

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 Wednesday 13 November 2013 at 8.00 pm

- Members: *Mrs B Smith (Chairman) – in the Chair
- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| oMr J Binns | *Mrs M Robinson |
| oMr B Dash | *Mr M Short |
| *Mr R Guy | *Mr D Smith |
| *Mr C Harrison | *Mr A Wade |
| *Mrs M McLean | *Mr M Wade |
| *Mr G Parkes | *Mr S Wade |
- In attendance: Mr D Shimpe (Clerk to the Council)
Mr S Spencer (Deputy Clerk to the Council)
Mr D Melsome (Assistant Clerk to the Council/Finance Officer)
Mrs B Edwards (Minute Clerk)
- Also present: PC Alison Cross (Hythe Police)
- oMr M Harris (New Forest District Councillor)
oMr P Fawkes (Hampshire County Councillor)
- 2 Members of the Public
- * Indicates attendance
o Indicates apologies for absence

165/13 Discussion with PC Alison Cross, Hythe Police

PCSO Dan Carlin was unable to attend the meeting. PC Alison Cross attended in his place.

The Chairman welcomed PC Cross to the meeting. PC Cross informed Members that she had taken on the beat approximately 3 weeks ago. Formerly, she was the anti-social behaviour officer for the New Forest. In this role she had extensive experience of partnership working and was keen to continue in this vein.

There had been two recent events within the Parish: Halloween on 31 October and activity around bonfire night on 5 November. The Police, together with Hampshire Fire and Rescue, local Accredited Community Safety Officers, NFDC Housing and other local organisations had worked in partnership during this time to promote staying safe. Overall, it had been very positive experience. Community events taking place within the Parish in the run up to Christmas will be managed in a similar way. PC Cross asked Members to make her aware of any forthcoming events.

There had been a couple of burglaries where crime prevention advice had been given and patrols were being undertaken within the 'hot spot' areas. A break-in at Boots in the High Street had resulted in 3 people being charged.

PC Cross had been made aware of several residential areas with anti-social behaviour issues, most being neighbour disputes.

The Chairman thanked PC Cross for attending the meeting

166/13 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

167/13 Minutes

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 9 October 2013. Councillor Robinson requested amendment of Minute 141/13. The enhancement of the

economy and local businesses is a key task of the leader of NFDC, not a key performance indicator.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 11 September 2013 be signed by the Chairman as correct, subject to the following clarification of Minute 141/13:

Maureen Robinson responded that a letter to the leader of NFDC would be acceptable since the enhancement of the economy and local businesses is one of his key tasks.

168/13 **Public Forum**

Mr Wheeler asked Members if they were aware of any plans to undertake resurfacing or repair work at the top end of Heatherstone Avenue, Watermans Lane and Crete Road.

Malcolm Wade responded that Hampshire County Council uses an ordered list in which resurfacing and repairs are undertaken. An inspection is first undertaken by a Highways Officer who decides on the type of repair or resurfacing required. Mr Wade stated he would make enquiries with regard to Mr Wheeler's query.

169/13 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman thanked Members who had attended Remembrance services within the Parish.

170/13 **Reports of the County Councillors on County Council matters concerning the Parish**

Malcolm Wade advised Members that he had asked the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment for his opinion on the Waterside Rail link. The response was that it would be looked at on the decision day of 5 November 2013; however, Mr Wade's opinion of the report would be welcome. Mr Wade informed Members that the report was short, top level and negative with no information or discussion points on the major benefits to the community. Additionally, Councillor Harrison attended the decision day meeting at which a three month extension on the decision was made.

Mr Wade had requested a meeting to take place with stake holders and officers to present positive reasons for the rail link to be actively retained in HCC strategy and working towards making it a reality. Mr Wade encouraged the Parish Council, together with a major stake holder to engage with the process to deliver a strong case for the rail link.

Mr Wade reported on footfall data at the Waterside Children's Centre; from 1/4/11 to 31/3/12 – 2480 attended, from 1/10/12 – 30/9/13 2301. The data for 1/4/12 – 1/10/13 was not provided. It would appear there has been a reduction in both the quantity and quality of services which is in line with the reduction in funding.

Mr Wade had attended a Highways and Transport workshop at which he ensured that the crossing at Langdown Lawn is on the list for HCC funded schemes for next year.

171/13 **Reports of District Councillors on District Council matters concerning the Parish**

Maureen Robinson reported on two Task and Finish Group meetings recently attended: Budgets for Portfolio Holders which is looking at the way in which the budget is constructed. Fact finding interviews with portfolio holders have been undertaken. The rent arrears within Housing have increased considerably.

Consultations have been held in relation to the number of Members on New Forest District Council. Consultations suggest that Members wish to preserve their positions.

Mrs Robison informed Members that her past mentor, Margaret Bannister, had sadly passed away.

Chris Harrison had attended a Planning Development Control Committee meeting. He advised Members that the application submitted by McCarthy & Stone for two extra balconies had been passed by the District because, although the balconies would overlook the rear garden of 44 School Road, the resident has trees in situ which provide screening.

Mr Harrison informed Members that he continues to contest the reduction in the tax base change which will result in £7,124 less for the Parish in the next financial year and substantially more thereafter.

