

HYTHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Hythe and Dibden Parish Council
Held at The Grove, 25 St. John's Street, Hythe
On Monday 25 September 2006 at 8 pm

Members: *Mrs B Smith (Chairman) – in the Chair

*Mr J Bennett	*Mr R Podesta
*Mr G Dawson	*Mrs M J Robinson
*Mr R Guy	*Mr M Short
*Mr C Harrison	*Mr D Smith
*Mrs M McLean	*Mr M S Wade
*Mr G Parkes	*Mr S S Wade

* Indicates attendance
o Indicates apologies for absence

In attendance: Mr B Dash – Hampshire County Councillor
Ms S A Maitland (Deputy Clerk to the Council)
Mrs C Patterson (Minute Clerk)

Also present: 5 Members of the Public

226/06 **Declarations of Interest**

Mrs Robinson declared an interest in Minute 237/06 as she is the Chair of an NHS Trust. Mr Dawson declared an interest in Minute 231/06 as he is employed by Esso Petroleum.

227/06 **Minutes**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 24 July 2006.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Council held on 24 July 2006 be signed by the Chairman as correct.

228/06 **To receive a petition from local residents**

Although a petition concerning the need for traffic calming measures along Southampton Road was due to be received from the residents of Mountfield, no residents were present at the meeting. However, Councillor Robinson presented a copy of the petition and it was agreed that all residents would be kept informed of any information received concerning the matter.

229/06 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman had no announcements to make.

230/06 **Reports of the County Councillors on County Council matters concerning the Parish**

The Committee structure at County Council level is being reorganised to reduce the number of Policy Review Committees. Task and Finish Groups will be formed along with Local Action Teams which will comprise of County Members. There will be one District in this area – New Forest. Any decisions concerning this area will be reviewed and an input can be made by local councillors.

A project appraisal has been prepared for consideration for the new Day Centre at Challenger Way. The Day Centre will be named "The Horrill Centre".

A provisional review of the budget has suggested that an increase of 4.9% on the council tax for next year will be necessary to put an extra £6 million into adult care services.

The criteria for the provision of adult care has risen from "substantial" to "critical" need, although existing clients are not affected.

The Kate Barker Review of the Planning System has highlighted the need to avoid the excessive costs and time involved in Planning Inquiries such as the Dibden Bay Inquiry.

Mrs Robinson thanked Mr Dash for his sensitive and diligent work in ensuring the Horrill Centre Project came to fruition.

231/06 **Reports of District Councillors on District Council matters concerning the Parish**

A review of leisure services has suggested that tourism should be made a higher priority to ensure that potential earnings are maximised.

Mrs McLean made a visit to Hythe Birthing Centre recently as a member of the Housing and Social Inclusion Panel. There were 157 births in 2005 and 109 in the first 9 months of this year at the Birthing Centre.

There will be a public consultation on the future of maternity services in the area between 21 August and 20 October 2006.

The Crime and Disorder Review Panel internal audit concluded that the effect of CCTV has not been established. A review is needed due to the difficulties in evaluating the effectiveness of CCTV, although at this time it appears that its main benefit is in procuring arrests.

A proper evaluation of the roles of ACSOs and PCSOs needs to be made in conjunction with Service Level Agreements before further decisions are made on their future.

The outside agency which conducted an efficiency review of the District Council concluded that better use needs to be made of the scrutiny function.

The Corporate Overview Panel is to review and update the partnership between the District Council and the Parish Councils. There is some concern over the progression being made in such matters as IT support for the smaller parishes.

The Rural Assistance Grant which enables District Councillors to spend a sum of money on projects in their community will hopefully be extended to all District Councillors in the next financial year.

The Standards Committee are to consider another case against a fellow councillor at their next meeting.

Chief Superintendent Anne Wakefield attended a meeting of the Crime and Disorder Panel and advised them that the priorities of the Police are not necessarily the same as those of the general public which can cause problems with the perception that the Police do not take complaints seriously. It is hoped that the introduction of Police Community Support Officers next year will help this as they will be community based and have the power of arrest for a brief period. A trial is presently being conducted in Portsmouth.

Mr Harrison advised members that he had submitted written questions on the PCSO scheme to the portfolio holder and would pass the answers to members when they are received.

The Economy and Planning Review Panel has considered the Employment Development Plan Document which will be going out through Cabinet for future comment with various comments attached. The recommendation will be made to retain RAF Hythe for employment with maritime links and to alter the employment status of the garages/filling stations in the area.

The 8 main strategies of the New Forest District Traffic Management Strategy are agreed with although the decisions have not been based on this area. The needs of shoppers appear to be met by car parks but not those of business users. There has been a suggestion that charges be introduced for on street parking.

The New Forest Community Transport Review has looked at Care Groups and the Hythe and Dibden Voluntary Car Scheme is to receive a direct grant.

The Environmental Review Panel received a presentation on the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act. Officers will be empowered to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for littering etc.

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

232/06 **Reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies**

The County Council's Rail Officer advised the Waterside Joint Council Meeting that the Waterside Line had not been included in the current round of franchises.

It was asked whether NAPTC is value for money and suggested that the matter is included on a future agenda.

