

Minutes of the Meeting of Hythe and Dibden Parish Council

**Held at The Council Chamber, The Grove, 25 St. John's St, Hythe, SO45 6BZ
on Wednesday, 24th October, 2018 at 7.00 pm**

Mr E Davey (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors

Mr P Armstrong
Mr J Binns
Mr M Clark
Mrs J Fowler
Mr C Harrison

Councillors

Mr G Parkes
Mr D Poole
Mr M Short
Mr M Wade

Apologies: Councillors Mrs M McLean, Mr T Johnson and Mr A Wade
Cllr A McEvoy

Absent: Councillors
Cllr B Thorne

In Attendance

Cllr B Andrews, New Forest District Council
Cllr K Crisell, New Forest District Council

Officers in Attendance

Stephanie Bennett, Clerk to the Council
Sean Spencer, Deputy Clerk
Claire Donnelly, Minute Clerk

4 members of the public

In the absence of the Chairman the Vice Chairman Cllr Eric Davey took the Chair.

141/18 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

Cllr Armstrong, Cllr Binns and Cllr Poole declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in relation to agenda item 17 - CCTV.

RESOLVED that

The Clerk granted each a dispensation under section 33 of the 2011 Localism Act for the consideration of the agenda item

142/18 **MINUTES**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26th September 2018.

RESOLVED that

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26th September 2018 be agreed.

143/18

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Vice Chairman made the following announcements:

Charles McGill, better known as Chas McGill, has recently retired after 53 years' service as a firefighter. Chas began his career in 1966 and was instrumental in setting up Hardley Fire Station. He eventually became the Watch Manager at Hardley and is understood to be the Country's longest serving operational firefighter. He worked with officers from this Council as part of the Arson Forum work which sought to reduce fires in the New Forest. He also arranged for firefighters from Hardley to attend community events in this parish, often in their own time. Chas received his MBE two years ago after being nominated by the County's Chief Fire Officer for "bringing a high degree of commitment and professionalism." The Chairman will write a letter to Chas to thank him for his service to this community and to wish him a long and happy retirement.

On Sunday 11th November, the Parish Council will join the community to mark Battle's Over, the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. The timetable for this community is as follows: 6.15pm three torches will be lit at Jones Lane car park. One torch will be taken to All Saints' Church; one torch will be carried in a walking procession to the Marina Bandstand; and one torch will be carried in a walking procession to The Grove Garden. Then simultaneously at each venue the following will happen: 6.55pm a bugler will sound the Last Post; 7pm a beacon of light will be lit; and 7.05pm church bells will be rung. Members of the Council are then invited to St John's Church for refreshments.

There will be a drop in event on Monday 29th October, 4pm – 8pm, in the Council Chamber. The community is invited to view the investigations and work being undertaken in relation to an ongoing watercourse issue at Valleydene.

Councillors are invited to attend the Hythe Pier Heritage workshop in the Council Chamber on 1st November, 7.30pm – 9.45pm.

144/18

CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UPDATE

The following report from PC Adrian Woodhead was read out by the Vice Chairman:

Burglary – very low levels for both dwelling/non dwelling.

Criminal Damage – there is a trend without pattern of damage to windows and vehicles across the Fawley/Hythe parish area. This is currently being monitored but with no lines of enquiry due to the random nature of incidents.

Vehicle crime – constant low levels of this type of offence with theft from vehicles and damage being reported.

Anti-Social Behaviour - There are very low levels in our area with local youths having a very good presentation with no identified areas of nuisance and in the main impeccable behaviour. Nuisance seems to be around use of vehicles including parking which by definition is an adult orientated issue.

Business Crime is reported to the Resolution Centre for screening as to solvability. There is an increase in shoplifting with it likely that some crime is not reported. Where business packs are returned and offenders identified there are prosecutions. The shoplifting is likely to be for profit with items stolen being meats, cosmetics, alcohol which can easily be converted into cash on black-market.

Drugs - Sadly our area has not escaped the county lines drug networks. There is a significant number of heroin/crack cocaine users in the policing area, likely over 100 active users in our area, seeming to be in their late twenties to forties.

The priority of the policing team is currently focused on supporting vulnerable persons and victims of crime and looking to identify hidden risks and vulnerabilities.

Domestic Violence - All victims of above standard risk are re visited to offer support, advice and to see if further offences requiring investigation. Victims are provided with information, alarms, injunctions and action plans where appropriate.

The team use social media in form of Twitter @WatersideCops to put out regular signposting to other agencies, charities, local groups/schools and to give out local news stories. There are currently in excess of 1300 persons who follow this feed.

Child Sexual Exploitation is a growing identified concern across the country. The team monitor and engage with identified local youths of vulnerability who regularly go missing or who other agencies make us aware of attending safeguarding cases and working with partners where appropriate.

Drug Related Harm – as stated above heroin/crack cocaine are embedded in our community with the team actively looking to support users to seek intervention and deal with drug related nuisance by working with partner agencies such as housing.

Scams/fraud/cold calling - A lot of crime which affects vulnerable persons is now conducted by internet, cold calling by phone, email and social media. Where a person is identified as at risk PCSOs visit to give advice.

