

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 12 February 2014 at 8.00 pm

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

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

In attendance: Mr D Shimpe (Clerk to the Council)
Mr Sean Spencer (Deputy Clerk)
Mr D Melsome (Assistant Clerk to the Council/Finance Officer)
Mr Marcus Kendall (Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor)
Mrs Janis Bevis (Administration Assistant)

Also present: 1 Member of the public

* Indicates attendance
o Indicates apologies for absence

238/13 Declarations of Interest

Mr C Harrison and Mrs M McLean disclosed a pecuniary interest in Minute 254/13 as they are Trustees of Dibden Allotments Fund. They left the meeting and took no part in the discussion. Mrs M Robinson disclosed that her parents received service from the Dibden Allotments Fund Garden Waste Scheme.

239/13 Minutes

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 8 January 2014. In Minute 219/13 Mrs Robinson pointed out she had reported (not attended) that the New Forest papers for the Audit Committee meeting on 10 January 2014 showed the total bad debt write off for 2012/13 was £780,304 compared to £597,994 in 2011/12. .

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 8 January 2014
be signed by the Chairman as correct subject to the above
amendment.

240/13 Public Forum

Mr Warren Binns had concerns about the legal implications and responsibility being too huge for a Parish Council when considering employing the ACSOs. He also felt that the resulting 8.76% increase in precept was too much, particularly for those on a pension.

The Chairman noted the comments.

241/13 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman expressed gratitude to the maintenance men for their efforts in dealing with trees and flooding at this particular difficult time.

The Chairman reported that the New Forest Tour bus will be including Hythe on its route this summer and the Beach Bus is to return this summer as well. It was hoped that this will be promoted to get the buses well used.

242/13 Reports of the County Councillors on County Council matters concerning the Parish

Malcolm Wade advised Members that all County Councillors received a letter on the budget from Cllr Perry, the leader of Hampshire County Council (HCC), advising that the HCC budget will set out plans to save £93 million (12% of the total budget) in order for the Council to keep on track to deliver total savings of £230 million by 2015. As part of the actions to do this a proposed reduction of an estimated 200 full time equivalent posts in some areas including a further 10% cut in senior management on top of the 25% cut in previous budgets. There is likely to be both reductions along with increases in some areas to support business growth and investment. There will still be a £500 million capital programme on schools and other building projects but despite this there will be lean actions ahead such as the ACSO cuts.

Mr Wade also attended two Children and Young People select committees. An important part of the first meeting went over the budgets and the potential savings of £6.3 million for the full year 2014/2015. One part of this was on Short Breaks, where Hampshire County Council was looking to cut the budget for disabled by £2.5 - £3.5 million in 2016, which meant they could not fund respite care and short breaks for children with disabilities – a vital service for both the parents and children themselves, however the decision for this funding was delayed. The importance of keeping the service was impressed on the committee so much that a cross party Task and Finish Group is to be formed to look into how the service might be retained going forward and hopefully achieve the positive result wanted for disabled children and their families.

Mr Wade also commented on the other Children and Young People select committee which was mainly on the results of education in Hampshire when compared to the national average.

The final meeting Mr Wade attended was the Children and Families Advisory Panel at the Parkway Fareham, where he saw the new Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (Mash) for Child Protection where Social Workers, NHS, Adult services and Police all combined to produce a quick and effective response to child protection referrals. It is an impressive operation, which only started the previous Friday and was very busy.

243/13 Reports of District Councillors on District Council matters concerning the Parish

Malcom Wade informed Members he had attended the Community and Overview Scrutiny committee of the number of issues the most noted being an item on the introduction of Universal Credit for new claims in 2016 and all claims in 2017 and the potential problems it will cause.

Mr M Wade also reported on child poverty in the New Forest. Ten of the top 20 and 45 of the top 100 sites in Hampshire are in the New Forest and two of the top 4 are in the Waterside, one in Hythe and Dibden Parish.

Chris Harrison reported on the Planning and Development Committee held today. Two applications in the Parish were considered: Hythe Garage in Hythe - the garage doors had to remain blue as existing. Autumn Lodge, North Road – the tree did not go through.

Mr Harrison reported on rough sleeping. It was considered that hostels were expensive and issuing tents was not an option. However £25,000 was allotted to Nightstop to pilot a scheme for over 25 years old. Nightstop places people, usually young people who are sleeping rough, a night with a family.

Maureen McLean reported that New Forest looked at cleaner ways to use vehicles i.e. diesel and electric. It was found that diesel was more efficient.

Mrs McLean also reported that the glass collection was working very well. Also disabled blue badge holders will not be charged for parking.

James Binns also reported on child poverty.

