

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 11 September 2013 at 8.00 pm

- Members: *Mrs B Smith (Chairman) – in the Chair
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| *Mr J Binns | *Mrs M Robinson |
| *Mr 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 D Melsome (Assistant Clerk)
Mrs B Edwards (Minute Clerk)
- Also present: oMr M Harris (New Forest District Councillor)
oMr P Fawkes (Hampshire County Councillor)
*PC Woodhead (Hythe Police)
- 4 Members of the Public
- * Indicates attendance
o Indicates apologies for absence

108/13 **Discussion with PC Woodhead of Hythe Police**

PC Woodhead reported on the low number of incidents during August; there were 73 reported incidents in Dibden Purlieu and Netley View, the majority of which were deemed low level. In Hythe and Dibden there were 140 incidents, including a spike in the number of bicycle thefts and four burglaries in the rural part of the area. It is not known whether the burglaries were from domestic properties or outbuildings.

Malcolm Wade queried whether the low level of crime has resulted in local police officers undertaking community engagements. PC Woodhead stated that crime prevention work is being carried out. PCSO Carling is visiting local care homes and also engaging with young people to provide advice on keeping safe.

Brian Dash asked how the crime rates within Hythe and Dibden parish compare to other parish council areas within the district. PC Woodhead responded that police time is better spent patrolling the parish rather than compiling statistics.

Stan Wade queried the level of domestic violence incidents within the crime figures. PC Woodhead replied that Hampshire Police has a zero tolerance towards domestic violence and that although all complaints are followed up, for a variety of reasons it often results in no further action being taken.

PC Woodhead asked the Parish to follow up on the potholes that have been identified and chalk-marked but not repaired. He advised Councillors that he would be taking some time out for the next few months and PC Ashworth would be replacing him until Christmas.

A new Police Community Support Officer, PCSO Crane, has been appointed to replace PCSO Attrill who was successful in his application to become a police officer.

109/13 **Declarations of Interest**

Mr Parkes declared an interest in Minute 120/13 as he is Chairman of Waterside Heritage. He did not consider his interest to be prejudicial and remained in the meeting for the discussion.

110/13 **Minutes**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 14 August 2013.

The Chairman commented that Minute 92/13 required further explanation and clarification.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 14 August 2013 be signed by the Chairman as correct, subject to the following clarification of Minute 92/13:

During this current year residents who were previously in receipt of Council Tax Benefit, excluding vulnerable residents and those in receipt of a state pension, will make a minimum contribution of 8% towards Council Tax. NFDC were undertaking an online public consultation on whether the 8% should be increased to 20%.

111/13 Public Forum

Mr Neal asked for clarification on the meaning of item 92 in the minutes of the meeting of the Council on 14 August 2013.

Councillor Chris Harrison explained that due to welfare benefit reform and a shortfall in funding from central government, New Forest District Council have implemented changes to council tax support (formerly known as council tax benefit); all residents of working age in receipt of state benefit but excluding vulnerable residents and those in receipt of state pension are now required to make a contribution of 8% towards council tax. A public consultation was taking place to establish whether the rate should be set at 20%.

The Chairman suggested that a representative from the District Council is invited to attend a future Council meeting to explain in more detail the changes to all the benefit schemes and the impact on local residents.

Mr Uglow informed Members that the owners of the car park at Waitrose are not keeping it clean. The Clerk to the Council informed Mr Uglow that the matter would be taken up on his behalf. Mr Uglow also commented on the amount of litter generally in the form of carrier bags and cigarette ends. He was advised to take the matter up with New Forest District Council.

Mr Uglow raised concerns about the speed of traffic along Shore Road and the noise from cars and small motorbikes at weekends. He asked Members when the 20 mph speed limit would be implemented along Shore Road. He was informed that the speed restriction would apply from the junction with South Street up to Scott-Paine Drive. Councillor Malcolm Wade informed Mr Uglow that he could request a speed safety check via the Police.

Mr Uglow also queried who had responsibility for trees overhanging a public footpath. Members informed him that when located on private property, the property owner was responsible.

The Chairman informed Mr Uglow that he can phone or visit the Parish Council office to report problems rather than waiting until a council meeting.

Mr Allen suggested free parking of 1 ½ hours in all Hythe car parks, in order to encourage people to shop locally. Councillor Harrison informed Mr Allen that he had challenged the portfolio holder at NFDC regarding the profit from parking charges of more than £2.5 million. He had suggested that the profits gave some scope to encourage people to shop locally, however, NFDC were not receptive to the idea.

Councillor Robinson explained that much effort had been made to improve footfall in Hythe. The Parish Development Officer had arranged various markets which had benefitted both residents and local businesses.

Mr Allen was informed that the District Councillors in the Parish would pursue the matter with NFDC.

112/13 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman informed Members that a thank you letter had been received from a resident for the beautiful floral displays and hanging baskets around the Parish.

113/13 Reports of the County Councillors on County Council matters concerning the Parish

Phillip Fawkes submitted an electronic report to advise Members that he had visited the Forest Education Centre on 9 July 2013. Following concerns expressed by the Head Teacher regarding a delay in the schedule of works for which £4 million in funding had been agreed, Mr Fawkes attended a meeting on 21 August 2013 with the Executive Member for Education and two officers. He was given reassurance that the development was being given their full attention and that the deadlines would be met.

