

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 9 October 2013 at 8.00 pm

Members: *Mrs B Smith (Chairman) – in the Chair

*Mr J Binns	*Mrs M Robinson
*Mr B Dash	*Mr M Short
*Mr R Guy	*Mr D Smith
*Mr C Harrison	oMr 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)
Mrs B Edwards (Minute Clerk)

Also present: Simon Found (Hampshire County Council)
Katie Morgans (Hampshire County Council)
Nigel Best (Hampshire County Council)
oMr M Harris (New Forest District Councillor)
oMr P Fawkes (Hampshire County Councillor)
oPC Anthony, Hythe Police

4 Members of the Public

* Indicates attendance
o Indicates apologies for absence

131/13 **Discussion with PC Anthony, Hythe Police**

PC Anthony was unable to attend the meeting and had submitted his apologies.

132/13 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

133/13 **Hythe Interchange and Potential Crossing Langdown Lawn**

Katie Morgan, Hampshire County Council (Highways) gave a presentation on improvements to the Hythe Interchange, both visually and in terms of traffic movement, which will be achieved through re-surfacing, improvement of the footway and bus shelter and the possible re-location of the taxi rank. It was emphasised that the project is subject to agreement from General Estates. Hampshire County Council Highways is also working with local bus and taxi companies. Consultation and negotiations are on-going.

A sum of £120,000 has been earmarked for the project which must be used by March 2015.

Nigel Best, Hampshire County Council (Highways) presented Members with two options to enable pedestrians to have safer access across Langdown Lawn:

Option 1 – a speed table located on the roadway between the entrance and exit of the Tesco Express.

Option 2 – a pedestrian refuge located near the safety camera.

Members discussed the available options.

RESOLVED

That Option 2 – a pedestrian refuge located near the safety camera is the preferred choice.

134/13 Minutes

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 11 September 2013. Councillor Robinson requested clarification of Minute 114/13 regarding how many of the 792 residents mentioned in Councillor Wade's report were unable to pay their rent due to the Spare Room Subsidy.

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 114/13:

NFDC have 366 tenants affected by the Spare Room Subsidy. Of the 366, 194 are in arrears, 145 of these were in arrears prior to 1st April 2013 when the Spare Room Subsidy was introduced.

135/13 Public Forum

There were no matters raised.

136/13 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman informed Members that New Forest Nightstop had responded to the congratulatory letter sent by the Parish Council by sending a letter thanking the Parish Council for its continued support.

Fawley Parish Council had extended an invitation to the Chairman of the Council to attend the annual parish service at All Saints Church, Fawley on 23 October 2013 at 2 p.m. The Chairman commented that she is unable to attend and asked whether any other Councillor was able to go. No other Councillors are able to attend.

The Chairman reminded Members that Remembrance Day Services will take place within parish churches on Sunday 10th November. The Chairman will attend the Service at All Saints Church, Dibden at 11 o'clock. Details of other services will be advised. Members were invited to attend.

137/13 Reports of the County Councillors on County Council matters concerning the Parish

Philip Fawkes submitted an electronic report. He attended a full County Council meeting on 19th September 2013 when he voted against the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan containing the proposed mineral extraction at Forest Lodge Farm.

Malcolm Wade advised Members that he also attended the County Council meeting when the proposal to extract mineral at Forest Lodge Farm was passed, despite his best attempt and maiden speech about the reasons for not having it.

Mr Wade had attended meetings of the Children and Families Advisory Panel and the Children and Young People's Select Committee. The Children's Services budget total of £877 million, broken down into £715 million budget for schools and £162 million non-schools' budget, had a project underspend of £523 thousand. Within the non-schools' budget there was pressure on CLA, Family Support and Home to School Transport which would be offset by a forecast underspend in Services for Education Welfare, various Children and Families Services and Services for Young Children (Children's Centres). This conflicts with the reduction in services within Children's Centres due to a lack of funds. The topic of the effectiveness of the contracted out Children's Service will be on the agenda for scrutiny.

138/13 Reports of District Councillors on District Council matters concerning the Parish

Chris Harrison had attended a Planning Development Control Committee meeting. He advised Members that the application by Tesco for a Timpson pod at their Dibden branch had been passed. Although this contradicted NFDC's Core Strategy 20 to protect the viability of local businesses, it was not a rule of planning and therefore could not be used.

The Audit Committee reviewing the amount of council tax paid through the council tax reduction scheme had decided to increase the amount of council tax paid by residents in receipt of Council Tax Benefit from 8.5% to 10%.

The NFDC cabinet are recommending to Council that the discretionary grants be reduced by 25% next year, with further cuts in the following years.

