

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 Wednesday 10 December 2014 at 8.00 pm

Members: *Mrs B Smith (Chairman) – in the Chair

*Mr J Binns	*Mrs M Robinson
*Mr M Short	*Mr D Smith
*Mr B Dash	*Mr A Wade
*Mr R Guy	*Mr M Wade
*Mr C Harrison	*Mr S Wade
*Mrs M McLean	
oMr G Parkes	

In attendance: Mr S Spencer (Deputy Clerk to the Council)
Mr D Melsome (Assistant Clerk to the Council/Finance Officer)
Mr M Kendall (Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor)
Mrs B Edwards (Minute Clerk)

Also present: oMr M Harris (New Forest District Councillor)
oMr P Fawkes (Hampshire County Councillor)

4 Members of the Public

* Indicates attendance
o Indicates apologies for absence

194/14 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations made.

195/14 Short Discussion with Mr Andy Clapper, C.E.O of New Forest Citizens Advice Bureau

Mr Clapper informed Members that he has been in post since August. His aim is to raise the profile of the New Forest Citizens Advice Bureau (NFCAB) which has been operational for over 70 years. It plays an important role in trying to make a positive impact on social policy and campaigns. Mr Clapper stated that although the Advisors from NFCAB can draw on extensive national resources, it is still a charity and funding is an issue.

Mr Clapper presented a 'Dashboard' of statistics for the last 12 months. A snapshot of the top 5 advice categories showed 29% for benefits and tax credits and 26% for debt. Although 74% of contact was face to face advice, a telephone advice line service and email advice service is available and web advice service will be launched soon. Mr Clapper stated that the Hythe CAB has a higher number of clients seeking advice on benefits, tax credit and debt than the average for the New Forest and a higher number of face to face contacts.

The Hythe CAB has a total of 24 volunteers. All volunteers are trained to a high level which takes up to two years. Mr Clapper stated that the financial position of the service is not secure due to cuts in Government grants.

Mr Clapper anticipates that the introduction of universal credit will require high levels of advice and therefore an increase in workload at a time when volunteer levels are decreasing. He thanked the Parish Council for its continuing support.

196/14 Minutes

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 12 November 2014. In minute number 171/14 Mrs Robinson highlighted that Mr Pipe had been referred to as Mr Pope in the second paragraph of the text.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 12 November 2014 be signed by the Chairman as correct subject to the above amendment.

197/14 **Public Forum**

Mrs J Bovey updated Members regarding the matter of litter within the Parish which she had raised at a previous meeting. Mrs Bovey subsequently met with an Officer from New Forest District Council (NFDC) Environmental Services when a 'litter walk' was conducted. Mrs Bovey suggested partnership working and offered to become a litter volunteer.

Mr J Spliers informed Members that residents of Butts Ash regularly undertake litter picking within the area and raised concerns that the authorities who have the power to impose fines for littering are rarely seen within the Parish. He queried what other forces are available. Councillor David Smith responded that the Accredited Community Support Officers do tackle littering when they see it happen and Councillor Robinson stated that litter picking is undertaken by Parish Council staff on Parish Council land. Mrs Robinson proposed that a representative from NFDC's Environmental Services be invited to attend a future meeting.

198/14 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman reminded Members of the Christmas Event taking place at Dibden Purlieu on Friday 12 December 2014 from 1530 – 2000.

199/14 **Reports of the County Councillors on County Council matters concerning the Parish**

Philip Fawkes was absent from the meeting but had submitted a written report. Mr Fawkes is awaiting a decision from the relevant Executive Member with respect to summer opening hours at Lepe County Park. Mr Fawkes has stepped down as Leader of UKIP on Hampshire County Council (HCC) but will continue to serve on the following: Education Advisory Panel; Economy, Transport and Environment; River Hamble Management.

Malcolm Wade attended a meeting at HCC at which a motion asking for more powers and funding to be devolved to County, District and Parish Councils was submitted, with amendments requesting HCC to devolve some of its powers to Districts and Parishes and a further amendment to devolve powers from EU quangos to local councils.

Mr Wade reported that HCC is looking to cut more money from the youth budget.

As part of the programme of works being undertaken by Operation Resilience, footway resurfacing works commenced on 8 December 2014 at Watermans Lane, Crete Road and Armitage Avenue in Dibden Purlieu. Work is expected to last for 10 weeks during which time sections of the footpath will be closed to pedestrians. No work will be undertaken between 23 December 2014 and 4 January 2015.

Mr Wade is visiting the Head Teacher and students at Applemore School to look into the provision of a cycle route from Applemore School to Marchwood.

200/14 **Reports of District Councillors on District Council matters concerning the Parish**

James Binns informed Members that talks had taken place involving Southampton City Council and Portsmouth City Council, amongst others, with regard to the formation of Solent City 'super' Authority in which The Waterside area of the New Forest had been included. Mr Binns urged Members to condemn the proposal.

Mr Binns raised concerns about the number of camper vans staying for long periods of time at Shore Road car park. The Deputy Clerk informed Mr Binns that the land was in the ownership of NFDC and that the camper vans had now moved on.

