

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 24 September 2007 at 8 pm

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

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

* Indicates attendance
o Indicates apologies for absence

In attendance: Mr D J Shimpe (Clerk to the Council)
 Mr S Spencer (Maintenance and Facilities Officer)
 Mrs C Patterson (Minute Clerk)

Also present: Mr B Dash – Hampshire County Councillor
 Mr L Dunsdon - Hampshire County Councillor
 Mr C Harrison – New Forest District Councillor
 Mrs B Smith – New Forest District Councillor
 1 Member of the Public
 1 Member of the Press

Apologies for absence: Mr S Wade – New Forest District Councillor

218/07 **Declarations of Interest**

Mr Bennett declared an interest in Minute 209/07 as he requires access to the consulate at the rear of The Grove.

219/07 **Minutes**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 23 July 2007.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Council held on 23 July 2007 be signed by the
Chairman as correct.

220/07 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman was sad to inform members of the death of Professor Michel Reze. A former Chairman of the French twinning association, he will be much missed. He advised members that a letter of condolence had been sent.

Pam Ledingham from Hythe was awarded the MBE for services to the Women's Royal Voluntary Service in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

The chairman was pleased to announce that Sean Spencer has been appointed Deputy Clerk to the Council.

The Chairman advised members that he intends to write to the Chief Constable expressing concern at the temporary closure of the front office at Hythe Police Station.

221/07 Reports of the County Councillors on County Council matters concerning the Parish

Forest Lodge Farm is still included in the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan as a preferred option but there will be an opportunity for members of the public to be consulted for 6 weeks starting in October 2007. Although an assurance was received that an individual member would be able to argue the case in front of the panel this did not happen, however, the letter will remain on record.

The Early Years Centre will be at the Waterside School.

It has been agreed to amalgamate the Connexions and Youth Services, based on government advice, to provide an all in one service for young people by April 2008.

A review of car parking in the area, including Jones Lane and West Street, will be carried out with the Parish Council and locals being among those consulted.

Signs have been provided for the Cycle Route in Hythe and designs are underway. The District Council has provided £5000 but another £20000 is needed.

222/07 Reports of District Councillors on District Council matters concerning the Parish

The St John's Street Car Park scheme cost an additional £86,000 as there were problems with the make up of the land which have now been resolved.

The roof of Applemore Health and Leisure Centre needed urgent repairs so money which had been programmed for repairs at New Milton Health and Leisure Centre was switched to cover this.

There are less than 10 rough sleepers in the New Forest every night, a figure which does not include those sleeping in cars and tents, but local councillors are expected to provide information on them rather than officers being sent to investigate.

2 million new homes will be needed by 2016 with two "eco towns" being needed in Hampshire. More energy efficient homes are a priority along with housing for the elderly and affordable housing.

The government is to put investment into rural housing and needs to supply family housing and social housing. It is believed that 40-50% of new housing developments should be social housing.

There are 4400 families on the waiting list for housing of which 2% are high priority.

The keys to Charlie Adams Court will be handed to the first tenants next week with the official opening being on 30 October 2007.

More stringent criteria are to be drawn up to match those of surrounding districts for the standards which taxi drivers should meet.

The Corporate Overview Panel has been asked to investigate ways of solving the problem of second homes in the area which are depriving local people of homes to buy and pushing up the market. 42% of houses in Burley are second homes.

The Standards Committee are presently investigating a case involving a Town Councillor.

The Crime and Disorder Review Panel will decide in March whether to continue with the County Council as their service provider for emergency planning or whether to look for an alternative provider. The Service Level Agreement has not been followed so far but time is being given for improvement.

Mr M Wade recently toured the CCTV control room. It is possible that the District Council may provide cameras in another town and it is hoped that this Council will work with the District Council to ensure it is Hythe.

223/07 Reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies

The Dibden Allotments Charity is to hold an open lunch at St Andrew's Church on 11 October 2007.

In the last 2 months the Dibden Allotments Charity received 83 applications for funds of which 81 were met to a total of £24,932. Recent grants include £27,500 for the Hythe Skate Park, £170 for the barbeque at the Forest Front Skate competition, £800 for Waterside Girl Guiding and £21,000 for the Handy Trust.

Peter Parrott has been appointed a trustee of Dibden Allotments Charity in place of Robin Watt.

No traders attended the last meeting of the Hythe Centre Advisory Group so ways of incorporating meetings with the monthly ones held by the traders are being investigated.

Mrs Smith reiterated the Chairman's comments on the sad loss of Professor Reze and added that the condolences sent had been greatly appreciated by the residents of Mauves sur Loire.

224/07 **Questions to District and County Councillors and Representatives on Outside Bodies arising from their reports**

Mr Uglow asked whether an offer to contribute to the cost of CCTV would enhance the chances of it being installed in Hythe.

Mr M Wade replied that it was understood that a contribution would need to be made once the District Council has made a decision.

