

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 21 June 2004 at 9.10 pm.

Members: *Mr R Podesta (Chairman) – in the Chair

*Mr G Dawson	*Mrs B Smith
*Mr C Harrison	*Mr D Smith
*Mrs M Robinson	oMr M S Wade
oMr M Short	oMr S Wade

* 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)

Also present: Mr G Parkes
2 Members of the Public

Discussion on Policing within the Parish

The meeting of the General Purposes and Finance Committee commenced informally at 7.50pm to discuss policing within the Parish. Superintendent Talbot and Inspector Buckle were in attendance for the discussion.

The discussion focussed on the current alcoholic drinks culture, anti-social behaviour and complaints about the conduct of young people. The committee was informed that these problems are best dealt with by using a multi agency approach and this means that with the backup of the police various issues that are deemed to be at the root of the cause can be dealt with. Issues that can be addressed with offenders could be related to alcohol and drug abuse, family and social issues.

In areas where problems are occurring the issues can be investigated and addressed using the PRIME initiative if appropriate.

A member of the public informed the police and the committee that some homeowners whose properties adjoin Ewart Recreation Ground had either been victims or witnessed anti social behaviour in the recreation ground late in the evenings and mainly at weekend.

Superintendent Talbot and Inspector Buckle stated that many acts of vandalism and anti-social behaviour go unreported and they stressed the importance of reporting every incident by dialling 999 if it is being witnessed or reporting it to the police as soon as it is discovered. Without this information the police do not have the correct facts and figures.

Inspector Buckle encouraged the Committee to form a liaison group to meet with him regularly to discuss issues and concerns. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the next meeting of the Council.

The informal meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

74/04 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 19 April 2004 and the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Committee held on 20 April 2004, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

75/04 **Declarations of interest**

Mrs B Smith disclosed an interest in Minute 81/04 as she is the Council's representative on the Hythe and Dibden Twinning Association and is a member of the trustee body for the Citizens Advice Bureau; Mrs M Robinson disclosed an interest in Minute 81/04 as she is the Council's

representative for Victim Support New Forest and is a member of Hythe and Dibden Twinning Association and in Minute 80/04 as she is a member of the Local Government Superannuation Scheme; Mr G Parkes disclosed an interest in Minute 81/04 as he is Chairman of the Hythe and Dibden Twinning Association.

Mrs M Robinson disclosed an interest during the informal meeting with the police because she is Chairman of Options and a non-executive director of Hampshire Partnership NHS Trust.

76/04 **Public Participation Period**

Mr Uglow reported that he had requested New Forest District Council to tidy Shore Road as he considered it to be untidy with a lot of litter.

Mr Uglow reported that there had been problems at Forest Front during the weekend of 12/13 June but he had few details because he was away over that weekend.

77/04 **Accounts for Payment**

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

Clarification was sought on Voucher 744 and the Clerk confirmed that Terrorism cover is no longer contained within the main insurance policy and had to be paid separately now.

RESOLVED

That accounts as detailed in Vouchers 707 - 778 inclusive, totalling £65066.20 be approved and paid.

78/04 **Revised Parish Charter with Hampshire County Council**

Members noted the revised Charter which reflects the inclusion of the Quality Parish/Town Council Status and sets out examples of partnership appointments.

79/04 **Community Advisers**

Consideration was given to future emergency planning for the Parish. It was felt that it would be difficult for one person to be responsible for bringing details of forthcoming events to the Council although some occasions would merit the circulation of information. Events such as the arrival of the QM2 would have benefited from traffic control and it was things like this that a Community Adviser could have assisted with.

Members agreed that information on forthcoming events could be pooled during a Planning Committee meeting so that necessary action could then be taken.

RESOLVED

That an item entitled "Forthcoming events that could affect the village" be included on future Planning Agendas.

80/04 **Local Government Superannuation Scheme – Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure**

The Government has introduced regulation to ensure that occupational pensions schemes have an Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure to act as a filter for complaints that are referred to the Pensions Ombudsman.

Members were asked to give consideration to adopting an Internal Dispute Scheme and to nominate a specified person to deal with internal disputes.