Modern Day Slavery - There are likely to be victims in our area due to the nature of this crime.

Road Policing – There are reports of parking nuisance around schools and congested residential areas. There is little that can be done to alleviate this other than to keep issuing educational requests to improve. Tickets are given if obstructions are found preventing access to pavements but as a lower priority this is infrequent.

The team met PCC Lane on Sunday who expressed his concerns that funding is not keeping pace with demand and has advised that the police need to be honest and not provide false positive messages to the community. However, he did assure that he is regularly challenging upwards to do the best in prevailing circumstances. The team and constabulary are doing their best in the current situation. This means resources are prioritised towards risk & vulnerability.

There is no specific area which has a significantly higher crime foot print compared to others, with the spread of incidents across Fawley, Hythe and Marchwood parishes being roughly comparable to populations.

The Clerk reported that she had received a brief update from Superintendent Anthony Rowlinson regarding Hampshire Constabulary's work to progress the proposed PCSO resource for Hythe and Dibden. There will be no decisions until after the PCC set their budget.

145/18

HYTHE PIER HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

Peter King from Hythe Pier Heritage Association gave a presentation to the council. He reported that it had been two years since he first came to the council to ask for support. Since then a group of willing people have formed a body with the idea to try to ensure the future of Hythe pier for the community.

They have had various fundraising campaigns such as 'Walk the Planks' and 'Rock the Pier'. So far £70,000 has been raised through donations and grants.

Last week the HPHA were invited to the ten year anniversary of Waitrose Community Matters scheme. He said it was a privilege for the group to be recognised alongside other good causes. They also attended the Cyclocruze presentation evening at the Lord Nelson.

As previously reported, the HPHA has become a Community Benefit Society. They are now hoping to achieve Charitable status.

On 1st November there will be a project review meeting where councillors, Blue Funnel and a funding advisor are invited to look at the group's next steps and help develop an action plan.

Peter King reiterated that the group was working on behalf of the community and could only progress with the community's consent and public support. There has been some misunderstandings and misconceptions about who owns the pier. It is now time to give clarity about HPHA's identity and relationship with Blue Funnel moving forward.

He reported that HPHA's identity is to 'Save Hythe Pier', which involves the preservation, protection and redevelopment of the pier and historic railway.

In recent weeks there has been some criticism and attempts to discredit the group and its activities. Mr King urged anyone with any questions about the HPHA to contact them. This can be done through their website, via email, phone or by post to their office at The Grove.

As long as the HPHA has the support of the council, local organisations and business and the community they will continue with their campaign and are determined to succeed.

146/18

REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT MEMBERS

Cllr Malcolm Wade reported that Hampshire County Council are planning to develop services through Local Partnership. They have set up a £500,000 Parish and Town Council Investment Fund. The arrangements include:

- Criteria allowing for revenue and capital investments usually up to maximum values of £30,000.
- A governance structure which will include a Programme Board and Local Service Development Team approach.
- Applications for investments greater than £5,000 to be considered at Decision Days for the Executive Member for Countryside and Rural Affairs, with delegated authority for decisions below £5000 to be given to the CCBS Assistant Director.
- The formal launch of the fund in November 2018 in conjunction with HALC and utilising their forthcoming AGM for that purpose.
- Associated collaboration and joint working with HALC, the outcomes of which will inform forthcoming negotiations over longer term County Council financial support for the organisation.
- Interim core support for HALC, from existing P&R funds, representing a stand still grant of £63,000 for the current year, in light of the delay to concluding negotiations associated with this work.

Cllr Malcolm Wade reported that Hampshire County Council is planning to withdraw the subsidy for the Hythe Ferry and that he will be writing to the Executive Member for Environment and Transport to express his

concerns. Cllr Malcolm Wade encouraged the Council to also write to Cllr Humby about the matter.

Cllr Malcolm Wade highlighted that there had been a sign on display outside the shops in Dibden Purlieu requesting a Christmas tree from NFDC. Cllr Binns reassured Cllr Wade that he had responded to this request.

Cllr Dan Poole reported that NFDC have granted four free parking days in the run up to Christmas. This will include Small Business Saturday. It was agreed that the Council would request that the other three dates for Hythe should include Saturday 1st December for the Mistletoe Fayre and every Saturday in December.

Cllr Kate Crissel gave an update on Forest Lodge Farm housing development. She reported that NFDC have asked a consultant to review the drainage proposals. Due to some delays the application will not be considered at the next NFDC Planning Committee meeting in November. The houses remain empty.

Cllr Bill Andrews informed the council that the interviews for NFDC's new Chief Planning Officer commence next week.

Cllr James Binns reported that he had responded to the request for a Christmas tree at Dibden Purlieu. Cllr Armstrong and himself will use their NFDC grant fund to provide a tree.

Cllr Binns stated that NFDC currently run the pre-school at Applemore Leisure Centre. He reported that in January 2019 they will be partnering with another organisation to run the pre-school. There are plans to expand the pre-school with further buildings. They also propose to offer longer hours than the current morning/early afternoon sessions, including a breakfast club.

