



HYTHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

The Grove, 25 St. John's Street, Hythe, Hampshire SO45 6BZ

Serving the communities of Dibden, Dibden Purlieu and Hythe

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To: Members of the Amenities Committee

Mr R Guy

Mrs M Mclean

Mr G Parkes

Mr M Short

Mr B Uglow

and remainder of the Council for information

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Mr P Vickers

Mr A Wade

Mr D Smith (ex officio)

Mr J Bennett (ex officio)

AGAME145

6 April 2010

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, 12 April 2010 at 8.00pm**

Yours faithfully

Clerk to the Council

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2010.
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. Beechwood Way Pond- to consider the continued use of lifebuoys (Minute No. 219/09 refers).
7. Youth Involvement Strategy – to consider a request for the provision of a dirt bike track.
8. Allotments – to receive a verbal update.
9. Hardy Drive Public Open Space – to note an update on the current condition of the area.
10. Play area inspection arrangements – to note an update
11. Whitewater Rise Public Open Space – to note the result of a recent safety inspection.



12. Netley View Youth Club - Land south of Cedar Road.
13. Any other urgent business concerning this committee.

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HYTHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

AGENDA NOTES

AMENITIES COMMITTEE – 12 April 2010

Item 6

Beechwood Way Pond – to consider the continued provision of lifebuoys (Minute No. 219/09 refers).

At a meeting of this committee on 12 October 2009 (Minute number 219/09 refers) Members considered a report which highlighted ongoing vandalism issues with the lifebuoys that are located at Beechwood Way Pond.

Members raised concerns about the level of vandalism however the following was;

Resolved

That the provision of Lifebuoys at Beechwood Way pond continues with monitoring and the position is reviewed in six months unless the situation deteriorates dramatically.

The lifebuoys were installed in September 2008. Since installation and until the 7th March 2010 there have been 43 unauthorised removals of a lifebuoy, 17 of these incidents have occurred since the meeting on 12th October 2010.

As previously reported to this committee, the Parish Council has tried numerous ways to prevent the lifebuoy stations being vandalised. These include deploying the ACSO (Accredited Community Safety Officers) to regularly patrol this area and to visit the local schools. In addition, representatives from the Handy Trust have also spoken to the local school children and to members of the youth club about these incidents.

In the summer of 2009 and as a result of the continuing acts of vandalism CCTV was deployed by the ACSO's however no acts of vandalism were suffered during the deployment period. The processes required by law to deploy the CCTV are fairly lengthy and have to be justified in accordance with the relevant Act.

Beechwood Way Pond is checked daily as part of the Parish Councils inspection regime (no inspections are carried out on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day). An additional safety check on the housing of the lifebuoy and its associated signs is carried out on a weekly basis. Written records are kept for both inspections.

Members are requested to consider the report and to decide whether the provision of lifebuoys at Beechwood Way Pond should continue.

Item 7

Youth Involvement Strategy – to consider a request for the provision of a dirt bike track.

This committee has received a request from the Parish Council's Youth Involvement Strategy to investigate the feasibility of providing a dirt bike track within the parish.

As Members will be aware there is a lack of suitable land within the parish to site a facility of this type. In addition to this the Councils Insurance provider recommends that any area provided for this type of activity should have access to the highway so that in the event of an accident medical response would not be unduly delayed.

The facility would be subject to a daily inspection and maintenance regime similar to the one carried out on the Council's play areas. In order to achieve this it will be necessary to review the current workload of the maintenance team in view of the recent land transfer of Orchard Wild Garden, the forthcoming play facilities at this site and the agreed land transfer of the former Langdown School site.

Preliminary investigations carried out by Officers have discovered that a dirt bike facility would need to be built by a professional company due to the drainage and type of construction work required. The estimated budget costs to provide a reasonable facility which conforms to the British Standard range from £20000 to £50000. Ongoing additional maintenance costs are estimated at between £1,000.00 and £3,000.00 per annum.

Member's views are requested.

Item 9

Hardy Drive Public Open Space – to note an update on the current condition of the land.

The Parish Council has agreed to accept the freehold transfer of two parcels of land referred to above (Min No.s 148/00 and 214/00 refer).