RESOLVED

- 1) That the Internal Dispute Scheme for the Local Government Superannuation Scheme be adopted.
- 2) That the Clerk to the Council be the specified person to deal with internal disputes.

81/04 Grant Aid Applications 2004/05

Consideration was given to the spreadsheet, previously circulated, showing the applications received and the recommendations of the Grants Working Party. Three applications had been deferred pending further information.

The Working Party requested that applications for grant aid for on going running costs be considered on the merits of each application. Previously consideration was given to applications for set costs.

RESOLVED

- 1) That Grant Aid be given as recommended by the Grants Working Party.
- 2) That, in future, Grand Aid provision will be considered on the merits of each application.

(Mr G Parkes, Mrs M Robinson and Mrs B Smith disclosed their interest in the above item and took no part in the discussions thereof. Mr Parkes left the meeting during the discussion.)

82/04 Consultation on Proposed Removal of Two Payphones by BT

Members were informed that BT were proposing to remove two payphones in the area. One payphone is situation on the junction of Ashford Crescent and Langdown Road and the other one is at 275 Front Lane.

BT has requested the views of the council.

RESOLVED

That BT be informed that this council strongly objects to the removal of the phones and that it considers that the phones are an important service provision for the community.

83/04 To receive the report of the Arts Working Party

Consideration was given to the report of the Arts Working Party, previously circulated.

RESOLVED

That the report of the Arts Working Party be noted and adopted.

84/04 To receive the report of the Speed Restriction Working Party

Consideration was given to the report of the Speed Restriction Working Party, previously circulated.

RESOLVED

That the report of the Speed Restriction Working Party be noted and adopted.

85/04 HAPTC Resolution from Marchwood Parish Council

Marchwood Parish Council wish to submit a resolution to the HAPTC AGM and have asked if this Council will second the resolution.

RESOLVED

That this Council support Marchwood Parish Council and second the Resolution that they wish to submit to Hampshire Association of Town and Parish Council at their AGM.

86/04 Car Parks – Hythe Village Centre

Members were informed that the Chief Executive of New Forest District Council had responded to White Horse Ferries about their claim that the introduction of parking charges had had an adverse effect on the Hythe Ferry service.

Members asked that this be made an Agenda item for the next meeting of the Committee.

87/04 Suspension of Standing Orders

At 10.00 pm agreement was sought on whether to suspend Standing Orders and continue with the meeting until all business specified on the agenda was completed.

RESOLVED

That in line with Standing Order 44.1 the meeting continue until the business specified on the agenda is completed.

88/04 Matters for discussion in private session

Members discussed the criteria for discussing sensitive issues in the private session and agreed that as much as possible should be discussed during the public session with due regard to the Data Protection Act. Items with personal and contractual implications should be discussed in private session.

89/04 Land adjacent to 6 Brendon Close

The piece of land adjacent to 6 Brendon Close has been transferred to the Council as public open space. It adjoins a larger piece of land that has also been transferred but is separated by a fence and hedge. As such it has little or no amenity value. It is joined to the land of 6 Brendon Close and separated by a wooden fence. The owners of 6 Brendon Close have asked to purchase the land and enclose it within their garden.

RESOLVED

That the owners of 6 Brendon Close be informed that the Council is prepared to sell the piece of land adjacent to 6 Brendon Close after it has been valued. The land will be valued and sold as building land and all costs in relation to the valuation and sale/purchase to be met by the purchaser.

90/04 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 on Schedule 12 of the 1972 Local Government Act.

91/04 **Draft Business Continuity Plan for the Parish Council**

Consideration was given to adopting the Business Continuity Plan.

RESOLVED

- 1) That the flow chart in Appendix 4 be clarified to show the procedure in the absence of the Chairman of the Council.
- 2) That subject to the above, the Business Continuity Plan be approved and adopted.

92/04 **Staff****1. Staff welfare**

The Clerk informed members of a problem that required immediate action and stated that the issue would be discussed at a meeting of the Personnel Sub Committee, the date of which has not been set yet.

2. Appraisals

It was noted that an appraisal system was not in place for the Clerk to the Council and it was recommended that the Clerk have 6 monthly appraisal meetings with the Chairman of the Council.

The meeting closed at 10.20 pm.

Chairman

Date

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