Maureen McLean advised that she had attended a talk by Mr Clapper (NFCAB) on Universal Credit which will be issued to all single claimants in August 2015 and every claimant of working age by 2018. Universal Credit combines all 6 benefits currently available, including housing benefit, and will be paid one month in arrears. Claimants will be required to pay their rent directly to landlords whether private or local authority. Anyone experiencing difficulties can contact the New Forest Advice Network using the CAB central telephone number.

Chris Harrison attended a Planning Development Control Committee meeting on 10 December 2014 at which the planning application for 4 Brocks Close, Dibden Purlieu was granted. The Parish Council Planning Committee had previously recommended refusal.

Mr Harrison informed Members that the S215 notice issued in connection with 50 Pylewell Road had not been fully complied with. A meeting between NFDC and the site owner is being arranged to discuss the requirements of the notice.

Mr Harrison reported that the swimming pool at Applemore Recreation Centre had now re-opened. Following repeated requests for an explanation of the cause for the delay in re-opening, Mr Harrison and Mr Wade attended a closed meeting with officers from NFDC and are not currently at liberty to discuss the content.

Malcolm Wade reported that NFDC have encountered problems with the procurement and tendering process for changing the pay to park machines within the district. As a result, re-tendering will take place in 12 months' time.

201/14 **Reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies**

David Smith attended a meeting of the Butts Ash Community Association (BACA). Grants have been received from the Dibden Allotment Fund (DAF) and Councillors Malcolm Wade and James Binns. BACA thanked the Parish Council for the loan of the Community Payback scheme.

Maureen McLean advised that the DAF will again be distributing 50 hampers to those in need on 16 December 2014.

202/14 **Questions to District and County Councillors and Representatives on Outside Bodies arising from their reports**

Alex Wade asked Maureen McLean where he could obtain information about Universal Credit. Mrs McLean replied that the information was available from the Citizens Advice Bureau.

203/14 **Questions under Standing Orders 25 and 26**

Maureen Robinson asked if the Chairman was aware that the pavers surrounding the enclosed tree in Hythe precinct were lifting. The Chairman referred the matter to the Deputy Clerk who replied that the matter would be reported to the Highways Agency.

Alex Wade asked if the Chairman was aware of the increasing traffic difficulties caused by vehicles being parked on both sides of the highway in Beaulieu Road near The Heath. Mr Malcolm Wade responded on behalf of the Chairman. He stated that restrictions will be implemented to restrict parking to one side of the road only.

Brian Dash asked if the Chairman was aware that the planning application for Applemore College to extend the operating hours of its outside sports facilities, which the Parish Council Planning Committee did not support, had been withdrawn. Mr Dash felt that it was a loss of something of great benefit to the community and asked that Members give pause for thought in the future before making such decisions.

204/14 **Reports of Committees**

Planning Committee – 12 November 2014

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 12 November 2014.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 12 November 2014 be received and adopted.

205/14 **To receive the notes of the Play Equipment Working Party held on 25 November 2014 and to consider the recommendations**

Consideration was given to the above report.

RESOLVED that

- a) Kompan be accepted as the preferred supplier for both of the possible play area upgrades at Noads Way Play Area.
- b) If the grant application to Veolia is successful then surplus money from the play area project be used to upgrade the tennis court facility at Noads Way.
- c) Proludic be appointed as the preferred supplier for the upgrade of the play facilities at Bluebell Gardens.
- d) Kompan be appointed as the preferred supplier for the upgrade of Fletcher Close Play Area.

206/14 **Public Use Defibrillator – update and proposed location for siting**

The Deputy Clerk advised Members that following discussions with Christopher Lund of St John's Church, a partnership arrangement had been established which will see a public use defibrillator being made available to the community.

RESOLVED that

- a) The defibrillator be sited in the porch of St John's Hall.
- b) The Deputy Clerk makes contact with St. Andrews Church to negotiate a similar partnership agreement.
- c) The location of the defibrillator is advertised on the Parish Council's website.

207/14 **New Forest Citizens Advice Bureau**

Members considered a request to increase the amount of grant that is paid to New Forest Citizens Advice Bureau.

RESOLVED that

The grant be increased by £1,000.

208/14 **Bank Reconciliation – October 2014**

Consideration was given to the Bank Reconciliation for October 2014.

RESOLVED

That the Bank Reconciliation for October 2014 be noted.

209/14 **To consider a request from Hythe and Dibden Short Mat Bowls**

Consideration was given to the request from Hythe and Dibden Short Mat Bowls Club to reduce the hire fee for the Parish Hall during July and August.

RESOLVED

That the Deputy Clerk be given authority to negotiate a reduction of up to 25%.

210/14 **Clayfields Sports Centre Update**

Members considered the above report.

RESOLVED

That the report on Clayfields Sports Centre be noted.

211/14 **Accounts for payment**

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

RESOLVED

That accounts as detailed totalling £77,906.82 be approved and paid.

212/14 **Exclusion of Press and Public**

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972.

213/14 **Council Meeting – January 2015**

Consideration was given on how best to staff the Council meeting in the absence of the Deputy Clerk in January 2015.

RESOLVED

That a locum Clerk be appointed to attend the Council meeting in January 2015.

The meeting closed at 9.34 p.m.

Chairman

Date

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