

Minutes of the Meeting of Hythe and Dibden Parish Council

Held at The Grove, St John's Street, Hythe
on Wednesday 22 February 2017 at 7.00 p.m

p Cllr M McLean (Chairman)
p Cllr James Binns (Vice Chairman)

Councillors:

p P Armstrong
p M Clark
p E Davey
p J Fowler
p C Harrison
a T Johnson

Councillors:

p G Parkes
p D Poole
p M Short
p A Wade
p M Wade

p = present
a = apologies
n = no apologies received

In Attendance

p Cllr B Andrews (NFDC)
a Cllr K Crisell (NFDC)
p Cllr P Fawkes
n Cllr B Thorne

Sgt. Alison Jones
PCSO Vicki Pressey

Officers in attendance

Mrs S Bennett (Clerk to the Council)
Mr S Spencer (Deputy Clerk)
Mrs B Edwards (Minute Clerk)

9 Members of the Public

276/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Cllr. Graham Parkes declared an interest in item number 286/16 as he is a trustee for Waterside Arts but has no involvement in the day to day organisation. He did not consider the matter to be prejudicial and remained in the room for the discussion and the vote.

Cllr Malcolm Wade declared an interest in item number 279/16 as he is a Council nominated trustee of the Handy Trust Board.

277/16 MINUTES

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25 January 2017.

RESOLVED that

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25 January 2017 be signed by the Chairman as correct.

278/16 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcement:

The Hythe Pier Heritage Association will be having a stall at the Tuesday Market in Hythe on 28th February from 9 am until 3 pm to promote its fundraising drive - the £20 Challenge. The Chairman asked for as many people to attend as possible.

The Chairman proposed a change to the order of business and this was agreed.

279/16 THE HANDY TRUST

Council received a presentation from The Handy Trust detailing the services that the Trust provides to the young people and young families in the Waterside area. Provision includes a Youth Support Service for ages 0 – 25, Youth and Community Workers engaged in youth club work, school drop-ins, school holiday activities, young parent groups and PHSE as well as detached and outreach work in the community.

280/16 CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UPDATE

PCSO Vicki Pressey updated Members on the latest crime and anti-social behaviour statistics (ASB) for the last 30 days; Assault 10, Burglary 0, Burglary (Other) 6, Criminal Damage 12, Drugs 1, Theft 6, Theft from cars 2.

PCSO Pressey stated that the crime and ASB levels are low and there has been a reduction in the number of reports of ASB from 18 last month to 10 this month.

Cllr. Malcolm Wade queried the statistics that had been quoted in the local press and was informed by Sgt. Alison Jones that the figures quoted were inaccurate. Cllr. Wade expressed concern about the high number of Assaults reported. Sgt. Jones explained that the figure quoted were not stranger assaults but related to assaults carried out within dwellings.

A member of the public queried burglary statistic, stating that a burglary had been carried out in Dibden Purlieu the previous day which the Police

had been called out to. Sgt. Jones gave assurances that this would be looked into.

281/16 **REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Cllr. Philip Fawkes reported that he is standing down as a Councillor at the next Hampshire election.

Cllr. Malcolm Wade reported on the Hampshire County Council (HCC) budget report. HCC intends to increase council tax by 3.99% for 2017/2018 and recommends that the further flexibility, granted by the Government of an additional 1% increase in recognition of the pressures facing local authorities due to the growing cost of adult social care, is taken up.

Each 1% increase in Council Tax yields around £5.3 million of additional income but the pressures of social care growth total nearly £20 million in 2017/2018 before considering the impact of inflationary pressures.

This year the Government has granted local authorities the flexibility to bring forward some of the increase and to raise the precept by up to 3% per-cent next year and the year after within the cap of 6% over the next three years to 2019/2020. In addition, a new dedicated adult social care grant of £4.8 million will be paid to HCC in 2017/2018. There is no indication that this is anything other than a one off grant.

At the end of the 2015/2016 financial year, HCC's earmarked reserves, together with the general fund balance, stood at more than £497 million – an increase of approximately £35 million on the previous year.

REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Peter Armstrong updated Members on the current number of additional businesses that have signed up to Brand New Forest (BNF) together with details of offers available.

Cllr. Alex Wade reported on the financial plan for New Forest District Council (NFDC). The Government's 4 year formula funding guarantee has been honoured. There is a significant reduction in the amount of New Homes Bonus that NFDC will receive in 2017/2018 as £726,000 is being diverted to pay for adult social care.

NFDC had to make significant savings in the past 3 years as central Government funding has reduced. Six per-cent of the workforce has been reduced.