Cllr Peter Armstrong attended an estate inspection on Netley View with two housing officers. He said it was good to compare a few years ago to the current situation. In 2015 the housing officer would have about five pages of notes of letters to write and people to contact, mainly about the state of front gardens and other issues. This time, after approximately an hour and a half, the list was only half a page. Cllr Armstrong reported that the back paths are now on twice a year maintenance. It is easy to tell which houses are the Council houses due to the new tiled roofs and other improvements. Cllr Armstrong invited councillors who have not been to Newly View in the last few years to come and have a look.

Cllr Armstrong attended a talk by the Coastal team about funding and the challenges with the coastline of the New Forest. He is also on two task and finish groups, both to do with grants.

Cllr Armstrong took the opportunity to mention litter and the latest research on where plastic is found - it is not only in birds and fish but

reports have come out that it is now in humans too. Cllr Armstrong said we have a plastic problem we have created and it is important we do what we can.

147/18 **REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr Harrison reported that the window and shutter repairs at the Dibden Allotment Fund offices have now been carried out at a cost of £26,000. This was covered by the insurance company. However, the insurance premiums have now gone up by £600 a year for each of the tenants of the building.

148/18 **PUBLIC FORUM**

Mr Twydell, resident of Valleydene, informed council that following the recent survey and pipe clearance work undertaken by Hampshire County Council the water was now running freely through the pipe. Mr Twydell asked the Council why it had not undertaken that work. The Clerk expressed that the Council was very grateful that the County had undertaken this work and advised Mr Twydell to attend the drop in event on the 29 October that would provide a lot of information to residents and riparian owners. The Clerk reminded Council and Mr Twydell that the responsibility for the watercourse rested with the riparian owners which included Mr Twydell. Mr Twydell stated that he was not a riparian owner.

149/18 **QUESTIONS**

Cllr Malcolm Wade referred to the Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour update from PC Woodhead and expressed his concerns about the levels of crime in the area. He asked that a letter be sent from the Chairman to the police to ask what investigation would be undertaken into a recent theft of tools from a van and the issue of drug. It was agreed to send a letter regarding vehicle crime.

Cllr Malcolm Wade asked for clarification on the issue of Valleydene; could one of the Council's contractors have cleared the pipe? The Clerk responded that if this Council had commissioned contractors to clear the blockage on private land yes the blockages could have been cleared by the Council's contractors.

Cllr Mark Clark asked Cllr Harrison if he was now a member of the Conservative Party. Cllr Harrison confirmed that he was.

150/18 **MINUTES OF MEETING WEDNESDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2018 OF PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 10th October 2018.

RESOLVED that

The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 10th October 2018 be agreed.

151/18 **COUNCIL CHAMBER WORKING GROUP**

Members received the notes of the Council Chamber Working Group meeting held on 5th October 2018.

152/18 **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, TOURISM AND EVENTS WORKING GROUP**

Members received the notes of the Christmas Lights, Tourism and Events Working Group meeting held on 17th October 2018. Councillors considered the recommendations of the Working Group.

RESOLVED that

- a) The Council agree to match fund £1000.00 which has been raised by Hythe Alive for Christmas lights and decorations which are to be located in Hythe Village Centre. Payment is subject to the Chairman of the Christmas Lights, Tourism and Events Working Party receiving details of the planned expenditure by Hythe Alive.
- b) A Tourism sub group is formed to undertake:
 - i. An audit of local current related tourism related activities;
 - ii. The identification of new tourism related activities that would assist in attracting visitors;
 - iii. The development and delivery of new tourism related services and activities.

153/18 **VALLEYDENE**

Councillors received the report of the Clerk.

154/18 **CCTV**

Consideration was given to the revised CCTV Service Level Agreement and the request from NFDC to fund £5,124 towards CCTV.

RESOLVED that

- a) Council invite NFDC to give a briefing to the Council regarding the revised CCTV SLA
- b) A decision on whether to sign the service level agreement is deferred until after the Council have had an opportunity to question the NFDC officers

155/18 **COUNCIL BRANDING AND LOGO**

Councillors considered the different ideas and approaches and gave guidance to the Clerk regarding refreshing/reviewing the council's logo and branding.

RESOLVED that

- a) The Council update it's logo to the design featuring the tree on Prospect Place subject to the following amendments: thickening the wavy lines and using a darker green.
- b) The Clerk sends the revised design to Councillors for their consideration via email.

156/18

COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT

Consideration was given to the report of the Clerk and the NALC template Code of Conduct. Councillors gave guidance to the Clerk regarding the section on granting dispensation.

RESOLVED that

The Clerk will seek clarification from NALC, prepare a revised draft Code of Conduct and bring it back to Council for their consideration.

157/18

FINANCE 2018-2019

Consideration was given to the bank reconciliation for September 2018, the Schedule of Payments for the period 1st September to 30th September 2018, the variance report and the financial strategy report.

RESOLVED that

- a) The bank reconciliation for September 2018 be noted.
- b) The accounts for payment as detailed totalling £79,820.74 (gross) be agreed and paid.
- c) The quarter 2 variance report be noted.
- d) The quarter 2 financial strategy report be noted.

The Meeting closed at 8.35 pm

Chairman