

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 28 January 2008 at 8.05 pm

Members: *Mr D Smith (Vice Chairman) – in the Chair

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

* Indicates attendance
o Indicates apologies for absence

In attendance: 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
oMr C Harrison – New Forest District Councillor
*Mrs B Smith – New Forest District Councillor
Councillor Goff Beck (Crime and Disorder Reduction Portfolio Holder)
Ms Stephanie Sutton (NFDC Community Safety Coordinator)
10 Members of the Public
1 Member of the Press

The Vice Chairman began the meeting by welcoming a group of fire fighters from Hythe Fire Station. During the last Council meeting he had paid a visit to the Fire Station to attend a presentation of certificates to Tony Young and Graham Malcolm for actions at an incident last April.

Unfortunately, Graham Malcolm was unable to attend the meeting due to illness, but the Chief Officer at Hythe, Phil Gittings, described the incident to those in attendance and congratulated Tony Young. The fire fighters involved felt that the incidents were dealt with by the whole team.

The Vice Chairman advised the fire fighters that the Council and members of the community appreciate all the work that they do.

505/07 **Declarations of Interest**

Mr Short declared an interest in Minute 512/07 as he is a member of New Forest District Council's Standards Panel.

506/07 **Community Safety – Councillor Goff Beck – Crime and Disorder Portfolio Holder New Forest District Council**

Councillor Goff Beck, the Crime and Disorder Reduction Portfolio Holder for NFDC, and Stephanie Sutton, the Community Safety Coordinator, gave a short presentation on the annual strategic assessment which has identified the priorities which need to be addressed over the next 3 years to ensure that residents feel safe in their community.

It was emphasised that the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership is best led by the people closest to the community, such as the Parish Council, as once problems have been identified they also need to be assessed to ascertain why they are happening.

It was acknowledged that this Council has been particularly proactive in its actions to avoid problems with anti social behaviour in the community and disappointment was expressed that

funding for some of the schemes such as the summer play in the park scheme and substance misuse among young people is in danger of being cut when it has been proved to be effective.

507/07 **Minutes**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 10 December 2007.

Minute 449/07

It was emphasised that the Green Audit committee wished to investigate ways of reducing the carbon footprint of all aspects dealt with by the Council and not just the properties they own.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Council held on 10 December 2007 be signed by the Chairman as correct.

508/07 **Public Forum**

There were no questions from members of the public.

509/07 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman had no announcements to make.

510/07 **Reports of the County Councillors on County Council matters concerning the Parish**

Construction has begun on the cycle route from Hardley to Hythe.

A design is available for the cycle route through Pylewell Road/School Road/Hollybank estate and the District Council has agreed to contribute towards it but further funding is being sought.

The Bluestar 8 bus will cease at Totton. The H1 2 and 3 buses will continue to run, contrary to rumour, but the frequency may be reduced.

Although the government has withdrawn funding for the 101 number the Police have agreed to run it for a further 12 months if £300,000 can be contributed. This has been agreed in principle but exact details of funding contributions need to be agreed in the next 2 weeks.

The saving of £70,000 which meant that Ashurst was chosen as the site for the local maternity unit now looks to be approaching a deficit of around £1 million due to problems encountered. No plans have yet been made for the promised bus service. However, Hythe Hospital's Maternity Unit will remain staffed and open until the Ashurst Unit opens.

Discussions over the extraction of gravel from the site at Forest Lodge Farm are ongoing but it seems that Exxon's veto over the use of sites B and C could mean that it is no longer a viable option.

Councillor Dash expressed his disappointment that the Parish Council had objected to plans to build a Family Centre at the Waterside School but reluctantly accepted that the objection had been made on planning grounds and not to the concept of the much needed Family Centre.

511/07 **Reports of District Councillors on District Council matters concerning the Parish**

The District Council's target of restricting a council tax increase to less than 3% is proving difficult to adhere to particularly due to the loss of certain grants and the introduction of the national concessionary travel scheme and it is feared that some worthwhile schemes may have to be sacrificed.

Mrs McLean outlined the proposed increases in rents for housing and garages but stated that a saving of £87,000 will be made following the senior management restructure.

It has been difficult to know what level of funding will be needed for the national concessionary travel scheme but up to £300,000 has been budgeted.

The maximum level for taxi fares has been increased.

The Planning Delivery Grant which was previously tied to targets has been changed and a Housing Grant added. The decision by the District Council to keep their target to around 200 new houses annually means that there will be a net loss in their funding from central government.

The District Council is changing the way in which it provides statutory consultees with the plans for planning applications. Paper plans will still be available to view at local information centres but the District Council is currently consulting Parish Councils on the best way to implement the changes.

Policy on the use of commercial zoning in town centres is changing due to the number of empty premises (the figure in Hythe is 8% currently empty) and it is thought that the wording of the strategy document may have to be altered to reflect this.

The sustainable construction development report indicates that an increase in sea level of up to half a metre can be expected in 40 years time. This would obviously affect Hythe.

512/07 **Reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies**

Mr Short outlined a case concerning a complaint against a councillor for which he had sat on the Standards Board and advised all members to ensure that they read their copy of the Code of Conduct which is contained in the Members Handbook. There is a DVD available in the office for viewing and a training session at Jubilee Hall, Fawley on 20 February 2008.

Mr Short announced the proposed increases in member allowances and staff salaries.

513/07 **Questions to District and County Councillors and Representatives on Outside Bodies arising from their reports**

Mr A Wade asked Mr Dash how the figure of a one million pound deficit for the opening of the Ashurst Maternity Unit had been arrived at but Mr Dash pointed out that it was his personal estimate rather than an official report.

Mr Jones asked Mr Dash whether there is any likelihood that the land involved in the gravel extraction consultation at Forest Lodge Farm could be the subject of a compulsory purchase order. Mr Dash thought this extremely unlikely.

514/07 **Questions under Standing Orders 25 and 26**

There were no questions asked.

515/07 **Reports of Committees**

(a) Planning Committee – 10 December 2007

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

RESOLVED

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

(b) Planning Committee – 7 January 2008

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 7 January 2008.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 7 January 2008 be received and adopted.

(c) Amenities Committee – 7 January 2008

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 7 January 2008.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 7 January 2008 be received and adopted.

(d) Planning Committee – 14 January 2008

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 14 January 2008.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 14 January 2008 be received and adopted.

(e) General Purposes and Finance Committee – 14 January 2008

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the General Purposes and Finance Committee held on 14 January 2008.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the General Purposes and Finance Committee held on 14 January 2008 be received and adopted.

516/07 New Forest Association of Local Councils – Executive Committee Membership

Consideration was given to whether members were happy for Cllr. Allen Glass to be put forward as the representative for Fawley and Hythe and Dibden Parish Councils for the above or whether they wished to nominate an alternative candidate.

RESOLVED

That Mr A Wade be nominated as the representative for Fawley and Hythe and Dibden Parish Councils on the Executive Committee of New Forest Association of Local Councils.

517/07 Code of Conduct**(a) Consultation on Orders and Regulations relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England**

Consideration was given to the Consultation Document from the Department for Communities and Local Government relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members.

It was agreed that no response is required at this time.

(b) New Forest District Council Ethical Governance Bulletin

Bulletin No. 2 was noted and it was agreed to use the Standards Board's DVD as a training item.

(Mr Short declared an interest in this item but remained in the meeting during consideration thereof)

518/07 Accounts for Payment

There were no accounts for payment.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Chairman

Date

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