

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, 1 March 2004 at 8.15 pm.

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

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

* Indicates attendance
o Indicates apologies for absence

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

Also present: Mr G Parkes
1 Member of the Press

The Chairman began the Meeting by announcing the retirement of Mr Peter East who has been reporting on Council Meetings for the Southern Daily Echo since 1987. He thanked him for the even-handed way in which he has covered all issues.

Mr East responded in similar vein and spoke warmly of the tolerance, trust and comradeship which has been such an important part of the relationship between himself and the Parish Council.

468/03 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 19 January 2004, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

469/03 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

470/03 **Public Participation Period**

Mr East advised members that the annual cost of clearing rubbish tipped in Hardley Lane/New Road (min473/03) is £10,000.

471/03 **Accounts for payment**

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

RESOLVED

That accounts as detailed in vouchers 534 – 585 inclusive, totalling
£30309.44, be approved and paid.

472/03 **Financial Monitoring Information period ending 31 December 2003**

Consideration was given to the financial monitoring information provided by the Clerk for the period ending 31 December 2003.

It was noted that the budget was exceeded at The Grove, but this was due to the problem of the floor sinking in the CAB offices.

It was also noted that funds allocated for the provision of Blue Plaques and Youth facilities had not yet been utilised. It was agreed to consider the matter at the closure of this year's accounts.

The Clerk advised Members that all outstanding loans had been paid off.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

473/03 **Cost of Garden Refuse Sacks**

Consideration was given to the future reimbursement of part of the cost of garden refuse sacks issued to the elderly under the present subsidised scheme as the cost of sacks will increase to 82p each from 1 April 2004.

It was suggested that the cost to the elderly remain at 40p per sack and that the Parish Council reimburse 42p directly to the District Council.

Whilst appreciating that the collection of garden waste is of benefit to the elderly, members still considered that recycling would be the environmentally beneficial option and agreed to look into ways of implementing this.

Concern was also expressed that Pensioners are not claiming Council Tax Benefit and Pension Credit to which they may be entitled.

RESOLVED

1. That the elderly be asked to pay 40p per sack and the Parish Council contribute 42p per sack within the existing scheme.
2. That flyers are put with the sacks and an article be included in the Waterside Herald advising the elderly of any benefits they may be entitled to.

474/03 **Review of Financial Regulations**

Consideration was given to the review of Financial Regulations.

RESOLVED

That Council are recommended to adopt the amended Financial Regulations.

475/03 **Members Allowances for Parish and Town Councillors as affected by The Local Authorities (Members Allowances)(England) Regulations 2003**

Consideration was given to a request from NALC to lobby our local MP for a change in regulation.

RESOLVED

That NALC be supported.

476/03 **Proposed changes to parking places and introduction of Pedestrian Zone, Hythe Promenade**

Consideration was given to the proposed changes in parking places etc. as a result of the refurbishment of the Promenade, further to a request for views from Mr Dash, Hampshire County Councillor for the area.

RESOLVED

That Mr Dash be advised that the Parish Council agrees to the proposed changes, with a copy letter being sent to Mr G Carter at the County Council.

477/03 **Footway Lighting – Community Safety Initiative**

Members considered a list of roads in need of lighting improvements to agree a priority order.

Some roads had already been improved and some were felt to be missing from the list, so it was suggested that Councillors survey their own wards in order to provide a definitive list.

As a bid for funding needs to be made by April it was agreed to select one area as a priority.

RESOLVED

1. That Members survey roads in local wards and bring list to June Committee Meeting.
2. That Watermans Lane be put forward for a bid in April.

478/03 **Hardley Lane and New Road, Fawley Experimental Prohibition of Driving Order**

Consideration was given to a letter from the District Council outlining the above order.

RESOLVED

That the District Council be supported.

479/03 **Report of Arts Working Party**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Meeting of the Arts Working Party on 26 January 2004.

Mr Smith advised Members that he had been in contact with Mr Eurich's daughters who agreed with the proposals so far, but wished to be kept informed of developments and approve the final choice.

It was agreed to accept the Working Party's recommendations and continue to pursue the possibility of a sculpture of Mr Eurich.

The Chairman advised Members that an Exhibition featuring Mr Eurich's work will be held at the St. Barbe Gallery between 20 March and 29 May 2004.

480/03 **Southampton Airport Consultative Committee**

Members were advised that Mr Bennett and Ms Gallagher from the District Council had attended and spoken at a recent meeting of the Southampton Airport Consultative Committee. Unfortunately, they do not intend to review their constitution until 2006, so it will not be possible for the Parish to have a representative on the Committee until at least then.

It was reported that Southampton Airport had offered to meet the Parish and District Councils and Members agreed that this offer should be taken up.

It was agreed to circulate information concerning the above meeting.

481/03 **Hanging Baskets**

The Clerk advised Members that lampposts in the Parish are currently being tested in accordance with regulations to ensure that they can support hanging baskets.

482/03 **Youth Problems**

Members were advised of problems perceived by the public at the Forest Front Skate Park.

It was agreed that the matter should be discussed at the next Amenities Committee Meeting.

Concern was expressed that youths are now congregating at Fern Hill after being moved on from other places in the Parish.

It was felt that no action should be taken at present as other avenues such as Community Wardens and a Youth Centre on Challenger Way are currently being explored.

483/03 **Burger Bar**

Members were advised that a Burger Bar is currently trading outside Joyners. Environmental Health and Highways have been advised.

484/03 **Car Boot Sale**

Members were advised that Car Boot Sales are being held at The Arena. 14 Sales a year are the maximum allowed, but the District Valuer has been consulted as they may attract business rates.

The issue of fly posting is also being investigated.

485/03 **New Forest National Park Development Control Steering Group.**

Mr S Wade advised Members of his attendance at a recent meeting of the above group.

Members requested that a copy of his report be circulated.

The Meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Chairman

Date

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