

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 18 June 2007 at 8 pm

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

oMr J Bennett	*Mr G Parkes
*Mr R Guy	*Mrs M Robinson
*Mr G Jones	*Mr M Short
*Mrs M McLean	*Mr D Smith
*Mr R Newell	*Mr B Uglow
	*Mr A Wade

* Indicates attendance
o Indicates apologies for absence

oMr B Dash – Hampshire County Councillor
oMr L Dunsdon - Hampshire County Councillor

In attendance: Mr D J Shimpe (Clerk to the Council)
Mrs C Patterson (Minute Clerk)
Mr C Harrison (New Forest District Councillor)
Mrs B Smith (New Forest District Councillor)
Mr S Wade (New Forest District Councillor)

Also present: 3 Members of the Public

90/07 **Declarations of Interest**

Mrs McLean declared an interest in Minute 100/07 as she is the Parish Council's representative on the Dibden Allotment Charity Trustee Board. Mrs Robinson advised members that, should there be a debate on Minute 65/07, she would declare an interest. Mr M Wade and Mr A Wade advised members that, should there be a debate on Minute 78/07, they would declare an interest.

91/07 **Minutes**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 14 May 2007.

It was agreed to amend the wording of Minute 8/07 from "Due to the recent change in administration" to "Due to the recent election".

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Council held on 14 May 2007 be signed by the
Chairman as correct.

92/07 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman advised members that the Waterside Arts Festival begins on 30 June 2007 and lasts for 2 weeks.

Members I need to speak to you all with particular focus on our new council members regarding an issue that took place at the last full Council meeting. A member went into another ward without invitation by or consultation with the ward's own parish councillors and conducted a survey on an item that was on the full Council Agenda.

A letter was given to the residents (I have a copy here) that contained inaccuracies, personal opinion and for want of a better phrase, spin and worst of all it contained a political, address to respond to under the banner of a parish council action.

This totally inappropriate activity could not only confuse the local residents as to who is their local councillor but also by the nature of the letter put Hythe and Dibden Parish Council into disrepute.

The Parish Council itself is not a political body, it is currently composed of Councillors, who are members of different political parties but it is not aligned to any political organisation nor should it be. It is there to represent and work for all the people of Hythe and Dibden.

It could be argued that this action was due to over enthusiasm and ignorance of the process of local government and as your chairman I am prepared to take this view in this instance. However if there is any further actions that affect the propriety of this Council, be under no illusion members I will work with the Clerk to take whatever action is required to protect the good name and reputation of the Council and whatever action be deemed appropriate to deal with the member of members concerned.

To the new members of the Council, our duty to the people of Hythe and Dibden is not to engage in personal political agendas but to work hard for them to help provide the best possible level of quality services in the most cost effective manner to help improve the quality of life in our community.

I hope we will all work together to keep Hythe and Dibden Parish the outstanding quality Council it is and not have to visit this type of issue again.

93/07 **Reports of the County Councillors on County Council matters concerning the Parish**

There were no County Councillors present.

94/07 **Reports of District Councillors on District Council matters concerning the Parish**

The Scrutiny Panel is still under formation and training.

The District Audit Letter was generally good. The provision of housing and number in temporary accommodation was not so good with the Performance Plan for last year underlining the problems in housing with numbers of families with children in hostels and bed and breakfast far more than ideal.

The Green Audit Board will study climate change and the affect it may have on the District.

Mr M Wade has been appointed to the New Forest District Council Environmental Protection Liaison Committee. As he is already a member representing this Council the Clerk has been asked to ensure a swift resolution.

Of the 20 members on the Planning Development Control Committee, 14 are new and require training.

It appears that some of the sand included in the gravel extraction sites in the Forest Lodge Farm area is green. The District Councillor for the area has called the matter in for debate.

95/07 **Reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies**

A meeting of the Hythe Ferry Users Group revealed that commuter ferry use is down slightly.

Problems can be encountered with the White Horse Ferries timetables if there are delays on Red Jet Services as they now share the same jetty and Red Jet has priority. It is unknown who will pay for the repairs to the old jetty at the present time.

Dibden Allotments Charity has a waiting list for gardening services despite the fact that 10 gardeners are now employed.

Dibden Allotments Charity receives approximately 19 applications a week. Grants have recently been made of £1000 to Waterside Arts Festival and £24,000 to Hythe Skate and Ride.

On the weekend of 26/27 May 2007 the Twinning Association welcomed 30 visitors from Mauves-sur-Loire. Despite the unseasonably cold weather the visit was very successful and enjoyed by all.

Mr M Wade attended the Annual General Meeting of the New Forest Association of Local Councils.

96/07 **Questions to District and County Councillors and Representatives on Outside Bodies arising from their reports**

Mr Vickers asked whether members were aware that the County Council was organising the consultation process regarding the potential sites for gravel extraction and the District Council would not have seen the comments made by the Parish Council.

Mr Parkes responded that he was aware of this but the matter has been called in due to the fact that the District Council had failed in its duty to consult with a ward member.

Mr Vickers asked Mrs Robinson whether she agreed that the District Council had suffered from problems with the release of land and government limitations etc concerning housing problems.

Mrs Robinson agreed that there are problems but the District Council has a duty to sort the way through them.

97/07 **Questions under Standing Orders 25 and 26**

Mrs Robinson asked whether the Chairman was aware that the appointment of a representative to the Citizen's Advice Bureau was not on the agenda as previously agreed.