Maureen McLean attended a meeting of the General Purposes and Licencing Committee. She informed Members that, under the Scrap Metal Act 2013, with effect from 1 October 2013 any person wishing to deal in or collect scrap metal for financial gain required a licence to operate. The cost of an application and licence to deal is £127 and £93 to collect.

Mrs McLean has been assigned to a Task and Finish Group for Public Conveniences. It is planned for a new public convenience to be built in Hythe. She is also on a Task and Finish Group for the siting of Polling Stations for which a working party has been established.

The review of polling stations within the parish will be a Parish Council agenda item in November 2013.

Malcolm Wade reported from the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel. Dibden Golf Centre continues to perform well under the new management agreement.

NFDC Officers had advised on the performance of Health and Leisure Centres, with some performing better than others. The recovery of costs rates are: 2011/12 – 76%, 2012/13 – 78%, 2013/14 – 79%. Mr Wade reported that there are no plans in place for attracting hard to reach and socially disadvantaged residents.

Maureen Robinson reported that she has been appointed to two Task and Finish Groups: Budgets for Portfolio Holders and the number of Members on New Forest District Council. Consultations will be held in due course.

139/13 Reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies

David Smith reported that at the Annual General Meeting of Hythe and Dibden Woodland and Waterside Group all officers had been re-elected. He advised Members that the team from the Group undertake woodland management work on a monthly basis and suggested that a letter of thanks be sent.

140/13 Questions to District and County Councillors and Representatives on Outside Bodies arising from their reports

Stan Wade asked Malcolm Wade what had happened to the ring-fenced revenue raised from the selling of local authority properties. Mr M Wade responded that although the Government will give extra revenue to Councils that build more houses, most of the revenue raised from the right to buy scheme goes back to the Government.

Brian Dash asked Malcolm Wade whether, with the unspent funds within Children's Services, a comparison report would be produced regarding the contact with young mothers before and after the contract was awarded to an outside supplier. Mr Dash also stated that there is no Receptionist at the Children's Centre at Langdown. Mr Wade responded that the matter would be looked into at the end of the year. He also advised that two events had now been set up for young mums.

141/13 Questions under Standing Orders 25 and 26

Brenda Smith asked whether, in her capacity of Chairman of the Parish Council and in light of the planning decision surrounding the Timpson pod at Tesco, Dibden, it would be reasonable to write to the leader of NFDC highlighting that the Corporate Plan, which aims to enhance the local economy and support local independent businesses, contradicts with NFDC's Planning Policy.

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 performance indicators. A copy of the letter should also be sent to Parish Council District Councillors.

Mike Short and Chris Harrison have both been approached by residents and asked the Chairman if she was aware of the problem of ingrained pigeon droppings on the seats sited

outside Waitrose, Hythe. The Clerk to the Council responded that the seats are regularly cleaned however; the problem may be resolved by placing netting around the Plane tree in which the pigeons congregate.

Graham Parkes informed Members that Waterside Heritage is holding an open day on 12 October 2013 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Malcolm Wade advised of an Environmental Protection meeting at Marchwood Village Hall on 10 October 2013.

142/13 **Reports of Committees**

Planning Committee – 11 September 2013

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 11 September 2013.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 11 September 2013 be received and adopted.

143/13 **Land Swap – Cussens Site – Fairview Drive - Hythe**

At its meeting on 14 August 2013, the Council agreed to the above land swap. New Forest District Council asked the Parish Council if it would consider taking the access road within the Lease for Langdown Lawn. NFDC also asked whether an area of hard standing be left as hard standing or returned to grass.

RESOLVED that

(a) the access road within the lease for Langdown Lawn be included in the lease subject to satisfactory negotiations in relation to future financial implications

(b) the area of hard standing be left as hard standing

144/13 **Use of Developers' Contributions – Hythe and Dibden Parish Council**

A copy of a report detailing the use of developer contributions available for use in the Parish had previously been circulated to Members. Consideration was given to the priority of the projects, based on the monies available.

RESOLVED

That priority is given to improve the safety of road users of Roman Road North

145/13 **Allocation of Transport Developers' Contributions – Hythe and Dibden Parish Council**

A copy of a report detailing the proposed allocation of developer contributions for schemes within the Parish had previously been circulated to Members. Consideration was given to the proposals.

RESOLVED

That the proposed allocation be accepted.

146/13 **Youth Ambassador's Update**

Alex Wade was unable to attend the meeting and had submitted his apologies. The Youth Ambassador's report was postponed until the next meeting.

147/13 **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 £74,339.68 be approved and paid.

148/13 **Exclusion of Press and Public**

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972.

149/13 **Future Markets – Hythe Centre**

Members considered a report on future markets in Hythe Village Centre.

RESOLVED

That the proposal detailed in the report is progressed.

The meeting closed at 9.37 p.m.

Chairman
Date
mncou173