

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, 26 July 2004 at 8 pm.

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

*Mr G Dawson	*Mrs B Smith
oMr C Harrison	*Mr D Smith
*Mrs M Robinson	*Mr M S Wade
oMr M Short	*Mr S 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
2 Members of the Public

The Chairman began the Meeting by thanking Mr S Wade for all the hard work he has put in as Chairman of the Committee for many years

145/04 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meetings of the Committee held on 10 May 2004 and 21 June 2004, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

146/04 **Declarations of Interest**

Mr Podesta declared an interest in Minute 151/04, Minute 152/04, Minute 153/04, and Minute 154/04 as he is the owner of 25 High Street.

Mr S Wade declared an interest in Minute 150/04 as he is a representative of Age Concern New Forest (East).

147/04 **Public Participation Period**

There were no questions from Members of the Public.

148/04 **Accounts for Payment**

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

(a) Voucher 833 Contract Self Drive

Members were advised that this item related to the hire of a Ford Transit due to the increase in manpower.

(b) Voucher 826 Nestle Water Powwow

Concern was expressed that this company do not comply with this Council's Fair Trade policy. It was agreed to consider ways of conducting business in an ethically acceptable manner.

(c) Voucher 828 Shield Environmental Ltd

Members enquired as to the results of the asbestos survey.

The Clerk advised them that there are two small items at the Parish Hall and The Grove which require annual monitoring, but are presently considered safe.

(d) General

RESOLVED

That, subject to the above, accounts as detailed in Vouchers 821 – 848 inclusive, totalling £23464.23, be approved and paid.

149/04 **Financial Monitoring period ending 30 June 2004**

Consideration was given to the financial monitoring information for the revenue expenditure for the period up to and including 30 June 2004.

Members were pleased with the way the information was presented but the Clerk asked if they would like further information included. It was agreed to experiment with putting the information in a graphic form and a forecast and a comparison with previous years in order to look at trends.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

150/04 **Special Funds and Balances**

Further to the repayment of the Council Loans in respect of the Workshop and The Grove, Members were advised of some small adjustments in the way the balances are presented. This had also uncovered some items where the budget head may be inappropriate or the funds no longer needed for that purpose.

Consideration was given to the reallocation of funds within the current budget.

RESOLVED

1. That a review of priorities be made quarterly.
2. That the Workshop Sinking Fund is held pending the results of the Condition Surveys.
3. That the Youth Facilities Fund is reviewed once the Youth Strategy is presented or at the end of the financial year.
4. That the Chairman and Vice Chairman be authorised to commit up to £3000 in addition to the £5000 already allocated to the Challenger Way facility for the elderly, should a decision be needed before the next meeting of the committee.

(Mr S Wade declared an interest in this item and left the Meeting during consideration thereof)

151/04 **Refurbishment of Hythe Promenade**

Consideration was given to an additional £50,000 of developers' contributions to be used towards the refurbishment of Hythe Promenade. The contribution of a further £10,000 by this Council was also discussed.

RESOLVED

1. That an additional £50,000 is taken from developers' contributions.
2. That an additional £10,000 is taken from current balances.
3. That the District Council is advised that this Council sees the link to the Pierhead as a priority, particularly as this would alleviate Police safety concerns at larger events.

(Mr Podesta declared an interest in this item and left the Meeting during consideration thereof. Mr M Wade took the Chair)

152/04 **Farmers Markets**

Consideration was given to the request by the organisers of the Farmers Markets to move them from a Sunday to a Saturday, although the proposed meeting on 20 July 2004 had not taken place.

RESOLVED

1. That the District Council be advised that this Council would prefer to see the Farmers Markets continue on a Sunday in Hythe, but would consider other areas within the Parish on a Saturday.
2. As necessary, the possibility of other sites such as Dibden Purlieu or the Promenade be investigated with a view to alternating around the Parish.

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

153/04 **Hythe – Hants Website**

Consideration was given to whether the webmasters for Fawley Parish Council should be asked to take over as Webmaster of the Hythe – Hants Website.

RESOLVED

That the webmasters be invited to speak to this Council and the Hythe Business Partnership to enable a decision to be made.

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

154/04 **Review of Traffic Management – Introduction of Parking Clock Scheme and Changes in Council Off-Street Car Parks**

Consideration was given to how well the above scheme is working and the response to be made to the District Council's request for views.

RESOLVED

That the District Council be advised:

1. That each household should receive a free clock.
2. That non-residents should not be able to buy clocks.
3. That there has been an increase in on-road parking as a result of Hythe Marina charges.
4. That each area should be looked at individually and car parks administered by other bodies should be taken into account.
5. That a review of the ratio of long and short stay spaces needs to be made.

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

155/04 **Suspension of Standing Orders**

It was proposed and subsequently resolved that Standing Order 44.1 be suspended.

156/04 Parish Plans and Town Centre Health Checks

Consideration was given to a request from the District Council to provide information on whether this Council is considering the production of a Parish Plan or Market Town Healthcheck and how best we feel the Planning Delivery Grant funding could be spent in assisting with this.

RESOLVED

That the District Council be advised that this Council is in the process of appointing a Project Officer to carry out the Market Town Healthcheck and would welcome funding to enable us to do the work. We would also welcome assistance with practicalities such as printing/copying documents, producing maps etc.

157/04 Alleged incident at Forest Front

A Member gave the Clerk a copy of an e-mail he had received alleging that Forest Front is a "no-go" area for the disabled and other vulnerable people due to a rape and vandalism.

It was agreed that, as no record could be found of this incident, the matter should be investigated with the source in Blackfield.

The Meeting closed at 10.05 pm.

Chairman

Date

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