

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 22 October 2007 at 8 pm

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

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

* Indicates attendance
o Indicates apologies for absence

In attendance: Mr D J Shimpe (Clerk to the Council)
Mrs S A Krynicki (Deputy Clerk to the Council)
Mr S Spencer (Deputy Clerk to the Council)
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
*Mr S S Wade – New Forest District Councillor

377/07 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

378/07 **Minutes**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 24 September 2007.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Council held on 24 September 2007 be signed
by the Chairman as correct.

379/07 **Public Forum**

Garden Waste Sacks

Mr Dash asked whether any progress had been made in formulating a way of allowing discount on District Council Garden Waste Sacks for those in receipt of a pension in this Parish.

The Chairman advised the meeting that no further progress had been made with the District Council on the matter.

380/07 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman advised the meeting that he had received a letter from the Chief Constable of Hampshire regarding the temporary closure of Hythe Police Station to the public which was due to sickness and advised that it will reopen to the public when there are sufficient staff to man it.

The Chairman advised the meeting that he had attended the unveiling of a blue plaque on a house previously lived in by T E Lawrence.

The Chairman presented Mrs Krynicki with a bouquet of flowers to mark the occasion of her last meeting as Deputy Clerk. She was wished the best of success and told that she will be sadly missed after being Deputy Clerk since 31 March 2003, in her second stint with the council.

Mrs Krynicki thanked members for their good wishes and advised them she would not be leaving other than for the new opportunity which she has been offered to spend some time abroad. Mrs Krynicki stated that she was proud to have been part of such a progressive council and trusted that it would continue to improve.

381/07 Reports of the County Councillors on County Council matters concerning the Parish

Work is due to start on the cycle route which will go from Pylewell Road, through the Hollybank estate, to Dibden Purlieu.

The proposed closure of Connexions offices is no longer taking place. A county wide review of council buildings and the possible reallocation of accommodation means that it would not be realistic to close all Connexions offices and still provide a complete youth service for all youngsters from the age of fourteen.

The results of the South East Plan consultation are being put forward to Cabinet. Key issues affecting this area are the need to safeguard marine sites for key employment and the fact that housing issues are not too severe for the New Forest – most of the pressure in that respect will be taken by Basingstoke, East Hampshire, Winchester and the Test Valley.

382/07 Reports of District Councillors on District Council matters concerning the Parish

A restructuring of senior officers at the District Council is in progress. There will now be a Chief Executive and 2 Executive Directors with the Directors overseeing corporate themes.

A proposed restructuring at Heads of Services level is due to be completed by 1 April 2008.

The scheme which allows users of Hythe Ferry to purchase discounted clocks for use in council owned car parks in Hythe is due to be revamped. A short stay clock will now have to be purchased and displayed alongside a validated ferry ticket purchase card.

A thorough review of the District Council's health and leisure centres has resulted in the decision to keep their management "in house".

There will be a consultation on community strategy from November onwards.

Core strategy for the local development framework will go out for consultation on 26 October 2007.

There is concern that local elected members whose ward includes part of the New Forest National Park will not be able to represent the public directly as the National Park Authority has withdrawn from corporate planning arrangements.

The learning stage for the New Forest National Park Planning Authority is improving as they are hitting 75% of targets with 300 planning applications per month. 88% of those are being dealt with within 8 weeks.

Mr Parkes advised members that he was in possession of a consultation document on planning strategy for the New Forest which he would make available for anyone who wished to see it.

Hopes are high that new initiatives will result from meetings of the Green Audit Board.

Members of the Environmental Protection Liaison Committee are trying to think of ways to make their business of more interest and relevance to the public. It has been a useful link between local government and industrial neighbours in the past and needs to continue to do so.

The Standards Committee called upon a barrister for advice in the case of a complaint about a town councillor who had not declared an interest in a planning item. The barrister made a recommendation that it could not be seen as a prejudicial or personal interest but suggested that it would have been advisable to declare an interest anyway. There is another complaint about a local councillor outstanding.

Despite a budget of £6000 less than one third of councillors have attended code of conduct training. Not one member has attended any training session from 14 parish and town councils.

A DVD concerning the code of conduct and training will be sent to all Clerks who will be asked to show it to members.