Mr Harrison reported on the Task & Finish group for rough sleeping which is looking to adopt a similar scheme for adults as that run by Nightstop for 18 – 25 year olds whereby accommodation is provided by volunteers in the community. A bid for £20,000 funding to explore this idea was made to Southampton City Council, which oversees the 'no second night out' budget. The application was rejected on the grounds that it was for investigative purposes.

The bid has been reworded to be resubmitted as a trial scheme.

Maureen McLean attended a meeting of the General Purposes and Licencing Committee. She reported that the second phase of glass collection has commenced in the west of the Forest.

A food hygiene rating system is being introduced.

Mrs McLean has attended a number of alcohol Licence Application meetings.

Malcolm Wade attended the Housing Policy group on 23 October and viewed a number of short presentations on Strategic Housing, Homeless and Housing Advice, Homeseach and Allocations, and Housing Grants and Allocations.

Mr Wade informed Members of his concern of the absence of focus on the current situation with benefit changes and the impact on low income residents within the Parish.

172/13 Reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies

The Chairman reported that she and the Clerk and Deputy Clerk had attended a special meeting of the Association of Local Councils to hear New Forest District Council proposals for the Local Council Tax support grants payable to Parish and Town Councils for 2014/15. The Clerk reported that despite the Government stating that the level of grants included the District Councils Formula Grant would be the same as for 2013/14 the District Council had decided to reduce the overall grants to be paid to Parish and Town Council by £100,000. In addition the District Council was reviewing the Local Council Tax System which would have the effect of increasing the tax base.

If these two changes are formally agreed by the District Council the effect on Hythe and Dibden would be a reduction in grant of approximately £12,000 and an increase in the tax base of approximately 72. The District Council was also considering making similar reductions in the following two years.

173/13 Questions to District and County Councillors and Representatives on Outside Bodies arising from their reports

David Smith queried with Malcolm Wade whether an apology had been received from HCC Executive Officer in light of the negative report on the Waterside Rail link. Mr Wade responded that the report had been produced to create the required decision and no apology had been forthcoming. He also stated the previous Executive Officer, Cllr. Mel Kendall, had been very supportive.

David Shimpe, Clerk to the Council, advised Members that consultation papers had now been received with a closing date of 20 December 2013. The item will be on the December agenda.

Maureen Robinson asked Malcolm Wade if there was a possibility of getting Cllr. Kendall involved again. Mr Wade replied that he would make enquiries.

Chris Harrison asked the Clerk to the Council if all the major Parish and Town Councils were represented at the presentation of the tax base changes. Mr Shimpe replied that they were not.

Alex Wade asked Maureen Robinson whether a report had been produced to explain the disparity on allocation of funding. Mrs Robinson responded that a Budget Task and Finish Group had been established to explore what other savings can be made.

174/13 Questions under Standing Orders 25 and 26

David Smith informed Members of concerns raised by a resident who is registered blind, with regard to navigating the 'A' boards and other furniture within the High Street and Pylewell precincts. She had written to Mr Pickles and been informed that it was the responsibility of HCC Highways.

Mr Smith asked if the Council would write to the County Council asking them to investigate the problem.

Alex Wade queried whether there were any plans to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of World War 1. The Clerk to the Council advised that the Parish Council had offered to assist and facilitate any events taking place within the Parish.

175/13 Reports of Committees**Planning Committee – 9 October 2013**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 9 October 2013.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 9 October 2013 be received and adopted.

176/13 Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

Members had been issued with an email from New Forest District Council detailing the review of polling districts and polling places, together with a schedule of polling stations within the Parish denoting comments by the Returning Officer.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the Children's Centre in Hythe is explored as a possible alternative to Waterside Primary School
- (b) the feasibility of providing a marquee and portable trailer is also explored

177/13 Southampton Airport - Consultation on New Satellite Based Navigation Technology

Members had previously received a consultation document from Southampton Airport detailing proposals that will affect the way aircraft arrive at Southampton Airport from the South.

RESOLVED

that no comments are made at this point and lines of communication remain open

178/13 Our Place

Members had been made aware of a letter from the Department of Communities and Local Government inviting Parish and Town Councils to be part of the Government's Our Place! Programme.

RESOLVED that

- (a) a working party is established to examine the programme in more detail

179/13 Flooding and Provision of Sandbags

A copy of a letter from New Forest District Council relating to their provision of sandbags to residents had been circulated to Members. It was proposed that the Parish Council holds a stock of sandbags and a quantity of sand for distribution in times of flooding.

RESOLVED that

(a) a sum of £200 is made available on an annual basis for the purchase of materials

(b) the Parish Council's Flood Assistance Plan is amended

180/13 **Financial Monitoring – Period ending 30 September 2013**

A copy of the financial monitoring for the period ending 30 September 2013 had been circulated to Members. The contents were noted.

181/13 **Youth Ambassador's Update**

Alex Wade advised Members that he had attended the annual general meeting of Hythe Youth Club. Members of the Youth Club had attended a ceremony at Marwell Hotel where they had received an award for their volunteer training.

182/13 **Accounts for Payment**

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

RESOLVED

That accounts as detailed in the schedule totalling £63,184.39 be approved and paid.

The meeting closed at 9.31 p.m.

Chairman
Date
mncou173