This was acknowledged as an oversight and it was agreed to resolve the matter.

Mr Vickers asked whether the Chairman was aware of the parking problems on the Hollybank estate close to the maisonettes and flats and asked whether it would be possible to turn the verges which are already used for parking into proper parking spaces.

Members were advised that this issue is regularly raised with the County Council who do not take action citing traffic and cost issues. It was agreed to contact the County Council once more and include a suggestion that a replacement verge of concrete set in grass may be a solution.

Mr Jones asked the Chairman whether he was aware of any response from the County Council regarding the reason for replacement street lighting in Dukeswood Drive.

The Clerk advised members that his contact at the County Council had not yet received a response from the department raising the consultation.

* * * * *

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

ACSOs and PCSOs

Mr Davey asked whether there is any liaison between the ACSOs and PCSOs and who the public should contact as it can be confusing for them. He also congratulated the ACSOs for the response they have made to situations.

The Clerk advised the meeting that the ACSOs and PCSOs have a weekly meeting with the Police although the PCSOs are not yet fully staffed and are still establishing a relationship within the community.

Any contact regarding criminal damage to property or person should be made to the Police by calling 999. Less urgent calls are best made direct to the ACSOs who can respond quickly if they are on duty or when they are next on duty if a message is left. Other less urgent calls can also be made to the 101 number.

Committee memberships

Mr Wheeler asked why Mr Vickers is not on any committees when he obviously wishes to be active in the community.

Mr Vickers replied that although he does not sit on every committee he attends all meetings even if he is not able to vote.

Ewart Recreation Ground

Mr Podesta advised members that he had visited Ewart Recreation Ground on Friday evening and counted 57 young people on the cricket and football pitches. No-one was in the vicinity of the Play Area and he asked why money is being spent on security for the Play Area when it does not appear to have a problem.

Mrs McLean advised members that the Play Area Working Party had discussed this matter at their meeting earlier in the day and intended to recommend that all play areas are patrolled again.

Mr Vickers advised members that the Police had received three 999 calls in the past 6 days which had resulted in youths being apprehended regarding criminal damage on 2 occasions.

Mrs McLean advised members that construction of Hythe Skate and Ride Park would begin on Friday which should mean that it is available for use during the school holidays.

It was agreed that security of play areas should be reviewed.

* * * * *

The Council Meeting then resumed.

98/07 Reports of Committees**(a) Amenities Committee – 14 May 2007**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 14 May 2007.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 14 May 2007 be received and adopted.

(b) General Purposes and Finance Committee – 14 May 2007

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the General Purposes and Finance Committee held on 14 May 2007.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the General Purposes and Finance Committee held on 14 May 2007 be received and adopted.

(c) Planning Committee – 14 May 2007

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 14 May 2007.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 14 May 2007 be received and adopted.

(d) Planning Committee – 4 June 2007

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 4 June 2007.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 4 June 2007 be received and adopted.

(e) Amenities Committee – 4 June 2007

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 4 June 2007.

- (i) It was agreed to amend the minutes to show that Mr Uglow gave his apologies for absence for this meeting.

RESOLVED

That the recommendations of Minute 57/07 be accepted and the Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 4 June 2007 be received and adopted.

(f) Planning Committee – 11 June 2007

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 11 June 2007.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 11 June 2007 be received and adopted.

(g) General Purposes and Finance Committee – 11 June 2007

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the General Purposes and Finance Committee held on 11 June 2007.

- (i) It was agreed to amend the minutes to show that Mr G Jones was present at this meeting and Mr A Wade was also present.

RESOLVED

That the recommendations of Minute 78/07 and Minute 81/07 be accepted and the Minutes of the General Purposes and Finance Committee held on 11 June 2007 be received and adopted.

It was agreed that protocol should be put in place for the participation of councillors during committee meetings which they attend but on which they do not sit.

99/07 **Code of Conduct**

Consideration was given to the adoption of the Model Code of Conduct for Parish and Town Councils and whether to include paragraph 12 (2).

RESOLVED

That the Model Code of Conduct for Parish and Town Councils be adopted including paragraph 12 (2) effective immediately.

100/07 **Dibden Allotments Charity – representative on Charity Trust Board**

Consideration was given to the nomination of a representative on the Dibden Allotments Charity Trustee Board when the term of office of the current representative, Mrs McLean, expires on 4 July 2007.

RESOLVED

That Mrs McLean be asked to continue as the Parish Council's representative on the Dibden Allotments Charity Trustee Board.

(Mrs McLean declared an interest in this item and left the meeting during consideration thereof)

101/07 **Nomination of one Parish/Town Council Representative to serve on New Forest District Council's Standards Committee**

Consideration was given to the nomination of a representative to serve on New Forest District Council's Standards Committee.

RESOLVED

That Mr Short be nominated as a representative to serve on New Forest District Council's Standards Committee.

102/07 **Accounts for Payment**

The Clerk submitted a schedule of accounts for payment.

(i) Voucher 3088

A member queried whether a grant of £300 made to Victim Support would be used in this area.

The Clerk stated that a proviso would be made alongside the grant, that it is ring fenced.

(ii) General

RESOLVED

That accounts as detailed in Vouchers 3084-3265 inclusive, totalling £20,773.04, be approved and paid.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Chairman

Date

Mncou107