

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, 19 April 2004 at 7.55 pm.

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

oMr R Guy	*Mr M Short
*Mr C Harrison	* Mrs B Smith
*Mr 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: 2 Members of the Public

528/03 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the committee held on 1 March 2004, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

529/03 Declarations of Interest

Mrs Robinson declared an interest in Minute 532/03 as her husband is the Senior Community Advisor and Minute 534/03 as her husband is a Bank employee. Mr Podesta declared an interest in Minute 540/03 as he is the owner of 25 High Street.

530/03 Public Participation Period

Anti Social Behaviour Problems

Mr Uglow outlined problems which had been encountered recently with anti social behaviour, mainly from youths. These included teenage girls chasing young children off the young persons play area at Noads Way and being verbally abusive when challenged, ducks being shot at with air rifles and a stone being thrown through Mr Uglow's door late at night.

Concern was expressed at the inadequate and often inappropriate response to these matters from the Police, particularly as some of this behaviour is illegal.

It was agreed to write to the Police advising them of the problems encountered and reminding them of local byelaws and requesting a representative to speak at the next Meeting of the Committee, with possibly a presentation at the next Parish Meeting. Copies of the letter should be sent to the Chief Constable and Superintendent Talbot.

531/03 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 the supplementary list, totalling £40825.14, be approved and paid.

532/03 Senior Community Advisor

Consideration was given to the future of the post of Community Advisor as the present post holder feels that there is no point in continuing in the present manner.

Members agreed that previous Advisors have performed a vital function for the local Community, but are presently hampered by the new system which is run by the County Council.

Thanks were extended to Mr Robinson for the work which he and his colleagues have done for the Parish.

RESOLVED

That a future agenda item investigate the effect of the loss of the post and whether the Parish Council needs community advice.

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

533/03 **Annual Review of Business Risk Assessment and Insurance Arrangements**

The Clerk presented an updated Review of Risk Assessment and Insurance Arrangements. The following alterations were agreed:

12. It was noted that there were two No. 12's and the numbering should be altered.
12. Assault on staff should also include training for Members. It was suggested that a panic button be installed in the Council Chamber.
33. An increase in the level of insurance cover for Members should be investigated. All Members should ensure their car insurance covers business use when on Council duty.

534/03 **Proposed Treasury Management Policy**

Consideration was given to the list of organisations suitable for investment.

RESOLVED that

- a) The Treasury Management Policy be adapted.
- b) The list should be amended to include any UK Clearing Bank or Building Society with a commitment to ethical investment.

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

535/03 **Annual Review of Equal Opportunities Statistics**

Consideration was given to the Annual Review of Equal Opportunities Statistics.

Concern was expressed at the lack of applications from the younger age range and gender stereotyping of Administration and Outdoor Posts.

It was agreed to investigate the possibility of employing a trainee and to ask the Hampshire Association of Parish and Town Councils if other Councils encounter similar problems.

536/03 **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 29 March 2004**

Members noted the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 29 March 2004.

537/03 **Proposed additions to the Main River Network**

Consideration was given to a proposal by the Environment Agency to include three watercourses from the Parish under its jurisdiction due to concerns over flooding.

Members considered that this could increase the perception of risk resulting in increased insurance premiums and possibly the inability to extend homes.

RESOLVED

That the Environment Agency be advised of these concerns

538/03 Consultation Documents

The Clerk brought several consultation documents to Members' attention.

It was agreed to distribute them to individual Members to study with responses being given to the Clerk in time for him to collate a general response.

539/03 Skateboards

It was brought to Members' attention that children are skateboarding in Partridge Road with no concern for their own or road users' safety.

It was agreed to ask the HANDY Trust's Youth Worker to speak to the children to point out the dangers as an initial response.

Mr S Wade agreed to contact the Responsible Officer of the Road Safety Council prior to their Summer Holiday Campaign.

540/03 Market Parking

Concern was expressed at the parking problems in Hythe Village now that the Market has changed to summer trading, preventing any parking in the St John's Street Car Park.

Surprise was also expressed that New Forest District Council had issued a Press Release concerning the Market and claiming to be in partnership with the Parish Council without any prior consultation.

(Mr Podesta declared an interest in this item but remained in the Meeting)

541/03 Parking – Dibden Purlieu

A Member noted that parking arrangements in Dibden Purlieu appear to have changed recently, resulting in 4 churchgoers being fined on Sunday.

It was agreed to investigate the matter with the County Council

Members noted that Mr Wade was chairing the Committee for the last time and thanked him for his commitment and dedication.

The Meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Chairman

Date

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