383/07 **Reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies**

A report from the Standards Commission shows that last year only 3 members made any changes to the register of financial and other interests. A letter will be sent to Clerks asking them to remind members annually that any changes in circumstances should be made on this register.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman attended the AGM of Hampshire Association of Parish and Town Councils. A motion to debate the withdrawal from the National Association of Local Councils due to its poor performance was narrowly defeated. A motion to change the name of HAPTC to the Hampshire Association of Local Councils was carried.

384/07 **Questions to District and County Councillors and Representatives on Outside Bodies arising from their reports**

Mr Dash expressed concern that a barrister was being employed to advise the District Council and asked whether it would be more economic for the District Council's own solicitor to carry out the task.

Mr Harrison responded that it was thought more appropriate for an outside agency to investigate the matter.

Mr Bennett asked whether it would be possible for toilets to be provided on market day.

The Chairman suggested that the matter be investigated with the District Council.

385/07 **Questions under Standing Orders 25 and 26**

Mr Uglow asked whether the Chairman was aware of a major assault on a young man who remonstrated with motor cyclists on the Forest Front track recently.

The Chairman stated that he was not aware of the assault but would try to find out more details. It was suggested that Victim Support be contacted to see whether they had been notified. It was further suggested that the matter be raised with the Police as they are due to attend a general purposes and finance committee meeting in the near future.

386/07 **Reports of Committees**

(a) Planning Committee – 24 September 2007

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 24 September 2007.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 24 September 2007 be received and adopted.

(b) Planning Committee – 8 October 2007.

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 8 October 2007.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 8 October 2007 be received and adopted.

(c) Amenities Committee – 8 October 2007

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 8 October 2007.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 8 October 2007 be received and adopted.

(d) Planning Committee – 15 October 2007

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 15 October 2007.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 15 October 2007 be received and adopted.

(e) General Purposes and Finance Committee – 15 October 2007

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the General Purposes and Finance Committee held on 15 October 2007.

RESOLVED

That the recommendation of Minute 365/07 be accepted and the Minutes of the General Purposes and Finance Committee held on 15 October 2007 be received and adopted.

387/07 Signing of Documents – Annual Leases for use of office accommodation – Rooms 101 and 102 at The Grove

RESOLVED

That authority be given to sign the documents as required by the Clerk to the Council.

388/07 Representatives on Outside Bodies – Hythe and Dibden Woodland and Waterside Group

Consideration was given to the appointment of a representative to the Hythe and Dibden Woodland and Waterside Group.

RESOLVED

That Mr Smith is the Parish Council representative on the Hythe and Dibden Woodland and Waterside Group.

389/07 Proposed Amendment to District of New Forest (Off-Street Parking Places) Order – Hythe Ferry

Consideration was given to a request from the District Council for comments on the proposed changes to the conditions of the Hythe Ferry Parking Clock.

Although there are flaws in the current scheme members had concerns that changing it would cause many more problems for users and for traffic management in Hythe.

RESOLVED

1. That the County Council and District Council be advised that this Council does not feel that this is the most user friendly scheme and would like to investigate more appropriate methods of providing a Hythe Ferry Parking Clock.
2. That a Working Party comprising Mr Bennett, Mr A Wade, Mr Jones, Mrs Robinson, Mr Newell, Mr Parkes and Mr Short

investigate alternatives to the present Hythe Parking Clock Scheme.

390/07 **Proposed Closure of Post Office, Fairview Parade Branch**

Consideration was given to a letter being distributed at the Post Office, Fairview Parade concerning the proposed closure of that branch by the Post Office.

Members were concerned that no official consultation had been entered into by the Post Office and were anxious about the effect any closure would have on the local community.

RESOLVED

That the Post Office be advised that this council object to the lack of consultation process and viable alternatives. Increased car use will have a detrimental affect on the environment and those unable to use cars such as the elderly and infirm will be greatly disadvantaged.

391/07 **Accounts for Payment**

The Clerk submitted a schedule of accounts for payment.

RESOLVED

That accounts as detailed in Vouchers 3534-3565 inclusive, totalling £18,726.01, be approved and paid.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Chairman

Date

Mncou110