

**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, 14 April 2003 at 7.51 pm.

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

*Mr B Dash *Mr G Dawson *Mrs C Gradidge *Mr R Guy *Mr C Harrison *Mr R Podesta	*Mrs M Robinson oMr M Short *Mrs B Smith *Mr D Smith *Mr M S Wade
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\* Indicates attendance  
o Indicates apologies for absence

In attendance:           Mr D J Shimpe (Clerk to the Council)  
                                  Ms S A Maitland (Deputy Clerk to the Council)  
                                  Mrs C Patterson (Minute Clerk)  
                                  Mr S Spencer (Foreman)

Also present:             Mrs M McLean  
                                  Mr G Parkes

444/02 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 3 March 2003, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

445/02 **Declarations of Interest**

Mrs Robinson declared an interest in Min 450/02 as she is a Member of the New Forest Strategic Partnership.

446/02 **Public Participation Period**

There were no members of the public present.

447/02 **Accounts for Payment**

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

RESOLVED

That accounts as detailed in the Accounts for Payment and  
Supplementary List , totalling £36951.91, be approved and paid.

448/02 **Membership of Associations**

Members were brought up to date on the replies received to date regarding membership of NALC and HAPTC.

RESOLVED

That no action be taken until a response is received from HAPTC.

449/02 **Postal Address Change**

Members were disappointed to learn from the Royal Mail that it is not possible to remove Southampton from the postal addresses of properties within the Parish.

## RESOLVED

That the Agenda note for the item be displayed on noticeboards within the Parish and an announcement made in the next issue of The Herald.

450/02 **Consultation Documents received –****New Forest Local Strategic Partnership – Draft Issues Report**

Members considered how to respond to the Draft Issues Report from the New Forest Local Strategic Partnership as consultation is due to end on 12 May 2003.

## RESOLVED

That a Working Party comprising Mr S Wade, Mr Podesta, Mr Parkes and Mr Harrison comment on 6 sections of the report each, so that each section is covered by 2 Members.

**Regional Waste Management Strategy – Consultation Draft**

Members considered how to respond to the Regional Waste Management Strategy Consultation Draft as comments are due by 23 June 2003.

## RESOLVED

That a Working Party comprising Mrs Smith, Mr Dawson and Mr Guy be authorised to respond.

(Mrs Robinson declared an interest in this item but remained in the meeting)

451/02 **New Machinery and Equipment**

Members considered the replacement of various items of machinery. Concern was expressed that only one tender had been received despite several requests and media advertising, however, this was thought to be due to the fact that William Wheatley Ltd are the authorised dealers for this area and other companies would have to purchase the machinery from them.

## RESOLVED

That the tender of £16708.00 from William Wheatley Ltd be accepted provided it included a discount comparable to that given to the County and District Councils.

452/02 **Risk Management and Insurance****(a) Risk Assessment**

Members considered the draft schedule of risks produced by the Clerk and staff and congratulated them on producing an excellent document.

## RESOLVED

1. That the following amendments be made;
  - a) that each item be numbered,
  - b) the word 'child' be changed to 'person' in Accident to Public in Play Area section,
  - c) remove the words 'try to' from the solution in Computer Virus section,
  - d) a section be added to reflect risks of non replacement of retiring councillors,
  - e) a column be added to show when items are due for review,
  - f) consideration be given to consequences of injury or death to councillors whilst on public duty.

2. That Mr Short be asked to comment on the draft schedule as he is an expert in this field.

**(b) Insurance Arrangements**

Members considered the current insurance cover held by the Council with Zurich Municipal which is due for renewal in July and whether any amendments need to be made to the existing arrangements.

RESOLVED

That the insurance be renewed subject to the following;

- a) Clayfields being covered for subsidence,
- b) whether the legal expenses cover of £100,000.00 is per event and whether it is sufficient,

453/02 **Pubwatch**

The Chairman of the Council advised Members that he had received a letter from Hampshire Constabulary regarding a proposed Pubwatch Scheme.

RESOLVED

That a letter be sent to Sharon France passing on the congratulations on proposing the scheme.

454/02 **Hythe Hospital Junction**

Members were advised of another accident which had occurred at the junction of Beaulieu Road and Fawley Road and of the dangers caused by traffic queued back to the brow of the hill.

RESOLVED

That the matter be investigated.

455/02 **Whitewater Rise**

A Member sought clarification of the position regarding the filling of potholes in Whitewater Rise.

RESOLVED

That the matter be investigated.

456/02 **South West Trains**

Members were advised that the South West Trains bus service had been discontinued, but the funds would now be used to subsidise the Town Quay to Southampton Town Centre bus link.

457/02 **Business in the Community**

Further to an e-mail received from the District Council regarding Business in the Community, a Member sought clarification of the up to date position regarding the Market Town Health Check.

The Clerk advised that he had not received any response to date.

RESOLVED

That the matter be investigated.

458/02 **New Councillors**

Members expressed concern at the lack of nominations for the forthcoming local elections and the future of Parish Councils if Councillors cannot be found in the future.

Some councillors had found it difficult to lodge their papers, whereas others had found the District Council staff extremely helpful.

459/02 **Theft from bin bags**

It was brought to the Committee's attention that bin bags were being ripped open outside the flower shops in Hythe Centre. It was thought that the culprits were looking for flowers which could be sold on at car boot sales as flowers were also being taken from local graveyards.

RESOLVED

That the Police be advised of the situation.

Members acknowledged the fact that this was the last Meeting to be attended by Mr Dash and Mrs Gradidge and thanked them for the efforts they had made on behalf of the community over the years.

They also acknowledged the contribution made by Mr Ramsbottom who was not at the Meeting.

Mr Dash thanked Members for their good wishes and said that he had thoroughly enjoyed his 20 years on the Council and felt that the recent restructuring and present staff gave him a feeling of confidence for moving forward.

460/02 **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.

461/02 **Security of The Grove**

Consideration was given to the security arrangements of The Grove and who should know the access codes to the three main security systems controlling it.

RESOLVED

That access codes should be known by the following:

**1. Front Door Lock and Intruder Alarm.**

Organisations who require access by virtue of tenancy of The Grove

**2. Security Lock – First Floor Main Entrance Stairs, Ground Floor new wing, Ground Floor and First Floor CAB.**

Organisations who require access by virtue of tenancy of The Grove and Parish Councillors.

**3. Security Lock – General Parish Office**

All staff (by virtue of occupancy of the Office) and Parish Councillors.

The Meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Chairman

Date

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