

**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, 3 March 2003 at 8.05 pm.

- Members:                   \*Mr S S Wade (Chairman) – in the Chair
- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| oMr B Dash      | *Mrs M Robinson |
| *Mr G Dawson    | *Mr M Short     |
| *Mrs C Gradidge | *Mrs B Smith    |
| oMr 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 D J Shimpe (Deputy Clerk to the Council - Designate)  
Mrs C Patterson (Minute Clerk)
- Also present:             Mr G Parkes  
2 Members of the Public

381/02 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 20 January 2003, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

382/02 **Declarations of Interest**

Mrs Smith declared an interest in Min 385/02 due to the purchase of an Art Work.

383/02 **Public Participation Period**

**(a) Accounts for Payment**

Mr Moore enquired whether it would be possible for Members of the Public to receive a copy of the Accounts for Payment with an Agenda at the start of Committee Meetings.

RESOLVED

That copies of the Accounts for Payment be issued with all Agendas, although it must be remembered that payment has not been authorised at this stage.

**(b) Roman Road**

Mr Uglow asked whether Roman Road could be redesignated as Roman Road North and Roman Road South. It was suggested that all properties should also be given a number.

RESOLVED

That the matter be investigated.

**(c) Additional Police**

Mr Uglow referred to recent problems with car fires at Forest Front and Ash Close and expressed concern that the Police did not attend the incidents. He suggested that the Waterside Parishes fund a permanent extra Policeman with remuneration being taken from an increase in Council tax.

It was stated that the Police have previously been approached on this issue and are looking to increase the number of Special Constables, but this obviously takes some time to implement.

RESOLVED

That Inspector Winchester be invited to attend the next meeting of the Council.

384/02 **Accounts for Payment**

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

**1. Voucher 530**

There was some confusion over whether this quotation included a digital piece of equipment, which would have made it a reasonable quotation, or whether it was solely for connecting the fire alarm to the existing 24 hour central monitoring system.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk consult with Mr Harrison to ascertain whether the quotation is reasonable. If it proves to be excessive, it should be challenged.

**2. General**

RESOLVED

That, subject to the above, accounts as detailed in Vouchers 530-577 inclusive, totalling £23,127.85, be approved and paid.

385/02 **Report of the Art Collection Working Party**

Members received the Report of the Art Collection Working Party and discussed whether any alterations should be made to its recommendations.

RESOLVED

- (a) That articles should be displayed in any publicly owned property, subject to insurance and security arrangements being satisfactory
- (b) That £100 should be put aside annually for 3 years.

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

386/02 **Annual Subscriptions to Associations**

Members considered the recent increases in Annual Subscriptions to Associations, whether it is necessary to remain a Member of all the Associations and, if not, which Associations offer the best value for money.

RESOLVED

- (a) That HAPTC be advised that this Council do not accept the increase in fees and are reviewing our circumstances.
- (b) That it be ascertained whether this Council can become a direct member of NALC.
- (c) That Membership of South East Employers be renewed.

**387/02 Website and Access to the Internet**

Members were advised that the Parish Council website is now accessible, although the previous website is still active and there are links between the two sites.

It was announced that Mr David Solomon has resigned as webmaster for the Hants-Hythe site.

Members considered installing a broadband connection in the office to improve the speed of uploading and downloading data and to economise on the standard dial up connection charges which have currently led to an increase of approximately £100 per month in telephone charges.

**RESOLVED**

1. That Mr Solomon be invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting in order to thank him for all the work he has put in to ensuring the success of the website.
2. That broadband connection be purchased from Btopenworld at a cost of £79.99 per month, with the situation subject to review after 6 months.

**388/02 Application for Renewal of Public Entertainments Licence – Waterside Inn, Jones Lane**

Members considered an application from the Waterside Inn, Jones Lane to extend its opening hours on the renewal of its Public Entertainments Licence. Several letters had been received from local residents objecting to such late opening.

**RESOLVED**

That it be recommended that opening hours be as follows:

Monday – Thursday	19.00 – 23.00
Friday – Saturday	19.00 – 23.30
Sunday	19.00 – 22.30

**389/02 Shore Road Picnic Area**

A Member reported that lorries appeared to be parking overnight in the Shore Road Picnic Area and suggested that the District Council be asked to erect a "No overnight parking" sign.

**RESOLVED**

That the matter be investigated.

**390/02 Hart Hill Area/Footpath 5**

A Member observed that the footpath linking the Hart Hill Area-Footpath 5 to Netley View/Hardley Lane needed tidying up to ensure "passage of foot" is maintained.

**RESOLVED**

That the landowner be advised of his responsibilities.

**391/02 Site of Baptist Church, Challenger Way**

Members were advised that the site of the old Baptist Church on Challenger Way had been cleared and made safe, but was already being used as a dumping ground again. It was felt that a ditch dug around the site would alleviate this problem.

**RESOLVED**

That New Forest District Council be asked for an update.

**392/02 Hythe Conservation Area Appraisal**

The Chairman reminded Members to respond to the Hythe Conservation Area Appraisal.

393/02 **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.

394/02 **Staffing Matters****(a) Long Service Awards**

Members considered the introduction of a long service award for employees who complete 20 years service with the Council.

RESOLVED that

- (a) An award in the form of a gift be made to employees who have completed 20 years service
- (b) The value of the award be up to £100. This amount to be increased each year by the RPI declared for each December.

**(b) Retirement of the Clerk to Council**

The Committee considered a report detailing the arrangements for the retirement of the Clerk to the Council. Having discussed the administrative arrangements for the retirement of staff that had taken place recently, the Committee

RESOLVED

- (a) to note the Report
- (b) that investigations be undertaken into the provision of "human resources" advice service. The results to be considered by a future meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee.

The Meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Chairman

Date

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