Concern was expressed to the County Councillors that an opportunity had been missed to comment on the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan in the early stages and they were asked when would be the best time to comment on the latest plan.

The County Councillors informed members that consultation on the latest stage would carry on until June 2008 and the problem occurred originally because of the cautious support offered by the District Council. It was suggested, however, that searching for and suggesting alternative sites may be beneficial and it was agreed to place the matter on a future planning committee agenda.

225/07 **Questions under Standing Orders 25 and 26**

Mr Smith asked whether the Chairman was aware of people living in vehicles at the corner of Shore Road and Frost Lane and whether any response had been received to a letter sent by a resident and forwarded to the District Council.

Mrs McLean advised members that she had recently spoken to the District Council on the matter and been advised that despite a second court case last week the family had claimed that insufficient information had been given on potential accommodation and a further court case will be heard on 29 October 2007.

The Chairman agreed with the suggestion to include an article on gravel extraction in the Parish Picture.

Mr Vickers asked the Chairman what response he would be making to a letter sent to him concerning a decision made by the General Purposes and Finance Committee regarding the attendance of non members at committee meetings.

The Chairman outlined the response he has made and advised Mr Vickers that he will receive it in writing in due course.

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

Councillors on committees

Mrs Fowler expressed concern that elected councillors are being excluded from serving on business committees.

The Chairman advised Mrs Fowler that all councillors were given the option to serve on a business committee but not all took this up. If members wished to change the membership of some committees this could be considered by the Council.

Allotments

Mrs Smith asked that consideration be given to meeting the demand for allotments, possibly by providing more.

It was agreed to include the matter on a future agenda.

Subsidised garden waste sacks

Mr Dash stated that, whilst he was aware of the efforts made by the Parish Council to provide a scheme to allow subsidy of the garden waste sacks for those in receipt of a pension, he felt that there must be a way to tie in the accounts of the Parish and District Councils to make this possible.

The Clerk advised members that he felt he had done all he could on behalf of the Parish Council so it was suggested that the District Councillors investigate the matter.

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The Council Meeting then resumed.

226/07 Reports of Committees**(a) Planning Committee – 23 July 2007**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 23 July 2007.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 23 July 2007 be received and adopted.

(b) Planning Committee – 3 September 2007

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 3 September 2007.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 3 September 2007 be received and adopted.

(c) Amenities Committee – 3 September 2007

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 3 September 2007.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 3 September 2007 be received and adopted.

(d) Planning Committee -10 September 2007

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 10 September 2007.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 10 September 2007 be received and adopted.

(e) General Purposes and Finance Committee – 10 September 2007

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the General Purposes and Finance Committee held on 10 September 2007.

RESOLVED

That the recommendation of Minute 209/07 (b) be accepted and the Minutes of the General Purposes and Finance Committee held on 10 September 2007 be received and adopted.

227/07 **Proposed Revision to Standing Orders**

Consideration was given to a letter from HAPTC/NALC concerning public participation and the Code of Conduct paragraph 12(2).

It was agreed that including public participation earlier on the agenda was a good idea but not restricting it solely to business on the agenda, the option for a member of the public to submit a written question should remain as previous.

RESOLVED

That the proposed revisions to standing orders be made as follows:

Standing Order 17.1

A maximum of 15 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to address the meeting. The Public Forum will be subject to the following conditions.

- a) These sessions form part of the Council meeting in law and shall be duly minuted.
- b) Speeches shall not last more than 3 minutes.
- c) No elector will be allowed to speak more than once.
- d) Members of the public will not be able to speak on any planning applications being considered at that Planning Committee meeting.
- e) Any member of the public attending the Public Forum may submit a written question if they wish
- f) The Code of Conduct which was adopted by the Council on 18 June 2007 shall apply to members of the Council in respect of the entire meeting.
- g) Where members of the Council exercise their right pursuant to Standing Order 17.2 members of the public shall be allowed to attend the meeting to
 - (i) make representations
 - (ii) answer questions.

Standing Order 17.2

At all meetings of the Council the Chairman may permit during the public session members of the Council (including co-opted members as defined by S49 (7) Local Government Act 2000) who have a prejudicial interest in any item of business to be transacted at that meeting to

- (a) make representations
- (b) answer questions
- (c) Speeches shall not last more than 3 minutes.

Standing Order 15

Standing Order 15.10 be moved to Standing Order 15.4 and Standing Orders 15.5 to 15.10 be renumbered accordingly.

228/07 **Survey on Hackney Carriage Stands (Taxi Ranks)**

Consideration was given to the completion of a survey from New Forest District Council concerning Hackney Carriage Stands.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk should complete the survey as outlined.

229/07 **Accounts for Payment**

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

RESOLVED

That accounts as detailed in Vouchers 3448 - 3493 inclusive, totalling £40,262.56, be approved and paid.

The meeting closed at 9.08 pm.

Chairman

Date

Mncou109