

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, 21 October 2002 at 8pm.

- Members: *Mr S S Wade (Chairman) – in the Chair
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|---|---|
| *Mr B Dash
*Mr G Dawson
*Mrs C Gradidge
*Mr R Guy
*Mr C Harrison
oMr R Podesta | *Mrs M Robinson
*Mr M Short
*Mrs B Smith
*Mr D Smith
*Mr M S Wade |
|---|---|
- * Indicates attendance
o Indicates apologies for absence
- In attendance: Mr B H Beaven (Clerk to the Council)
 Mrs C Patterson (Minute Clerk)
- Also present: Mr G Parkes
 2 Members of the Public

226/02 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 16 September 2002, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

227/02 **Declarations of Interest**

Mr Dawson declared a prejudicial interest in Minute 237/02 (a) as he is a resident of Heatherstone Avenue.
Mrs Gradidge declared an interest in Minute 230/02 and Minute 239/02 as she was Secretary of the Waterside Arts Festival when the Council Chamber was hired.
Mrs Robinson declared an interest in Minute 230/02 and Minute 239/02 as her husband is the co-ordinator for the Waterside Arts Festival.
Mrs Smith declared a personal interest in Minute 230/02 and 239/02

228/02 **Public Participation Period**

The Chairman thanked Mr Moore for his letter concerning graffiti in the Parish. Mr Moore replied that he had received a response from the Deputy Clerk, but was concerned that not enough had been removed. He asked that Members make a list of graffiti in the area and ensure that action was taken to remove it.

Mr Wheeler expressed concern at the amount of graffiti covering Balfour Newsagents in Dibden Purlieu.

The Chairman thanked the gentlemen for their comments and advised them that the matter would be dealt with later in the meeting.

229/02 **Accounts for Payment**

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

RESOLVED

That accounts as detailed in vouchers 328 – 360 inclusive, totalling
£5,918.17, be approved and paid.

230/02 **Canopy**

Consideration was given to the future ownership of the Canopy, which had been provided by the District Council and was mainly used by the Waterside Arts Festival. Members were

advised that the Arts Festival Co-ordinator was interested in discussing the possibility of taking over ownership.

RESOLVED

That a Meeting be arranged between interested parties.

(Mrs Gradidge, Mrs Robinson and Mrs Smith declared an interest in this item, remained in the Meeting, but did not vote)

231/02 **Graffiti**

Members discussed the steps, which had been taken to remove graffiti in the Parish, and the problems, which had been encountered in persuading owners to remove graffiti from their property, particularly those shops which were part of a national chain.

A suggestion was made that an age restriction could be put on the sale of paint, similar to that put on the sale of alcohol.

RESOLVED

1. That the Chairman write to the Secretary of State suggesting that sales of aerosol cans of paint to those under 21 year old be prohibited;
2. That the Chairman write to the local Police and shop owners, expressing concern at the problem of graffiti and requesting support to help overcome it.

232/02 **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Members discussed the Local Councils' Model Publication Scheme Pro Forma and any alterations, which may need to be made.

RESOLVED

1. That the Model Scheme with the options recommended be adopted by the Council;
2. That further information be sought regarding Safety Inspection Records and Allotments.

233/02 **Christmas Lights – Funding**

Members considered a request from Hythe Business Partnership for a contribution of £750 towards improvements to the Christmas Lights.

It was also suggested that the Council take over the administration of the project.

RESOLVED

1. That a contribution of £750 be made
2. The administration of the contract be taken over by this Council for the time being.

234/02 **Market Town Initiative**

Members considered the possibility of funding an additional member of staff to coordinate and produce a Town Plan and investigate the availability of grants under the Market Town Initiative.

RESOLVED

That the matter be deferred until more information can be obtained.

235/02 Review of Road Traffic Management Scheme

Members considered the Consultation document, which had been sent to all local residents further to the District Council's Review of Road Traffic Management Scheme.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk be authorised to respond as now indicated.

236/02 Report of the Equal Opportunities Working Party

Further to a Policy made some time ago, those in receipt of the State Old Age Pension in this Parish were entitled to purchase 10 garden refuse sacks per year at half the normal price. As this could be viewed as positive discrimination, Members discussed whether to continue with this Policy.

RESOLVED

That this Council reaffirms its original policy decision to provide 10 garden refuse sacks per year at a discounted price to those in receipt of the State Old Age Pension.

**237/02 Street Lighting
(a) Heatherstone Avenue and Chaloner Crescent**

Members considered the responses made by householders in Heatherstone Avenue and Chaloner Crescent, further to a letter sent, advising them of a street lighting replacement scheme to be carried out by the County Council during February and March 2003.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the letters received in response to the Consultation be forwarded to the County Council;
- (b) That columns 36, 37 and 38 be omitted unless they are vital for traffic safety.
- (c) That a response be sought to ensure that local views have been taken into consideration.

(Mr Dawson and the Clerk declared an interest in this item and left the Meeting during consideration thereof)

(b) Community Safety Initiative – Street Lighting

Members considered areas, which may be eligible for street lighting improvements under the Community Safety Initiative.

RESOLVED

That the District Council be asked to consider Water Lane and Watermans Lane as candidates for the Scheme with funding from each Authority.

238/02 Dibden Local Centre – Future Use

Members considered the Consultation Document from New Forest District Council, regarding the future use of the Dibden Local Centre Site at Challenger Way.

RESOLVED

1. That the District Council be advised that this Council is fully supportive of the use of the site for housing, elderly persons Day Care facilities and community use with access being retained to service the adjoining land.
2. That concerns be expressed at the delay in developing the site.

239/02 Hire of Council Chamber

Members considered a request from Waterside Arts Festival that the invoice submitted for the hire of the Council Chamber from Tuesday 9 July to Saturday 13 July 2002 for an Exhibition, be reduced.

RESOLVED

That the cost be met by way of a grant from the Council.

(Mrs Gradidge, Mrs Robinson and Mrs Smith declared an interest in this item, remained in the Meeting, but did not vote)

240/02 Proposed Art Collection

Consideration was given to a suggestion that the Council starts a collection of paintings by local artists.

RESOLVED

That a Working Party comprising Mr Dawson, Mr Smith and Mrs Smith investigate the matter.

241/02 Re-provision of Services at Lymington Infirmary

Members considered the Consultation Document on proposals for the re-provision of services at Lymington Infirmary.

RESOLVED

That this Council supports the proposals, but feels the provision of a stroke unit in Milford on Sea to be impractical for Waterside residents.

242/02 The Promenade

Consideration was given to a Report on progress on the plans for improving the Promenade.

RESOLVED

1. That the Report be noted.
2. That the Council agree to the use of £167,500 for Developers Contribution towards the Scheme.

243/02 Flood Warning Scheme

The Clerk advised Members that as a consequence of the predicted high tides recently, he had initiated the Flood Warning Scheme. It had not been very successful, mainly due to an apparent lack of interest among traders.

RESOLVED

The matter be taken to the next meeting of the Hythe Centre Advisory Committee.

244/02 Forest Front

The Clerk advised the Committee that the District Council felt unable to provide any fencing for the two properties which were experiencing severe problems with overlooking following the construction of the Skate Park at Forest Front.

It was suggested that this Council could provide high fence panels at an approximate cost of £300, if the householders concerned obtained planning permission and accepted responsibility for erection and future maintenance.

RESOLVED

That this be agreed.

The Meeting closed at 9.55 pm.

Chairman

Date

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