clark from Ringwood Town Council has offered to create a business plan and this offer has been accepted.

As funds are low and expected to be used up by March it is hoped to ask the New Forest National Park for a grant. New Forest District Council has already been approached but is unable to supply more than the venue for meetings.

It is hoped to invite a representative from the New Forest National Park to meetings along with topic experts.

The Chairman attended a liaison meeting between the District Council and Town and Parish Councils. There were presentations on Community Governance relating to Towns and Parishes, Community Governance Review and on Town and Parish Councillors' Allowances.

There are concerns over the number of night flights out of Bournemouth Airport and one Parish Council reported difficulties with the planning information on the District Council website.

Dibden Allotments Charity has welcomed Rosemary Dash and Chris Harrison as new trustees. The Charity is suffering from a loss of interest on investments of around £60,000 to £80,000 per annum coupled with an increase in applications for food, gas and electricity vouchers. There has also been an increase in the need for gardeners and applications for help with rent deposits and arrears.

At a recent meeting of the New Forest Consultative Panel Sandy Phillips from the Forestry Commission gave a presentation on non native species which are taking hold in the New Forest using many local examples. Anyone who needs help or advice in this regard is invited to contact her.

Mr Binns attended the Annual General Meeting of Age Concern and advised members that the Good Neighbours Scheme is very successful as is a Saturday morning computer class for the elderly at Applemore. An advice and information service is run from Dibden Purlieu and the Pop in Centre, lunch clubs and foot care service are all well supported and successful. The Charity shops in Totton and Dibden Purlieu made a profit of £56,000 in 2008.

The aim for the coming year is to help to provide affordable dentistry.

201/09 **Questions to District and County Councillors and Representatives on Outside Bodies arising from their reports**

Mrs Smith commended the Parish Council on sending out information on Japanese Knotweed with invoices for allotments and asked whether an article on the subject could also be placed in the Parish Picture.

Mr Dash asked Mr Parkes what had caused the delay on the local distinctiveness in planning project.

Mr Parkes responded that he felt it was a combination of an optimistic timeframe and the need to learn as the project progressed.

Mr A Wade asked Mr M Wade whether it would be possible to start to educate young children about alcohol abuse while they attended junior school.

Mr M Wade responded that the problems tend to surface at secondary school when peer pressure is more influential. He also felt that it is necessary to educate parents about the dangers.

202/09 **Questions under Standing Orders 25 and 26**

Mrs Robinson asked whether the Chairman was aware that the Waterside area is to be included in a bid for the UK City of Culture.

The Deputy Clerk responded that the Council was not aware but would investigate the matter further.

203/09 **Reports of Committees**

(a) Planning Committee – 3 August 2009

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 3 August 2009.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 3 August 2009 be received and adopted.

(b) Planning Committee – 7 September 2009

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 7 September 2009.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 7 September 2009 be received and adopted.

(c) Amenities Committee – 7 September 2009

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 7 September 2009.

Minute 165/09

Mrs Robinson advised members that she had spoken to the District Council Officer concerned who had investigated and agreed to tidy the area.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 7 September 2009 be received and adopted.

(d) Planning Committee – 21 September 2009

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 21 September 2009.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 21 September 2009 be received and adopted.

(e) General Purposes and Finance Committee – 21 September 2009

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the General Purposes and Finance Committee held on 21 September 2009.

Minute 188/09

Mr Vickers advised members that the District Council's response to the Port of Southampton Master Plan 2009 Consultation Document will be available shortly.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the General Purposes and Finance Committee held on 21 September 2009 be received and adopted.

204/09 Signing of Documents – to authorise two members of the Council to sign the new Lease between

- (a) the Council and Oakland Residential Lettings for the use of office accommodation at The Grove**
- (b) the Council and Training Design and Innovations Limited for use of office accommodation at The Grove**

RESOLVED

That authority be given to sign the documents as required by the Clerk to the Council.

205/09 Accounts for Payment

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

RESOLVED

That accounts as detailed in Vouchers 6312 - 5331 inclusive, totalling £15,795.36, be approved and paid.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Chairman

Date

Mncou125