

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, 26th September, 2018 at 7.00 pm

Mrs M McLean (Chairman)

Councillors

Mr P Armstrong
Mr J Binns
Mrs J Fowler
Mr C Harrison
Mr T Johnson

Councillors

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

Apologies: Councillors Mr E Davey and Mr M Clark
Alexis McEvoy

Absent: K Crisell and Beverley Thorne

In Attendance

Mr B Andrews

Offices in Attendance

Stephanie Bennett, Clerk to the Council
Sean Spencer
Claire Donnelly, Administration Assistant

120/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations of interest made and no requests for dispensation received.

121/18 MINUTES

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22nd August 2018.

RESOLVED that

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22nd August 2018 be agreed.

122/18 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman thanked Forestside Construction Ltd for their hard work to complete the renewal of the suspended floor in the Council Chamber on time.

The Red Cross Equipment hire service at Hythe hospital is closing. The Chairman said this was such a shame as they provided such a valuable service to local residents.

The Clerk and the Chairman attended the Safer New Forest Strategy Group at NFDC. At this meeting the Chairman highlighted the need for more PCSOs and police. The Chairman is pleased that they attended the meeting as it shows we care and want to work in partnership with NFDC.

The Chairman has written to Chief Constable Pinkney regarding the police and PCSO staffing levels for the Waterside Neighbourhood Policing Team. She has received an acknowledgement and has been informed that the letter has been passed to Superintendent Rowlinson. The Chairman expects to receive an update from Superintendent Rowlinson regarding PCSOs in October and will report back to Council with the response.

123/18 CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UPDATE

There was no report from the policing team.

124/18 REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT MEMBERS**Reports From County Councillors**

Cllr Alexis McEvoy sent her apologies. She previously sent a report which was circulated to all members.

Cllr Malcolm Wade attended the Corporate Parenting Board where issues around the fostering of Children in Care were discussed. This included the recruitment and retention of Foster Carers and the complex issue of the child placement strategy. There are three levels of fostering and there are challenges within this as the numbers are growing as resources are reducing. Three areas were identified that could improve the current system: partnership working with other agencies; reduce contract placements where possible and reunification referrals, which require reunification carers. A top level solution is to try and reduce the numbers of children going into care without compromising safeguarding by trying new ways of working.

Cllr Malcolm Wade stated that he believes that there is a risk that the county may be required to close some recycling centres in the future.

Reports From District Councillors

Cllr James Binns gave an update about the Leisure Centres' performance and reported that they are £73,000 ahead of target this month. The Swim Academy numbers are very good with 4,720 young people taking part, which is up 200 on June/July.

Families enjoyed getting active for free across the Forest this summer thanks to NFDC's Pop up Activity Roadshow. More than 1,500 young people got involved. NFDC also worked in partnership with the Handy Trust by providing money for Sports in the Park.

Cllr Binns attended the Forest Lodge Farm Gravel Extraction Liaison Committee. He said it was a positive meeting and TJ Transport is looking at addressing local residents' complaints about the noise. They are also setting up a website called 'Hythe Quarry' to provide updates on what is happening.

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority and Isle of Wight Council are asking for the views of residents and stakeholders on the proposed creation of a new Combined Fire Authority for Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton. The consultation runs until 26th October 2018.

Cllr Binns reported that NFDC are ending their service level agreement with New Forest National Park Authority relating to planning services and are looking for new partners to help provide tree services, conservation, ecology, archaeology and ranger services.

Cllr Bill Andrews highlighted the Deforestation Proposals Consultation that closes on 30th September 2018.

Universal Credit is now live in Lymington and Ringwood and therefore rolled out throughout the District.

The funeral of Cllr Brian Lucas will be on Monday 1st October at 2.30pm at Test Valley Crematorium in Romsey.

Cllr Andrews congratulated the Council on implementing the ModernGov software – the first Parish Council in the UK to do so. Cllr Andrews reported that the district council find the ModernGov to be useful and generally easy to navigate and operate. It is a great step towards paperless working.

The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Panel is interested in broadband coverage and performance in the New Forest. They have asked Openreach, BDUK and HCC to their next meeting on 22nd November. If any members or parishioners have issues they would like to be raised at that meeting then please let Cllr Andrews know.

Cllr Peter Armstrong reported that the scaffolding has gone up on the few roofs which still need doing on Netley View. The painting on District properties which have rendering continues. Three residents are getting help with disability aids in their properties and the District has allocated money to help with this across the New Forest.

