

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, 20 January 2003 at 8.27pm.

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

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

* 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
7 Members of the Public

326/02 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 25 November 2002, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

327/02 **Declarations of Interest**

Mr S Wade declared an interest in minute 334/02 (as he is a Trustee of Age Concern (New Forest East) and Treasurer for Cussens Day Centre.
Mr Podesta declared an interest in minute 337/02 as he is the owner of 25/27 High Street.

328/02 **Public Participation Period**

Footpath – Holly Close to Forest Front Track

Mr Uglow advised Members that the footpath from Holly Close to the turning circle at the Forest Front Nature Reserve had recently suffered from a problem with surface water again and asked when the new path was to be provided.

Cash Receipts

Mr Uglow asked whether it would be possible to write to those banks whose ATM Machines automatically issued a receipt to ask them to make it a "request only " option in order to alleviate litter problems.

Planning Notices

Mr Banborough pointed out that the planning application notices attached to the Car Park sign in St John's Street Car Park were difficult to read as they had been wrapped around thin posts.

RESOLVED

That the matter be investigated.

Forest Front Skate Park

Mr Moore sought clarification over the cost of the new blockwork at Forest Front Skate Park.

RESOLVED

That a letter detailing costs be sent to Mr Moore.

329/02 **Support for Community Facilities**

Mr Peter Blasby and Mr Terry Pearce from Hythe United Reformed Church gave a presentation on the many different types of support given to the community by the Church and advised that if financial support was given by the local community larger grants from national charities could be applied for.

Members congratulated Mr Blasby and Mr Pearce on the effect the work of the United Reformed Church was having in the community that the Council was keen to see sustained and supported.

RESOLVED

That £5000 be donated to the Hythe United Reformed Church Appeal

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

330/02 **Accounts for Payment**

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

1. Voucher 490

A Member enquired whether this was for a new fire alarm system and whether complete replacement had been recommended.

The Clerk replied that it had and that it was in respect of both The Grove and The Parish Hall.

2. General

RESOLVED

That accounts as detailed in vouchers 450-499 inclusive, totalling £45,486.98, be approved and paid.

331/02 **Standing Orders and Financial Regulations**

Members considered a revised copy of the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations with the proposed amendments shown and discussed further amendments.

RESOLVED

- (a) That page 3 paragraph 7.2 be amended to read, "To receive and record notices disclosing interests declared under the Code of Conduct.";
- (b) That, with effect from the Annual Meeting in May 2003, page 4 paragraph 8 be amended to begin, "Five Members shall constitute a quorum...";
- (c) That page 5 paragraph 15 be amended to include "To note declarations of interest made by Members in connection with an agenda item" after item 15.3;
- (d) That page 5 paragraph 17(c) "should" be amended to read "shall".;

- (e) That page 11 paragraph 49, the last line be amended to read, "or Sub-Committee shall be three or one third of its Members whichever is the greater."
- (f) That the revised copy and ther above amendments be approved.

332/02 **Internal Audit 2001/2002**

Members considered the Internal Audit Report. It was suggested that, in respect of item 7.1 (Inventory) identification numbers be added during the annual check.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted and the action taken/proposed approved.

333/02 **Review of Public Participation Period**

Members reviewed the procedures for the Public Participation Period at Meetings in order that they ran smoothly and all who wished to speak are given the opportunity.

It was felt that submitting questions beforehand may prevent people from attending meetings, but it would not be discouraged as it would make planning and responses more efficient. It was also thought that Members informally welcoming the new members of the public before the meeting may help to overcome nervousness and may prove helpful.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Public Participation Period be extended to a maximum of 15 minutes for all Meetings of the Council and its Committees and Sub-Committees;
- (b) That a protocol information sheet be drafted for those who wish to speak, with copies being given to Members and placed in public areas.
- (c) That the Chairman ascertain, at the beginning of the period, who may wish to speak in order to assist with ensuring that whenever possible all present have the opportunity to raise issues.

334/02 **Grant Aid**

Consideration was given to the Working Party's recommendations for Grant Aid.

RESOLVED

1. That grants be made to the following Organisations for the amounts stated, from the 2002/2003 Grant Aid budget:-
 - a) Hythe and Dibden Woodland and Waterside Group £150.00
 - b) New Forest Dial a Ride £100.00
 - c) Hampshire Ambulance First Responder(Hythe) £250.00
 - d) Firstlight and Friends of SNAPs £150.00
 - e) Age Concern (New Forest East) £150.00
2. That it be suggested to Hampshire Ambulance First Responder (Hythe) that it may wish to consider applying early in the next financial year for further aid.

335/02 **Street Lighting**

Members considered a proposal by Hampshire County Council to upgrade the street lighting in Water Lane and Beech Crescent. Comments had been requested on the proposals by 15 March 2003.

Whilst Members welcomed improved lighting from a security aspect, concerns were expressed that this scheme could be too bright for the rural aspect of Water Lane and that traffic was known to speed on well-lit roads.

RESOLVED

- 1 That the proposals be supported;
- 2 That residents of Beech Crescent be advised of the proposals with any comments received being passed to the County Council.

336/02 **St John's Street Car Park**

Members were advised that the District Council had noted this Council's suggestions for alterations to the St John's Street Car Park, but felt unable to consider them until a final decision had been made on the Link Road.

RESOLVED

That the position is noted.

337/02 **District Council Forward Plan of Key Decisions**

A Member expressed concern that the Review of Economic Development only involved consultation arrangements with New Forest Business Partnership and felt that Parish and Town Councils should also be involved.

The Chairman reported that he had arranged to raise the matter at the next Meeting of the District Council/Parish Councils Liaison Meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman's action be supported.

The Meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Chairman

Date

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