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, 16 September 2002 at 7.48 pm.

Members: *Mr S S Wade (Chairman) – in the Chair

Mr B Dash	*Mrs M Robinson
*Mr G Dawson	oMr M Short
*Mrs C Gradidge	*Mrs B Smith
*Mr R Guy	oMr D Smith
oMr C Harrison	*Mr M S Wade
oMr R Podesta	

* Indicates attendance
o Indicates apologies for absence

In attendance: Mr D J Shimpe (Deputy Clerk to the Council)
Mrs C Patterson (Minute Clerk)

Also present: Mr G Parkes
5 Members of the Public

164/02 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 15 July 2002, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

165/02 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

166/02 **Public Participation Period**

1) Graffiti

Mr Moore expressed concern at the amount of graffiti around Hythe Centre and the time it was taking to remove it. He had conducted a survey over recent months and offered to pass this on to the Parish Council.

It was acknowledged that this is a problem, but pointed out that the Parish Council are only authorised to remove it from their own property.

RESOLVED

(a) That a letter be sent to all Private Property owners on Mr Moore's list encouraging them to remove any graffiti on their premises.

(b) That the matter be reviewed at the next General Purposes and Finance Committee Meeting.

2) Bus Shelters – Challenger Way

Mrs Pretlove expressed concern at the number of times the new bus shelters in Challenger Way have been vandalised in the few months in which they have been there, and asked how often the Parish Council would use Public funds to repair them.

The Deputy Clerk advised that these shelters are owned and maintained by Adshel.

It was pointed out that a derelict and unsafe building on a Church owned site in Challenger Way was attracting groups of young people and contributing to the vandalism of the bus shelters

RESOLVED

That a letter be sent to the District Council and the owners asking for the removal of the building from the site.

3) Orchard Infant and Junior Schools

Mrs Pretlove asked what security measures are being taken at Orchard Infant and Junior Schools to combat the increasing problems with vandalism. New replacement windows are being smashed and there are large areas of graffiti. Residents have phoned Police, but they have not arrived on time, or sometimes, at all.

Mr M Wade, a Governor of the Schools, advised Members that these vandals are older than the children who attend the school. The Police have promised extra patrols, but have a manpower shortage, making this difficult. Security Patrols are also made pointless by the fact that the vandals return as soon as the patrol leaves.

RESOLVED

(a) The Chairman of the Council would write to Inspector Winchester seeking written confirmation that the Police would attend incidents at schools.

(b) The Clerk to the Council to write to the Schools with a view to obtaining the Schools emergency telephone numbers.

167/02 **Report of the Community Advisor**

Members studied the report of the Community Advisor.

RESOLVED

That the Report be noted and the Community Advisor thanked for his efforts.

168/02 **Accounts for Payment**

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

RESOLVED

That accounts as detailed in vouchers 229-309 inclusive, totalling £166763.05, be approved and paid.

169/02 **Waterside Fair Trade Zone**

Members considered the possibility of making this Council a Fair Trade Zone, following a presentation by the Rev. Paul Baird in July 2002.

RESOLVED

That the Council supports the principles of Fairtrade and when reviewing the Council's policies, these principles will be taken into account along with the budgetary implications.

170/02 **Periodical Electoral Review of Hampshire County Council**

Members considered whether they wished to make any representation regarding the review of the County Council Wards in Hampshire.

RESOLVED

That a letter be sent advising that this Council believes in the boundaries formed by natural communities and as such would prefer the present Parish of Hythe and Dibden to be used.

171/02 **Land adjoining Mansell Close, Dibden Purlieu**

Members gave further consideration to the request for extinguishment of highway rights along part of the open land at Mansell Close, which had been objected to at the June Meeting of the Committee. (min 56/02)

RESOLVED

That this Council continues to object to this proposal.

172/02 **Hythe Centre Advisory Group – Meeting 23 July 2002**

Members studied the notes taken at the above Meeting.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted and a suggestion made that the next meeting includes the matter of graffiti on its agenda so that a system can be devised for formalising the way it is dealt with.

173/02 **HAPTC Annual General Meeting 2002.**

Members considered which 2 Councillors to send as delegates to the HAPTC General Meeting on 5 October 2002.

RESOLVED

That Mr S Wade will attend and the Vice Chairman of the Council be asked whether he will be available.

174/02 **Credit Facilities**

Members discussed the conditions of use for the proposed credit card facilities and heard that the District Auditor had no objections to this Council holding a credit card.

RESOLVED

That the conditions of use be agreed and a credit card obtained. A copy of the monthly statement should be attached to the Accounts for Payment so that it can be overseen by the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the General Purposes and Finance Committee.

175/02 **County General Purposes and Licensing Committee Meeting**

A Member enquired as to whether a letter had be sent requesting that Butts Ash Community Centre be used as a Polling Station, in view of the forthcoming meeting of the above committee.

RESOLVED

That a letter has already been sent, but it will also be mentioned at the meeting.

The Meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Chairman

Date

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