

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 8 December 2008 at 8 pm

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

*Mr J Bennett	*Mrs M Robinson
*Mr W Binns	*Mr M Short
*Mr R Guy	*Mr D Smith
*Mr G Jones	*Mr B Uglow
*Mrs M McLean	*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)
Mr S Spencer (Deputy Clerk to the Council)
Mrs C Patterson (Minute Clerk)

Also present: Mr B Dash – 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

327/08 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

328/08 **Minutes**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 20 October 2008.

Further to Minute 264/08 members were advised that a meeting has been set up for early February 2009 between the Parish Council and SEEDA to discuss traffic issues relating to the Marina Park.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Council held on 20 October 2008 be signed by
the Chairman as correct.

329/08 **Public Forum**

Members were asked whether a response had been received to the Chairman's letter to Councillor Ken Thornber concerning the A326.

The Chairman advised the meeting that he had received a response which he would read in his announcements.

330/08 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman was pleased to read a letter from a local resident in which she expressed appreciation of the way in which the maintenance team and staff maintain the amenity areas and paths and keep the roundabouts and other planted areas looking attractive and fresh. The recent installation of further dog waste bins also seems to be helping to keep the parish more clean and tidy.

The Chairman advised the meeting that a raft entered by the HANDY Trust in the Great Waterside Raft Race had won the Top Fund Raiser Trophy.

It was agreed to send a letter of congratulation to the participants.

The Chairman read the letter of response from Councillor Ken Thornber to the meeting in which he explained the unusual circumstances which prompted a meeting to be held in Marchwood following the recent deaths of 3 people on the A 326.

331/08 **Reports of the County Councillors on County Council matters concerning the Parish**

Mr Dash advised the meeting that he had held a meeting with Councillors Ken Thornber, Mel Kendall and David Harrison concerning the fatal accidents on the A 326.

The review of councillors' allowances has been published and the matter dealt with by the County Council.

The study of water fluoridation has concluded that as it has been proven neither effective nor positively dangerous, fluoridation would not be of benefit in Hampshire and there are other ways to improve the health of disadvantaged children.

332/08 **Reports of District Councillors on District Council matters concerning the Parish**

It has been agreed to install CCTV in Hythe.

The Employment Health and Well Being Panel and then Cabinet concluded that fluoridation of water supplies should not be supported on ethical grounds or effectiveness. Although this will not affect the water supply in the parish many residents will be affected in their place of employment etc.

The District Council is suffering from a reduction in interest earnings and income from fees and charges. Fluctuating fuel and energy costs are also making it difficult to plan, however the impact of concessionary fares is not as great as feared with £110,000 remaining in the budget.

A budget gap of £327,000 currently exists, the equivalent of a 3% council tax increase. There is currently £2million in general fund reserves, some of which may be used to cover the deficit.

Among the proposed savings are a cut in the £48,000 the District Council currently contributes towards the funding of the dedicated ACSOs at Totton.

The Annual Report on Performance has just been published.

The Supported Housing Panel which improves allocation and processes information has dealt with 220 cases. Under the scheme for young people there are units for 3 people in Dibden and there is also 1 mental health unit in Hythe.

At a meeting of the Planning and Transportation Panel members were advised that the District Council had applied to lower the speed limit on the A 326 near Ringwood to 50 mph. It appears that there are twice as many accidents in one direction as the other. It is believed that an engineering solution would be more appropriate as a lower speed limit will not reduce accidents.

The Planning and Development Control Committee is experiencing revenue problems due to the current economic situation and a lack of major applications. A net loss of £300,000 means that the Planning Reception desk at Appletree Court will be closed and the main Reception desk used. The local land charges team will lose one member and a vacancy in building control will not be filled along with other savings.

The Green Audit Panel held a challenge event and members were heartened by the progress being made.

Further to the National Park Plan Consultation Draft the National Park Authority is now in the process of arranging a series of consultations.

The Standards Committee has dealt with 4 cases of complaints against parish councillors in the last 2 months.

A change in the charging structure at Dibden Golf Centre means that there will no longer be seasonal charging. This will result in an effective increase of 27% for seniors playing in the winter.

The HANDY Trust gave a presentation to the Crime and Disorder Panel which impressed members who wished that their parishes had a similar level of interaction with youth.

