

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 26 January 2009 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	oMr 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
1 Member of the Public
1 Member of the Press

389/08 **Declarations of Interest**

Mr Jones declared an interest in Minute 400/08 as his son is a member of Hythe and Dibden Sports Club.

390/08 **Minutes**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 8 December 2008.

It was agreed that the road on which an application to lower the speed limit to 50 mph should read the A 35 and not the A 326.

RESOLVED

That, subject to the above, the Minutes of the Council held on 8 December 2008 be signed by the Chairman as correct.

391/08 **Public Forum**

A 326

Mr Harrison asked whether any response had been received following Councillor Thornber's letter concerning the A326.

The Clerk responded that no further response had been received.

Lorry Parks

Due to an increase in thefts from lorries and the potential closure of laybys along the A 326, Mr Harrison asked whether there are any plans to introduce lorry parks in the area.

The Clerk responded that the matter could be considered in due course.

392/08 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman advised the meeting that the Council had been recredited as a Quality Council for a further 4 years and congratulated members, officers and staff on this achievement.

Following the recent announcement by the Leader of the County Council that the County Council would be funding the Totton ACSO team after the District Council withdrew funding the Clerk has negotiated a £10,000 per annum reduction in the funding for the Hythe and Dibden ACSO team for the remaining 3 years of the contract.

It was agreed to correct the assumption given through a letter to the Lymington Times that the Hythe and Dibden ACSO team is paid for by the District Council.

Further to a letter the Chairman wrote to the Chief Constable expressing concern over the non filling of police vacancies the Chairman, Clerk, Chief Superintendent Rowlands and Inspector Leckey held a meeting. Chief Superintendent Rowlands gave an assurance that he does not intend to reduce the Safer Neighbourhood Teams to supplement the emergency teams as they are an integral part of policing. It is hoped that vacancies will start to be filled during the new financial year.

393/08 Reports of the County Councillors on County Council matters concerning the Parish

The County Councillor stated that the Hampshire Police statistics for January to November 2008 showed that according to complaints per 1000 head of population Hythe and Dibden and Netley View compare very favourably with New Milton, Ringwood and Totton. He attributed this to the fact that safety teams including the Police, Parish Council, PCSOs, ACSOs and HANDY Trust Youth workers work very closely together.

Due to problems arising from government grants there are serious budgetary problems within the police force which will probably result in difficulties in filling current vacancies.

The Early Years Centre on the Waterside Primary School site is operational. Investigations will be made into improving parking provision at the site with consideration for the safety of pedestrians.

It is hoped that the County Council will address the issue of damaged verges around the campuses of Noadswood and Orchard Schools.

A petition has been presented to the County Council by the motor cycle group concerning safety issues on the A 326. The Leader of the County Council has promised that action will be taken.

James Binns gave a presentation to Cabinet on the work of the Youth Parliament.

394/08 Reports of District Councillors on District Council matters concerning the Parish

Following a review of rough sleepers by the Housing Panel the District Council has decided to tackle the problem.

As the income from services provided such as planning, leisure and parking is still low measures will have to be taken to keep the council tax increase low. It is suggested that some funding may have to be taken from reserves and staffing levels reassessed.

Housing rents have not yet been decided although rates are usually based on the November inflation rate which corresponds to the recent highest point.

There are concerns that the drop in revenue in the Planning Department will result in the loss of staff. It is hoped that can be avoided.

Money is to be put aside to put stronger planning protection on areas which are valuable or distinctive in their appearance. A pilot scheme will start in New Milton and then roll out across the District. Evaluation of Hythe and Dibden will not take place until approximately 2011.

Mrs Smith praised the efforts of the District Council's Streetscene Manager who assisted on a problem for the Friends of Forest Front.

Councillor Stan Wade had given a grant of £250 to Age Concern. A further £250 has still to be allocated.

The Crime and Disorder Review Panel has received presentations on Operation Nemesis, a county wide strategy to address burglaries, and alcohol and assaults/disorderly behaviour.

The District Council has withdrawn funding for the dedicated ACSO team in Totton from April 2009 although the issue has never been debated or scrutinised in Council.

