

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, 19 February 2007 at 8.00pm.

Members: *Mr M W Wade (Vice Chairman) in the Chair

*Mr C Harrison	*Mr M Short
*Mr J Moore	*Mrs B Smith
oMr R Podesta	*Mr D Smith
*Mrs M Robinson	*Mr S S Wade

* Indicates attendance
o Indicates apologies for absence

In attendance: Mr D J Shimpe (Clerk to the Council)
Mrs S A Krynicki (Deputy Clerk to the Council)

Also present: 1 member of the public

464/06 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 22 January 2007, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

465/06 **Notification of any other urgent business to be raised at the end of the meeting**

There were no notifications of any other urgent business.

466/06 **Declarations of Interest**

Mrs Robinson declared an interest in Minute No. 480/06 because the issue of licensing could affect any application by Waterside Arts of which Mrs Robinson's husband is a trustee. Mrs Smith declared an interest in Minute No. 480/06 because the issue of licensing could affect any application made by Waterside Arts of which Mrs Smith is the Chairman of the organising committee. Mr Parkes declared an interest in Minute No. 480/06 because the issue of licensing could affect any application made by Waterside Arts of which Mr Parkes is a trustee.

467/06 **Public Participation Period**

There were no questions from members of the public.

468/06 **Accounts for Payment**

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

RESOLVED

That accounts as detailed in Vouchers 2931 to 2959 inclusive, totalling
£24,436.62, be approved and paid.

469/06 **Notes of the Hythe Centre Advisory Group held on 23 January 2007**

The notes of the Hythe Centre Advisory Group were noted and members expressed their appreciation of the efforts of Helen and Rebecca Owers in giving Hythe a "White Christmas".

470/06 **Extinguishment of Highway Rights – Land Adjoining The Pines, Byeways, Hythe**

The owner of The Pines, Byeways, Hythe has written to the Council requesting their views on whether the extinguishment of the highway rights on land adjoining The Pines, which is also in their ownership, would be acceptable.

It was stated that this piece of land, although now in private ownership, was originally intended to be part of the verge area. It is an important visual open space. Members agreed that it was

important to retain the open vista and the Council would give serious consideration to purchasing the land in order to protect it.

RESOLVED

1. That the householder be informed that the Council would not support an application to extinguish highway rights on the land adjoining The Pines, Byeways, Hythe.
2. That the County Council be informed of the historic intention to retain the land as verge area and that the land is an important visual open space and should remain as such.
3. That enquiries be made into acquiring the piece of land in order to safeguard it's future.

471/06 **Financial Monitoring – Period 31 December 2006**

The Clerk presented the financial monitoring information for the period ending 31 December 2006.

RESOLVED

That the Financial Monitoring for period 31 December 2006 be accepted and approved.

472/06 **Grant Applications**

Consideration was given to the grant aid applications and the recommendations of the Grants Working Party.

RESOLVED

1. That the Grant of £300 be agreed in principle subject to a guarantee being received from Hampshire Victim Support stating that any Grant awarded by the Council is used for the benefit of the residents in the New Forest Area only.
2. That a Grant of £100 be awarded to the Hampshire Youth Band.

473/06 **Update on Public Buildings**

There were no updates to be made with regard to The Grove, Clayfields, the Parish Hall, the Workshop or the Pavilion.

474/06 **Community Safety Service Update**

Members were informed that the first Community Safety Open Day is to be held on Saturday 21 April 2007 in Hythe. Members enquired as to whether open days were to be held in other locations within the Parish and the Clerk confirmed that open days will be held in various locations within the Parish and that publicity will be given to the events.

It was agreed that the Accredited Community Safety Officers were having a positive effect within the Parish.

The Clerk informed members that 52 calls have been made to the police relating to Ewart Recreation Ground from 1 March 2006 to date and members requested that a breakdown of dates and times be sought in order to identify any patterns.

475/06 **Market Town Health Check – Update**

Members noted the update for the Market Town Health Check and requested that confirmation be sought to ensure that the project is completed in time for relevant details to be included in New Forest District Council's Community Strategy.

476/06 **The Visitor Network – Promotional Video**

Information was given on the promotional leaflet and video from the visitor network and members were asked to consider whether they felt that joining the scheme would be of benefit to the area. The option to have a 30 second promotional video which would form part of a continuous loop of other videos to be broadcast on large plasma screens at Tourist Information Centres was considered.

The cost is based on the number of months the video is shown and as an example, Southampton TIC should show the video from March to October at a cost of £69.00 per month. The cost to do the same at Lyndhurst would be £89.00 per month.

RESOLVED

1. Members agreed to join the scheme to have a promotional video shown at Southampton and Lyndhurst Tourist Information Centres from March to October at a cost of £552 for Southampton and £712 for Lyndhurst.
2. That traders be made aware of the provision and be requested to monitor whether any benefit is reflected in their trade.

477/06 **New Forest Spring Clean 2007**

New Forest District Council conducts an annual spring clean and has requested details of any local organisations that might be interested in taking part in the project.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk circulate the letter to local groups.

478/06 **Alternatives to the OAP Garden Waste Scheme**

New Forest District Council is unable to continue with the administration of the Parish scheme to subsidise garden waste collection for the OAP's within the Parish. The Chairman asked members to suggest alternative schemes.

RESOLVED

1. That investigations be made as to whether the provision could be apportioned to the Dibden Allotments Charity's gardening scheme.
2. That ideas be sought for alternative schemes via the Parish Picture and the U3A.
3. That following the investigations, this matter be discussed further at a meeting of the committee.

479/06 **Licensing Act 2003 – Procedure for Hearings – Update**

Consideration was given to the letter from New Forest District Council regarding the updated position of Parish Councils and their role in licensing hearings.

RESOLVED

That the Council would wish to keep its options open in respect of the ability to make representations on applications for liquor and public entertainment licences.

480/06 **Register for Licensed Public Spaces**

Members discussed the possibility of the Council being able to register one or more open spaces/premises for entertainment on a one off basis rather than making an application on each separate occasion.

There were many issues to be clarified and it was agreed to pursue the matter with caution although in principle it appeared to be a good idea.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk make further investigations and report back at a future meeting.

(Mrs Robinson, Mrs Smith and Mr Parkes declared an interested in this item and left the meeting during discussion thereof).

481/06 **Post Office Network Consultation**

The Consultation Document issued by the DTI concerning the future of the Post Office Network was discussed;

RESOLVED

That the Clerk and Mr Moore complete and submit the document.

482/06 **Revised Model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members – Consultation Document**

The Revised Model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members Consultation Document was discussed by members.

It was considered that the document could have a negative effect on local democracy and could dissuade future candidates from standing for election. It was further felt that although the Code contains some improvements it is a very commanding document and in the main, the complexities that it contains are excessive.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk draft a response to the document reflecting the views of the committee and upon approval of the Chairman of the Council, the response be submitted.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Chairman

Date

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