The Environmental Protection Liaison Committee met with the District Council and industrialists to talk about measures taken to improve carbon footprints. Some measures taken in offices and workshops would be worth investigating for this council.

333/08 **Reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies**

At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Transport Representatives the Managing Director of Go South West gave a presentation. A written report was submitted by the Rail Officer which stated that further studies have been commissioned into the Waterside branch line. However, this appears to be low priority.

The latest meeting of the Ferry Users Group heard that improvements have been made to Hotspur 4 and Great Expectations. Patronage of the Hythe Ferry has increased slightly. The last ferry on Friday and Saturday evenings is now 10.30 pm and on Monday and Thursday evenings it is at 9 pm.

The Butts Ash Community Association is trying to make its computer room viable again.

The Standards Committee is proposing to visit Town and Parish Council meetings over the next 3 months.

Age Concern has agreed to advertise services in the New Forest District Council Information booklet.

The Probation Service has asked if Age Concern will take recommended people on as volunteers. Age Concern has agreed to consider this when a manager has been appointed in the Totton shop.

As Age Concern has money deposited in the Anglo Irish Bank a letter has been written to clarify whether it is covered by government guarantees.

The Good Neighbour Service is operating well but it was pointed out that it is not just for the elderly.

Christmas lunches are being held at the Horrill Centre.

334/08 **Questions to District and County Councillors and Representatives on Outside Bodies arising from their reports**

Mr Vickers asked Mr Dash whether he had made any progress towards the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in Hythe.

Mr Dash replied that that he had asked the leader of Portsmouth City Council for his advice as they have already introduced a limit but he had not received much response from the County Council.

335/08 **Questions under Standing Orders 25 and 26**

Mrs Robinson asked the Chairman whether he would be replying to Councillor Thornber's letter concerning the A 326. Although it is obviously an emotive subject, it is still important to ensure that the correct procedures are followed and this parish wishes to ensure that it is an active participant in obtaining the best solution to the problem.

It was agreed to send a response.

336/08 **Reports of Committees**

(a) Planning Committee – 20 October 2008

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 20 October 2008.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 20 October 2008 be received and adopted.

(b) Planning Committee – 10 November 2008

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 10 November 2008.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 10 November 2008 be received and adopted.

(c) Amenities Committee – 10 November 2008

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 10 November 2008.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 10 November 2008 be received and adopted.

(d) Planning Committee – 24 November 2008

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 24 November 2008.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 24 November 2008 be received and adopted.

(e) General Purposes and Finance Committee – 24 November 2008

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the General Purposes and Finance Committee held on 24 November 2008.

RESOLVED

That the recommendations of Minute 313/08 and 311/08 be accepted and the Minutes of the General Purposes and Finance Committee held on 24 November 2008 be received and adopted.

337/08 Budget and Precept 2009/10

Consideration was given to the budget papers for 2009/10.

RESOLVED

1. That the budgets for the Amenities and General Purposes and Finance Committees be accepted.
2. That the Council Precept upon New Forest District Council for the twelve months commencing 1 April 2009 be the sum of £548,528.00.
3. That the fees for 2009/10 as set out be adopted.

338/08 Representatives on Outside Bodies – Handy Trust

Consideration was given to the Council's nominations on the HANDY Trust board of management following the end of the current term of office.

RESOLVED

That Mr M Wade and Mrs McLean be nominated for a further 3 year term on the HANDY Trust board of management.

339/08 **Communities in Control: Real people, real power: Codes of conduct for local authority members and employees – A consultation**

Consideration was given to a response to the above consultation document.

RESOLVED

That Mr Short and Mr Bennett respond to the above document.

340/08 **Signing of Documents**

999 year lease – land adjoining Cosworth Drive
Deed of Dedication between the Parish Council and the Big Lottery Fund

RESOLVED

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

341/08 **Hampshire Draft Children and Young People's Plan 2009-12**

Consideration was given to a response to the above consultation document.

RESOLVED

That Mr A Wade and Mrs McLean respond to the above document.

342/08 **Accounts for Payment**

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

RESOLVED

That accounts as detailed in Vouchers 4514 - 4564 inclusive, totalling £56,498.51, be approved and paid.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Chairman

Date

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