NFDC Cabinet has agreed in principle to invest in commercial property to generate income and invest in local business. A Task & Finish Group will be set up to progress this initiative and will present a strategy document to the Cabinet in due course.

NFDC Cabinet has adopted a new ICT strategy which will look at reviewing processes, staff, technology and modernising how customers and services are dealt with.

Cllr. Bill Andrews has been in contact with NFDC, Parishioners and other interested parties (including St. John's Church) on the Lidl/Churchill Application and continue to hope for an eventually acceptable outcome.

Cllr. Andrews informed Members that he has donated funds towards the provision of some Appletree Careline Community Alarm systems for residents of Hythe East and Dibden.

Cllr. Andrews chairs a Task & Finish group reviewing the performance and contract of the operators of the Dibden Golf Course and facilities, and sits on the Members' ICT panel among others.

Hampshire Trading Standards has issued a warning to be alert to bogus trading standards and bogus police officers making unexpected house calls and/or telephone calls. Check for ID and confirm by telephone to a number sourced independently before taking any suggested action.

There are leaflets available from the New Forest National Park Authority about living in or near the New Forest that may be of use or interest to parishioners who venture into the Park, or live close to it.

Cllr. James Binns reported a 4.25% budget increase.

NFDC has launched a healthy weights initiative; 40% of young people in the NFDC area are classed as obese.

The Health and Leisure Centres across the District now have a total membership of 7,700.

Cllr. Binns is working with Exxon Mobil (EM) in an attempt to get the Waterside Sports and Social Club (WSSC) up and running again. EM has given an assurance that the land is not going to be sold off.

Cllr. Binns confirmed that there were never any plans to close Hythe library, contrary to information printed in local literature.

Cllr. Binns is pleased to report that Dibden Golf Club, operated by Mytime Active, will see an investment of £500,000 over the next 3 years.

282/16 **REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr. Jo Fowler reported on the New Forest Environmental Protection Liaison Committee (NFEPLC) meeting held on 3rd February 2017 at Lyndhurst at which Connor Gladwin, the Airside Operations Safety Manager at Southampton Airport, talked about noise modelling, the impact of aircraft movements on the New Forest area and actions to reduce noise impact. Planes flying over Southampton Water reach a height of 2,000 feet and few complaints had been received. Any

complaints should be made directly to the airport to save time and assist in a quick identification of the problem aircraft.

Dr. Kerry Sims, Fisheries and Technical Specialist for the Environment Agency's Solent and South Downs area, spoke on the several layers of eel development, starting with the Sargasso Sea and their ultimate arrival in our coastal waters. Eels live in the alluvial muddy seabed but their numbers have been declining since 1980. The reasons for this are unknown. Cllr. Fowler asked if one reason could be the dredging of the seabed by ABP due to the increase in shipping on Southampton Water. The response was that it could be a factor.

Exxon Mobile representative, Mr Althorp, spoke about their work to reduce pollution. He was questioned on future plans for their single track railway so that fuels are piped under the water. He stated that there is talk of a continual walkway along this area of the South Coast.

NFEPLC is keen to have more members of the public attending its meetings to voice local concerns. Suggestions were made to host some meetings within the Waterside area as has happened previously. Officers stated that few residents had attended and better facilities are available at Lyndhurst. A vote was taken; as a result all meetings will take place in the Council Chamber at Appletree Court.

Cllr. Eric Davey reported that Adrian Hutchings is undertaking guided walks at Forest Front and anybody is welcome to attend. The Council would publish a map explaining where people should attend to start the guided walk.

283/16 **PUBLIC FORUM**

Allan Fairhead referred to the concerns he raised at the full council meeting on 25 January 2017, a subsequent meeting he had with Cllr. Eric Davey and queried whether the public would be consulted regarding the replacement community safety service. He also asked whether Cllr. Davey felt let down by the Clerk, having reversed the position defended by him.

The Chairman reiterated the response given at the January meeting and added that a decision on which service to provide had not been made, the matter is under discussion and costings for PCSOs and ACSOs are being looked at. This is a matter that is being addressed in closed sessions but the public would be informed once a decision had been reached by the Members.

Cllr. Davey responded by informing Mr Fairhead that he does have complete confidence in the Clerk and that decisions are not made by the Clerk but by the Council which directs the Clerk.

284/16 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDERS 25 AND 26

Cllr. Dan Poole asked if the Chairman was aware that the NFEPLC does travel around the area for its meetings. Cllr. Fowler responded that the Committee had recently voted to hold all future meetings at Lyndhurst.

Cllr. Alex Wade asked Cllr. James Binns whether the rise by 700 in membership at the Health & Leisure Centres was historically reflective of increases in January each year. Cllr. Binns responded that it did not compare historically and there had been a really good uptake of special offers.