Mr Binns reported on a meeting held at Marchwood Military Port regarding the sale of land. The civil servants that attended were unable to give satisfactory answers and will be arranging another meeting with some answers. A Minister is due to visit the Port and a number of local Councillors are lobbying Dr Lewis MP to see if he can arrange for Councillors to raise their concerns with the Minister.

244/13 Reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies

Maureen McLean reported that since Sure Start Centres closed in 2010, Dibden Allotments Fund have given 22 hampers at Christmas, 730 shoe vouchers in a year at a value of £30 each and 300 families were helped in the past year with food vouchers/clothes. They had a 16 year old visit the office with a 6 week old baby who had to wait 13 weeks for benefits.

Alex Wade reported on his attendance at the Waterside Youth Steering Group. It was suggested that awarding a bursary of a gym membership to the young person of the year may encourage more nominations.

Roger Guy reported that Fawley Power Station will be decommissioned. Demolition will commence in 2015.

245/13 Questions to District and County Councillors and Representatives on Outside Bodies arising from their reports

Brian Dash suggested that the County Councillor should talk to Mr Perry at Hampshire County Council, as he was a key player in the Marchwood sell off.

Maureen Robinson asked as Lyndhurst was being used to launch the 'Dementia Friendly High Street', when was Hythe and Dibden to be included.

Christ Harrison reported that Fordingbridge was the first location and Lyndhurst was the second.

It was agreed to try and gather further information.

Malcolm Wade reported that Candy was attending a briefing on communities becoming dementia friendly which was being arranged by Families Matter.

246/13 Questions under Standing Orders 25 and 26

Maureen McLean asked if the Chairman was aware that she had previously mentioned that all libraries were dementia friendly.

247/13 Reports of Committees**Planning Committee - 8 January 2014**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 8 January 2014.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 8 January 2014 be received and adopted.

248/13 Update -Shore Road Pavilion

Members considered the report outlining that during installation of the new pavilion it became necessary to renew the existing base. This resulted in an overspend of £6,260 which has been funded from general balances.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted and Officers arrange for Members to visit the pavilion.

249/13 Standing Order 37.1 of the Council's Standing Orders

Members considered a resolution to reconsider the budget, fees and precept for 2014/15.

RESOLVED

That the budget, fees and precept for 2014/15 be reconsidered.

250/13 Budget and Precept 2014/15

Following Hampshire County Council's proposal to cease the Accredited Community Safety Service with effect from March 2015, Members considered options on how they could continue the service which is highly valued by local residents, and the impact on the budget and precept for 2014/15. It was unanimously

RESOLVED that

- a) The Community Safety Service should continue and be provided in-house.
- b) The budget for Community Safety be increased to cover the additional costs of providing the service in-house.
- c) Remaining budgets and fees/charges remain as agreed by Council on 8 January 2014.
- d) Council precept from the New Forest District Council for the year beginning 1 April 2014 be the sum of £624,490.

251/13 Financial Monitoring – Period ending 31 December 2013

The Clerk presented the financial monitoring for the period ending 31 December 2013 and highlighted variances.

RESOLVED

That the financial monitoring for the period ending 31 December 2013 be accepted and approved.

252/13 Grant Applications 2013/14 – final batch

Consideration was given to the final grand aid application for 2013/14.

RESOLVED

That a grant of £250 be made to Cruse Bereavement Care.

253/13 Tree Removal Clayfields Sports Centre

Members were informed of the necessity to fell two trees at Clayfields as detailed in the Arboricultural Assessment report. Although it was regrettable it was

RESOLVED

That the two trees be felled.

254/13 Dibden Allotments Fund – Garden Waste Scheme Proposal

Maureen McLean and Chris Harrison left the meeting as they are Trustees of Dibden Allotments Fund. Maureen Robinson declared an interest but stayed in the meeting.

Members were advised that since the report had been prepared, Dibden Allotments Fund had informed the Council that the proposal was no longer viable.

255/13 Review of direct Debits/Standing Order payments

A copy of the payment methods other than by cheque had been circulated to Members for approval.

RESOLVED

That the payment methods listed be approved.

256/13 Small Claims Court – Legal proceedings

Consideration was given to a report detailing the Council's success at the Small Claims Court.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

257/13 Youth Ambassador's Report

There was no report as it was included in Minute 244/13.

258/13 Accounts for Payment

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

RESOLVED

That accounts as detailed in the schedule totalling £53,956.86 be approved and paid.

259/13 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items 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.

260/13 The Grove

Members discussed the District Valuer's Report and noted his comments.

RESOLVED

That negotiations continue on the provision of increased tenant occupancy.

261/13 Clayfields Sports Centre

Members discussed the District Valuer's Report and noted his comments. A number of issues remain to be resolved, before finalising arrangements.

RESOLVED

That the Working Party has further discussions with the organisation concerned to resolve the outstanding issues.

The meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.

Chairman
Date
mncou177