The public open space is divided into two distinct types, one is a verge type area (marked A on the attached plan) which is a useful buffer between the Hardy Drive development and the adjacent M.O.D Land. The land is in a good condition and a developers contribution of £4644.00 will be payable to the parish council upon completion of the transfer.

The other piece of open space (marked b on the attached plan) is a woodland type area that abuts Frost Lane. The land transfer has been ongoing due to concerns raised by the parish council regarding the amount of builder's rubble that was strewn across the site, the condition of the trees and the lack of an access from the site onto Frost Lane.

A recent site visit with officers from the parish council and New Forest District Council has identified that the clear up across the site has taken place. In addition repairs to two brick pillars which formed part of an old entrance to the site have been completed however the entrance remains closed due to concerns raised by New Forest District Council. The concerns are centred on the egress point not having a reasonable footpath in Frost Lane. Investigations into the provision of a replacement access further down Frost Lane and on an alternative part of the open space have commenced.

In addition there appears to be a number of defects to the trees and the parish council has requested New Forest District Council to carry out a tree survey prior to the transfer.

Following further investigations by New Forest District Council a further report will be made to this Committee later in the year.

Members are asked to note the report.

Item 10

Play area safety inspections – to receive an update on the training of Maintenance Operators.

During March 2009 two members of the maintenance staff attended a three day RoSPA Playground Inspection course which was held in Telford, Shropshire.

The Operational Play Area Inspection Training course supplements a previous course undertaken by the Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor and all of the maintenance team.

The course is designed for those who are responsible for the operational inspections and maintenance of outdoor play areas. Key parts of the course syllabus include identifying a logical and systematic approach to inspecting including the use of risk assessments, knowledge of EN1176 Part 7 and other relevant sections of EN 1176.

After successfully completing the practical section of the course the two members of staff undertook the Register of Play Inspectors' International Exam for Operational Inspections. The results of the exam will be available at the meeting.

Members are asked to note the report.

Item 11. Whitewater Rise Public Open Space – to receive an update on a recent safety inspection.

The Public Open Space at Whitewater Rise is a small wooded area which has a large steep bank sloping down to residential homes in the adjacent Foxtail Drive. Following a recent inspection a number of improvements have been made.

These include;

- The sloped area in the open space has now been fenced off to prevent members of the public from accessing the slope.
- Information signs have been installed. The signs inform the public of the nature of the area and contact details for parish council are included.
- A number of unauthorised rope swings and a den have been removed.
- Tree work was carried out on a number of trees.
- As part of the Parish Council's Tree Planting Project five large Silver Birch trees and 30 native shrubs were planted in suitable locations. It is anticipated that the trees and shrubs will provide a habitat for wildlife and improve the general appearance of the area for years to come.

Members are asked to note the report.

Item 12. Netley View Youth Club - Land south of Cedar Road

The Council has recently been informed that the Blackfield and Langley Sports and Social Club (BLSSC) which is located on Esso land to the south of Cedar Road has ceased trading.

As a result the youth club which is housed within the building has had to temporarily close. In addition the current provision of a football pitch has also been withdrawn.

The youth club and surrounding land is mainly used by residents of the Netley View Estate. Therefore Officers from the Parish Council and the Handy Trust together with staff from Esso have met to discuss a way of continuing youth provision and to discover Esso's future intentions for the site.

Discussions will need to be ongoing, however Esso have confirmed that they are keen for the land to be made available for community use and are happy to enter into discussions with the Parish Council. Early investigations have suggested that the land could host a number of different facilities including sport, youth and possibly even allotments.

It has become apparent that the current building which housed the BLSSC is in disrepair and a survey would be required to assess the viability of retaining it prior to any possible reopening.

The land adjacent to the Esso site has been identified in the Local Plan (Policy HD16) as being located in Fawley Parish, however it is recognised that any proposed facilities would relate to and serve the residents of Hythe and Dibden. Further investigations would be needed to establish whether or not the same principle could be attributed to the land that belongs to Esso.

Member's views are requested as to whether the Council should continue investigating the possibilities of providing community facilities on the land to the South of Cedar Road and the adjacent Esso land.

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New Forest
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**LEASE PLAN
LAND OFF HARDY DRIVE
FROST LANE, HYTHE**

**1:1250
FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

**Do not scale off this plan
September 2007**