395/08 **Reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies**

At a recent meeting of New Forest Association of Local Councils Chief Superintendent Rowlands of Hampshire Police stated that there are 16 vacancies across Hampshire. It is hoped to start recruiting in 2009.

It was pointed out that photo card licences which were introduced in 1998 last for 10 years and some people may be unaware that they have expired. A fine of £1000 can be imposed if a licence is out of date.

At a meeting of Butts Ash Community Association it was reported that reserves are diminishing, mainly due to the rising costs of utilities. An Officer of the County Council also attended the meeting and the support given was invaluable.

Age Concern has successfully transferred most of its reserves from the Allied Irish Bank back into British investments.

It is hoped that the Good Neighbour Scheme will soon be able to assist with pension tax credit applications alongside the CAB.

Age Concern and Help the Aged are hoping to amalgamate and form Age UK. There will be a new board and workshops are being run for training members.

Save Solent Surgery has changed its name to Support Solent Surgery. Dr Knight has decided to leave but it is hoped that a new postholder will be appointed by March.

It was agreed to write to Support Solent Surgery to thank them for all the work done on behalf of the community.

The New Forest Consultative Panel is now working under the auspices of the National Park Authority. There are concerns over a disease in rhododendrons in Rhinefield spreading via the movements of dogs and walkers.

The Citizens Advice Bureau is to amalgamate into one large concern with individual offices which are limited companies. The target date for completion is 31 March 2010. An application for funding for increased opening hours for the Hythe branch has been submitted.

The CAB has noticed an increase in cases concerning employment and in work such as form filling as the DWP no longer offers much assistance.

The New Forest Transport Forum has held a briefing on the updates on various Transport Acts. Working Groups have been formed to look into ways of bringing the variety of ways of transport in the New Forest to public knowledge. An Action Plan will be formulated from their findings.

396/08 **Questions to District and County Councillors and Representatives on Outside Bodies arising from their reports**

Mrs Robinson asked Mr Dash whether he was aware of the rumours that the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire was to apply for regional status.

Mr Dash replied that he was aware of the rumours but had no knowledge of any proposal or vote.

Mr A Wade asked whether any of the rough sleepers identified from the recent review were from Hythe and Dibden.

Mrs McLean replied that this information is confidential.

397/08 **Questions under Standing Orders 25 and 26**

There were no questions under standing orders 25 and 26.

398/08 **Reports of Committees**

(a) Planning Committee – 8 December 2008

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 8 December 2008.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 8 December 2008 be received and adopted.

(b) Planning Committee – 5 January 2009

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 5 January 2009.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 5 January 2009 be received and adopted.

(c) Amenities Committee – 5 January 2009

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 5 January 2009.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 5 January 2009 be received and adopted.

(d) Planning Committee – 12 January 2009

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 12 January 2009.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 12 January 2009 be received and adopted.

(e) General Purposes and Finance Committee – 12 January 2009

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the General Purposes and Finance Committee held on 12 January 2009.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the General Purposes and Finance Committee held on 12 January 2009 be received and adopted.

399/08 **The New Forest Community Planning Guide: Information Sheet 1:4 Guidance for Parish/Town Councils on their role with Community Plan Steering Groups – Draft Document for Consultation**

Consideration was given to the above consultation document and the proposed amendments discussed by the Clerk to the Council and the Town Clerk from Ringwood with New Forest District Council Planning Department.

RESOLVED

That this Council supports the changes proposed by the Clerks of Hythe and Dibden and Ringwood.

400/08 **To sign the following documents –**

Annual Licence between the Parish Council and Trustees of Hythe and Dibden Sports Club for the use of Football Pitch at Ewart Recreation Ground.

999 year Lease relating to land at Fletcher Close/Ashburton Close, Challenger Way, Dibden.

Freehold transfer of Amenity Area, The Garth, Beaulieu Road, Dibden Purlieu

RESOLVED

That authority be given for the The Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Council to sign the documents.

(Mr Jones declared an interest in this item and remained in the meeting during consideration thereof)

401/08 **Accounts for Payment**

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

RESOLVED

That accounts as detailed in Vouchers 4625-4662 inclusive, totalling £23,949.09, be approved and paid.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Chairman

Date

Mncou120