HYTHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the General Purposes and Finance Committee held at The Grove, 25 St John's Street, Hythe on Monday 11 September 2006 at 8pm.

Members: *Mr R Podesta (Chairman) – in the Chair

*Mr G Dawson *Mrs B Smith
*Mr C Harrison oMr D Smith
*Mrs M Robinson oMr M S Wade
*Mr M Short *Mr S S Wade

* Indicates attendance

o Indicates apologies for absence

In attendance: Mr D J Shimpe (Clerk to the Council)

Mrs C Patterson (Minute Clerk)

Also present: Mr G Parkes

Mark Wilkinson (ACSO) Pete Elsey (ACSO) 2 Members of the Public

201/06 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 17 July 2006, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

202/06 Declarations of Interest

Mr Harrison, Mrs Robinson and Mrs Smith declared an interest in Minute 191/06 as they are elected members of New Forest District Council. Mrs Smith declared an interest in Minute 182/06 as she is an allotment tenant.

203/06 Public Participation Period

There were no questions from members of the public.

204/06 Accounts for Payment

The Clerk submitted a Schedule of Accounts for payment, together with a supplementary list.

RESOLVED

That accounts as detailed in Vouchers 2383-2583 inclusive, totalling £61432.26, be approved and paid.

(Mrs Smith declared an interest in this item and left the meeting during consideration thereof)

205/06 Financial Monitoring - Period ending 30 June 2006

Consideration was given to the financial monitoring figures for the period up to 30 June 2006.

The Clerk advised members that allotment bills are sent out in October and no football matches have been played yet which explains the lack of income at present.

New Forest District Council send out invoices to cover dog fouling on an ad hoc basis.

RESOLVED

That the financial monitoring for the period ending 30 June 2006 be noted.

206/06 Update on Public Buildings

- The Grove
- Clayfields
- Parish Hall
- Workshop
- Pavilion Shore Road

Members noted the report on the update on public buildings.

207/06 Community Service Update (ACSO)

Mark Wilkinson and Pete Elsey, the Parish Council's dedicated ACSOs introduced themselves to the meeting and outlined the work which they have done since they began as a team on 1 September 2006 and their plans for the future.

Whilst some members felt that using their powers to issue fixed penalty notices would act as a deterrent for future problems, it was agreed that the ACSOs should spend time initially building a rapport within the community. The ACSOs feel that this process has already begun and they intend to continue it by visiting schools and any local community groups which invite them.

The Incident Report log was noted.

208/06 Community Safety Initiative - Street Lighting

Consideration was given to areas within the Parish which would benefit from improved street lighting further to a letter from Hampshire County Council inviting bids to be included in the scheme for 2007/2008.

RESOLVED

That Hampshire County Council be advised that this council is able to make a contribution of £2000 which it would like to be utilised as far as possible on the following areas.

- 1. Langdown Road
- 2. Butts Ash Avenue
- 3. Pylewell Road outside the Working Men's Club

209/06 Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006

Consideration was given to the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006 which empowers parish councils to encourage or promote microgeneration and reduction in the use of energy.

It was suggested that this council should look at introducing some of these measures to its own buildings before it can be promoted to residents. It was further suggested that this council could put itself forward for a pilot scheme whereby costs are shared with local multi-national companies.

The District Council already has information available on the subject which could be displayed more prominently in the parish offices and other smaller measures such as campaigning for the abolition of VAT on insulation materials would encourage residents to make smaller changes to their properties.

RESOLVED

That local large multi-national companies be approached to discuss a joint approach to encouraging a reduction in the use of energy.

210/06 Gambling Act 2005

Consideration was given to a request from New Forest District Council for comments on the Gambling Act 2005.

RESOLVED

That this council has no comments to make at this time.

211/06 **Draft Procurement Strategy**

Consideration was given to any comments which this council may wish to make on the draft procurement strategy.

RESOLVED

That New Forest District Council be asked how much of the budget is spent on businesses within the local area and what the target is for the future

212/06 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.

213/06 Proposed Licence for New Forest District Council to use The Grove as an information office

Consideration was given to the proposed changes to the Licence Agreement.

RESOLVED

That the proposed changes to the Licence Agreement for New Forest District Council to use The Grove as an information office be agreed.

(Mrs Robinson, Mrs Smith and Mr Harrison declared an interest in this item but remained in the meeting)

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Chairman

Date

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