

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 8 April 2015 at 8.00 pm

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

*Mr J Binns	oMrs 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
*Mr G Parkes	*Mr S Wade

In attendance: Mrs S Bennett (Clerk to the Council)
Mr S Spencer (Deputy Clerk to the Council)
Mrs B Edwards (Minute Clerk)
Mr D Melsome (Finance Officer/Assistant Clerk)

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

5 Members of the Public

* Indicates attendance
o Indicates apologies for absence

295/14 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations made.

296/14 **Minutes**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 11 March 2015. Mr Smith advised that Councillor Michael Harris should be listed as a New Forest District Councillor, not a Hampshire County Councillor.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 11 March 2015 be signed by the Chairman as correct subject to the above amendment.

297/14 **Public Forum**

There were no comments made.

298/14 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman announced that Members were standing down from the council due to the forthcoming elections. She thanked all Members who have served the community well for the last four years.

299/14 Reports of the County Councillors on County Council matters concerning the Parish

Malcolm Wade reported that two jet patchers had returned to the Highways department for a period of three months with a plan to repair over 250 potholes a week each. Mr Wade provided highway repair statistics for the New Forest for the month of February.

300/14 Reports of District Councillors on District Council matters concerning the Parish

Maureen McLean reported from the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel. The community alarm service is now being dealt with in house. It was reported that a vulnerable client had been denied assistance as someone else in the property had activated the alarm.

McLean also updated Members on child poverty and Nightstop Plus for those over 25 years of age.

James Binns provided information from the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel. Following the integration of the community alarm service, an average of 5.2 calls per day were received in the first 3 months. Of these, 65.3% were classed as emergency calls and 34.7% non-emergency calls. The service has experienced a high staff turnover but the staff seem happy with working 12 hour shifts.

Mr Binns reported that 104 properties have been acquired over the last 3 – 4 years under the housing buy-back scheme, 60 of which are in the Waterside area (not including Totton). Some properties have been lost under the right to buy scheme.

Chris Harrison reported that applications 15/10101 Heathbank, Butts Ash Lane, 15/10111 Tesco Car Park and 15/10112 Tesco Car Park were all passed by the Planning Development Control Committee on 8 April 2015.

Mr Harrison informed Members that following the success of a service level agreement between New Forest District Council (NFDC) and the New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) for NFDC to discharge its tree functions, it is proposed to enter into a similar arrangement with the NFNPA for the delivery of Conservation and Heritage Asset advice.

Malcolm Wade reported from the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel regarding solar PV installations on NFDC buildings which were predicted to save £426,643 over 25 years, with a 6 year payback. The payback is currently running at 7.8 years. A total of 67 tonnes of CO₂ has been saved.

301/14 Reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies

Maureen McLean updated Members on developments regarding the Hythe Hospital development. There is a funding gap of £180K in ground rent. The project will still go ahead but may be smaller.

Brian Dash advised that the redevelopment of Hythe Hospital is a major priority project for NHS England and that assurances have been given that the floor space will be reviewed but the project will not be abandoned.

302/14 Questions to District and County Councillors and Representatives on Outside Bodies arising from their reports

Alex Wade asked James Binns what the net gain is from the 60 buy-back properties on the Waterside and those purchased under the right to buy scheme. Mr Binns replied that he would find out.

Alex Wade asked Malcolm Wade if he had more in-depth highways information regarding data specific to the Parish. Mr Wade responded that the information provided was relative to the New Forest area but he would try find out.

Brenda Smith asked Maureen McLean whether the users of the community alarms were aware that they would only be answered when pressing the alarms themselves and asked all the District Councillors to look into the matter.

303/14 Questions under Standing Orders 25 and 26

Malcolm Wade asked if the Chairman was aware that the CCTV Centre is not fully manned and that employees are being asked to install units on their way home from work. James Binns clarified that

it does happen on rare occasions. Mr Wade also asked if the Chairman was aware that the outcome of the review into the delay to the refurbishment of Applemore swimming pool was due to be published. The Chairman responded that she was not aware.

304/14 **Reports of Committees**

Planning Committee – 11 March 2015

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 11 March 2015.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 11 March 2015 be received and adopted.

305/14 **Business Risks and Insurance**

Consideration was given to the above report.

RESOLVED that

- a) The Schedule of business risks is agreed.
- a) The Schedule of Insurance is agreed.
- b) The Council continues to self-insure its play equipment.

306/14 **Electronic Communications**

Members considered the above report.

RESOLVED that

- a) Standing Order 5.1 be amended to allow the delivery of Summons by electronic communications.
- b) The requirement to operate electronic communications in a secure manner is recognised.
- c) The provision of an electronic tablet to all members who request a device be agreed.
- d) Members agreed to instruct the Clerk to work to reduce both costs and the Council's carbon footprint in relation to summonses to meetings and the operation of those meetings.

307/14 **The Garth**

Consideration was given to the above report.

RESOLVED that

- a) The Parish Council grants permission for the trees to be removed.
- b) The Parish Council arranges to cover the cost of the trees to be removed and the resident pays for the cost of suitable replacements.
- c) The trees are sited in positions to be decided by the Parish Council.

308/14 **Bank Reconciliation January 2015**

RESOLVED

The Bank Reconciliation for February 2015 be approved.

309/14 Accounts for payment

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

RESOLVED

That accounts as detailed totalling £46,829.11 be approved and paid.

The meeting closed at 9.08 p.m.

Chairman

Date

mncou193