Dibden Allotments Charity is holding an Open Day on 4 October 2006 at 12.30 pm. They are looking for a new project for the future and would welcome applications.

Mr Guy praised the wonderful facilities at the new Waterside School which he had recently visited.

233/06 **Questions to District and County Councillors and Representatives on Outside Bodies arising from their reports**

Mr Harrison was asked how the PCSO scheme would be deployed. Mr Harrison replied that this was included in the questions which he had sent to the portfolio holder.

Mr Podesta asked Mrs Smith whether fly posting is included in the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act. Mrs Smith replied that it is, with the exception of circuses.

A request was made that the District Council be asked to ensure that Planning Notices are not secured with masking tape as it damages street furniture.

Mrs McLean asked Mr Harrison whether Chief Superintendent Wakefield and Goff Beck, portfolio holder for the Crime and Disorder Panel, would be willing to attend a future meeting to discuss the PCSO Scheme. She was advised that they would.

234/06 **Questions under Standing Orders 25 and 26**

Mrs Robinson asked whether the Chairman was aware of a busker who performs in the centre of Hythe village. Complaints have been received from both shoppers and shopkeepers, although it transpired that others enjoy the music provided.

It was agreed to contact the District Council to clarify the rules on buskers before a decision on action could be taken.

Mrs Robinson asked the Chairman whether the Parish Council would be prepared to reconsider the way in which information is collected for monitoring. A recent survey in the Parish Picture did not explain why certain information is asked for or that it is voluntary.

The Deputy Clerk explained that this information had been accidentally omitted from the issue in question and agreed to apologise direct to the complainant and issue a further apology in the next edition of the Parish Picture.

Mr S Wade asked whether the Chairman was aware of the severity of the parking problems in the West Street/Jones Lane area for the duration of the Southampton Boat Show.

He was advised that the issue is a District Council matter which is due for review in the next financial year. Mr Dash said that he hoped a temporary solution would be in place before then.

* * * * *

At this point the Meeting adjourned to allow a Public Forum to be held.

Byelaws

Mr Uglow asked whether the new byelaw signs would include a list of offences.

The Deputy Clerk advised him that the signs would name the offences relevant to that area.

Football Pitch – Forest Front

Mr Uglow praised the new football pitch which had been provided for young people at Forest Front but asked that litter was collected after its use.

It was agreed to contact the group to arrange this.

RAF Hythe

Members were asked to clarify the up to date position on the sale of RAF Hythe.

Mrs Robinson advised the meeting that a Working Group had recently had a useful meeting followed by a visit of interested parties to the Base.

Several local businesses are interested in taking over the Base and continuing its use as employment for marine activity. Although there is a long way to go the Working Party is hopeful that the interest is sustainable and that a satisfactory conclusion can be reached.

The Air Cadets can be assured of the use of the site at the present time.

Traffic West Street

Mr Vickers asked whether there was any indication of when in the next financial year the review of traffic problems in West Street would be made.

He was advised that the Parish Council would stress the urgency of the matter but had no way of finding out when the review would be taking place.

It was suggested that the District Council be asked to lift the long stay charge on car parks in Hythe as this is what is causing the traffic management problem.

* * * * *

The Council Meeting then resumed.

235/06 Reports of Committees

(a) Planning Committee – 24 July 2006

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 24 July 2006.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 24 July 2006 be received and adopted.

(b) Planning Committee – 4 September 2006

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 4 September 2006.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 4 September 2006 be received and adopted.

(c) Amenities Committee – 4 September 2006

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 4 September 2006.

(i) Minute 186/06a

Following alternative suggestions, it was agreed to discuss the provision of CCTV further.

(ii) General

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 4 September 2006 be received and adopted.

(d) Planning Committee – 11 September 2006

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 11 September 2006.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 11 September 2006 be received and adopted.

(e) General Purposes and Finance Committee – 11 September 2006

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the General Purposes and Finance Committee held on 11 September 2006.

(i) Minute 211/06

It was agreed to replace the word "local" in the resolution with the words "District Council's".

(ii) Minute 208/06

It was agreed to conduct a survey of the residents of Butts Ash Avenue on whether they required updated street lighting before the area is put forward for consideration to avoid funds being wasted on an unwanted design.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the General Purposes and Finance Committee held on 11 September 2006 be received and adopted.

236/06 **Accounts for Payment**

The Clerk submitted a schedule of accounts for payment, together with a supplementary list.

Voucher 2624

The Deputy Clerk clarified that the subscriptions for Unison are deducted from employee's wages before being paid.

RESOLVED

That accounts as detailed in Vouchers 2584-2630 inclusive and Voucher 2537 totalling £30,168.99, be approved and paid.

237/06 **Modernising Maternity Services – Public Consultation Document 2006**

Consideration was given to the above consultation document.

RESOLVED

That Option 1 of maintaining the status quo is the first choice, but if that option is rejected, Option 4 of moving existing services to Hythe Hospital be pursued.

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

238/06 **Signing of documents**
Lease of Public Open Space – Land at Noads Way, Dibden Purlieu
Licence for NFDC to use part of The Grove as an information office

RESOLVED

That authorisation be given to sign documents as required.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

Chairman

Date

Mncou101