Malcolm Wade reported that he was due to visit Oak Lodge School on 12 September 2013 and would be attending a County Council meeting the following week to discuss the Transport Interchange and Langdown Lawn crossing.

114/13 Reports of District Councillors on District Council matters concerning the Parish

Maureen Robinson reported that NFDC were undertaking a review of the number of Councillors sitting on NFDC. She was unable to reveal exact details but informed Members that Parish Councils would be included in the consultation.

James Binns attended a meeting of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel. He informed Members that the District's core plan has been temporarily set aside because the number of new homes contained therein did not provide enough green space to mitigate the number of new residents using the New Forest National Park.

Maureen McLean stated that a 'house swap' meeting was due to take place on 13 September 2013 for tenants in social housing who wished to either downsize or upsize.

From April next year the District will be implementing introductory tenancies for a duration of 12 months rather than 5 years. Rent will also become chargeable on collection of the property keys instead of from the tenancy start date.

Chris Harrison had attended a Planning Development Control Committee meeting. He reported on planning applications within the Parish. Cussens Days Centre, Brecon Close and Home Farm Cottage had all been passed. Land adjacent to 20 Buttsbridge Road had been withdrawn.

Malcolm Wade presented statistics from the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel regarding the number of social housing properties with spare bedrooms where the occupants are of working age and therefore eligible for housing benefit reduction for having a spare room. As of November 2012, there were a total of 629 local authority and housing association properties with 1 spare bedroom, 147 properties with 2 spare bedrooms and 16 properties with 3 spare bedrooms. This equates to 792 residents within New Forest District, a significant number of whom are unable to pay their rent. There are insufficient single bedroom properties in the area to cater for requirements.

115/13 Reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies

Roger Guy informed Members that Waterside Heritage will be holding open days during October. Further details will follow.

Maureen McLean attended a meeting of the Clinical Commissioning Stakeholders Group on 6 September 2013. She reported that free swimming sessions for under 8 year olds are available. Adults, with a G.P referral, are entitled to 20 swimming sessions at a reduced cost.

As part of the redesigned services at Hythe Hospital, Phlebotomy Clinic services may be extended to include opening on a Saturday morning.

Staff from the Fenwick Hospital, Lyndhurst had given a talk on the services available. A day club is available for dementia patients at a cost of £38 per session.

The introduction of well-being cafes is being planned. Well-being cafes provide entertainment and social activities as well as access to support for people who may need contact with other services.

Brian Dash reported that the Hythe Hospital Project Panel intends to present Stage 1 of the development by the end of 2013 for approval. Some funding for the re-development will be raised from the sale of part of the land within the hospital grounds.

116/13 **Questions to District and County Councillors and Representatives on Outside Bodies arising from their reports**

Brian Dash asked Malcolm Wade who held responsibility for the lighting at Tesco Stores at The Croft site and parking within Solent Drive. The Chairman advised that a discussion between Mr Wade and Mr Dash should take place after the Council meeting had finished.

117/13 **Questions under Standing Orders 25 and 26**

Maureen Robinson requested that a letter of congratulations be sent to the New Forest Night Stop following the media publicity and the appointment of John Barrowman as its Patron.

118/13 **Reports of Committees**

Planning Committee – 14 August 2013

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 14 August 2013.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 14 August 2013 be received and adopted.

119/13 **Conclusion of Annual Audit 2012/2013**

A copy of the Annual Audit for 2012/2013 had been circulated to all Members. The Clerk to the Council commented that the issues relating to the financial accounting of the Ewart Recreation Ground charity and the Allotment for Exercise and Recreation charity were disappointing. Arrangements are already in hand to comply with the recommendations.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the for Annual Return for 2012/13 be approved and accepted.
- (b) the recommendations relating to the Issues Arising Report be implemented.

120/13 **Grant Applications 2013/2014 – First Batch**

Consideration was given to the allocation of Grant Aid.

RESOLVED

That grants be made to the following organisations for the amounts stated, from the 2013/2014 Grant Aid budget.

CAB	£1741.00
Community First Direct	£1291.00
Friends of Forest Front NR	£ 513.45
Waterside Heritage	£ 316.00
New Forest Victim Support	£ 350.00
Hythe Cricket Club	£ 500.00
Waterside Street Pastors	£ 375.00

121/13 **High Street, Hythe – “No Cycling”**

Consideration was given to the proposal from NFDC to amend existing traffic order 2013 to make Hythe High Street a ‘No Cycling’ area, with new exemption for access.

RESOLVED

That the proposal from NFDC to amend existing traffic order 2013 be supported.

122/13 **Youth Ambassador's Update**

A copy of the Youth Ambassador's report had been circulated to all Members. Councillor Alex Wade informed members that he would submit a monthly report at full council meetings. Members thanked Mr Wade for his contribution.

123/13 **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 £51,097.02 be approved and paid.

The meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

Chairman
Date
mncou172