There has been an incident in Butts Ash where Imperial Homes developer arranged for a mature 110 year old Copper Beech tree, which was a feature of the landscape, to be felled. The tree didn't have a TPO on it. The developer withdrew their application as other trees on the site were given a TPO. Cllr Armstrong warned his fellow councillors that it could happen again in their ward and recommended that it is a good idea to get specimen trees protected.

Cllr Armstrong remarked that it was good to see the drainage works carried out in Butts Ash Lane.

Cllr Armstrong reported that he chaired the Planning Committee at NFDC and ended up with the casting vote on one item. He also said it was good to have the new Councillor from South Waterside to join the NFDC Planning Committee.

Cllr Armstrong has raised the issue of Hythe Parking with the Chairman and a senior officer at the Environment and Scrutiny Panel.

Cllr Alex Wade had nothing to report.

Cllr Dan Poole attended the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Panel. He reported that the warden rooms and kitchens that were not being used in Whitecroft and Lawrence House are now being utilised to provide extra beds going in to the winter months.

125/18

REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Chris Harrison attended the Hythe Hospital Stakeholder group and reported that there was no start dates for the hospital because a business case still needs to be submitted.

Cllr Harrison also attended the National Park South East Quadrant meeting for the first time (it usually clashes with the Parish Council's Full Council meeting) where he gave a presentation on Hythe and Dibden's Neighbourhood Plan.

126/18

PUBLIC FORUM

A local resident thanked Cllr Peter Armstrong for his help with arranging TPOs for the trees at Butts Ash.

127/18 **QUESTIONS**

Cllr Malcolm Wade stated that he had been contacted by the Red Cross for help with finding alternative accommodation to deliver their service and he asked the Chairman if the council could assist with finding another location. The Chairman asked that Cllr Wade passed her the details.

Cllr Trevor Johnson asked Cllr Malcolm Wade if he had any information about the usage of the Red Cross service. Cllr Malcolm Wade replied that the Red Cross service was very well used and the only reason it was closing was because they were going to be charged commercial rent rather than a peppercorn rent.

128/18 **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 12th September 2018.

RESOLVED that

The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 12th September 2018 be agreed.

129/18 **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, TOURISM AND EVENTS WORKING GROUP**

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

130/18 **EXTERNAL AUDIT**

Consideration was given to the External Audit report and certificate 2017/18 with section 1 and section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return Statement. It was noted that there were no recommendations or areas of concern. The Chairman congratulated the Clerk for the excellent result.

RESOLVED that

The External Audit report be noted.

131/18 **INTERIM INTERNAL AUDIT**

Consideration was given to the Internal Audit report. It was noted that the Clerk and support staff were commended for the exemplary management of the Council's administration and the effective control procedures in each relevant area. The Deputy Clerk and Maintenance Supervisor were

also commended for their work in respect of the implementation of a dynamic risk management system.

RESOLVED that

The Internal Audit report be noted.

132/18

VEHICLE TENDER

Councillors considered the Deputy Clerk's report.

RESOLVED that

- a) That the tender provided by YW&R Vauxhall Wellingborough, be accepted and that subject to satisfactory completion of b) the Parish Council purchase a Vauxhall Movano 2.3CDTi 130PS L2H1 RWD HD in Polar White for the sum of £14,768.33 (includes a part exchange value and excludes VAT).
- b) This purchase is subject to further investigation work being carried on the suitability of this model of vehicle.
- c) That the Parish Council use their Peugeot Boxer Tipper in part exchange as part of the tender process.
- d) If the Vauxhall Movano is not suitable for the Parish Council, then a new tender process be entered into.

133/18

VALLEYDENE

The Clerk presented the report to the Council.

RESOLVED that

- a) Council requests Hampshire County Council support with completing the Ordinary Watercourse Consent application.
- b) Council requests Hampshire County Council to cost up assistance to the Parish Council covering production of documents, assessment of the tenders, the drawing up of the contract and overseeing the shoring up works.

134/18

FINANCE 2018-2019

Consideration was given to bank reconciliations for August 2018 and the Schedule of Payments for the period 1st August to 31st August 2018.

RESOLVED that

- a) The bank reconciliation for August 2018 be received.
- b) The accounts for payment as detailed totalling £49,295.49 (gross) be received.

The Meeting closed at 7.52 pm

Chairman