Cllr. Alex Wade asked if the Chairman was aware of any updated information regarding additional parking bays in the library carpark. Cllr. Graham Parkes responded that discussions were on-going and there was nothing to report.

Cllr. Malcolm Wade asked Cllr. James Binns if he was aware that HCC would be looking at cutting the Library service and reducing Recycling Centres after the County Council elections. Cllr. Binns reiterated that Hythe Library had never been considered for closure and that there may be a small charge levied at Recycling Centres rather than closure.

Cllr. Peter Armstrong asked the Chairman if a letter could be sent to the Chair of the NFEPLC expressing dissatisfaction that some future meetings would not be held in the Waterside area. The Chairman agreed and suggested offering the Council Chamber at The Grove as a venue. Cllr. Fowler will ask for the matter to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Cllr. Mark Clark asked Cllr. James Binns if the buildings at the WSSC were continuing to be maintained. Cllr. Binns replied that they had not been maintained for a very long time and this was part of the problem. Cllr. Clark further asked whether Cllr. Binns knew if the recent call for storage from a group that used the WSSC had been answered. Cllr. Binns replied that he did not know but that he was hopeful of a positive outcome for the future of the facility.

285/16 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 25th January 2017 and 8th February 2017.

RESOLVED THAT

- a) The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 25th January 2017 be agreed.
- b) The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 8th February 2017 be agreed.

286/16 GRANT AID 2016/2017 – FINAL BATCH

Members considered the recommendation of the Grant Aid Working Party to pay grants to the New Forest Disability Information Service and to Waterside Arts.

RESOLVED that

- a) New Forest Disability Information Service be paid a grant of £500.00.
- b) Waterside Arts be paid a grant of £500.00.

287/16 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WORKING GROUP

Members received the notes from the Christmas Lights Working Group meeting held on 30th January 2017 and gave consideration to the recommendations.

RESOLVED that

- a) Any budget savings made by the Christmas Lights Working Party in 2016/2017 are reallocated as Earmarked Reserves for future Christmas light expenditure.
- b) A contribution of up to £1,000 be awarded to Hythe Alive for the provision of Christmas lighting with the proviso that Hythe Alive raises at least £1,000 and the Council receives a current copy of the organisation's most recent bank statement.

288/16 BATTLE'S OVER – A NATION'S TRIBUTE

The Clerk to the Council reported on the Queen's Pageant Master proposals for 11 November 2018 at 1900.

RESOLVED that

- a) A Working Group be set up to consider the type of event the Parish Council wishes to promote.
- b) The Working Party to consist of the Chair, Vice Chair, Cllr. James Binns, Cllr. Maureen McLean, Cllr. Mike Short, Cllr. Malcolm Wade plus invited members of the community.
- c) Terms of Reference for the Working Group be drawn up by the Clerk to the Council.

289/16 DIRECT DEBITS

Consideration was given to the proposed regular payments for 2017 – 2018.

RESOLVED that

The proposed regular payments for 2017-2018 be agreed.

290/16 **FINANCE 2016 – 2017**

Consideration was given to the bank reconciliation for January 2017 and the Schedule of Payments for the period 1st January 2017 to 31st January 2017.

RESOLVED that

- a) The bank reconciliation of January 2017 is noted.
- b) The schedule of payments for the period 1st January 2017 to 31st January 2017 is agreed.

291/16 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED that

The press and public be excluded from the Council Meeting for the following items of business on the grounds they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972.

292/16 **COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND YOUNG PERSON'S ENDEAVOUR AWARD**

Members considered the nominations for the Community Spirit and Young Person's Endeavour awards.

RESOLVED that

- a) The Community Spirit Award for 2017 is awarded to Peter King.
- b) The Young Person's Endeavour Award for 2017 is awarded to Daniel Nutland.
- c) An information sheet be prepared explaining the reasons for nomination to be available to the community

293/16 **HANDY TRUST**

The Chairman of the Personnel Committee presented his report.

RESOLVED that

The Chairman of the Personnel Committee liaise with the Chairman of the Handy Trust and develop recommendations with the Personnel Committee and bring those recommendations back to Council

294/16 **ACSO REVIEW PROCESS**

The Chairman of the Personnel Committee updated Members regarding the review process.

RESOLVED that

- a) No Member or Officer be permitted to discuss with the public or the media, including posting on social media, any matter relating to the community safety service review both current and historical.
- b) The Chairman of the Council is the nominated contact point for all media enquiries not just community safety service related;
- c) Personnel Committee to make recommendation to Council regarding a future community safety service

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m

Chairman

Date

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