

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 12 October 2011 at 8 pm

Members: *Mrs M Robinson (Chairman) – in the Chair

*Mr J Binns	*Mr M Short
*Mr B Dash	oMrs B Smith
*Mr R Guy	*Mr D Smith
*Mr C Harrison	*Mr A Wade
*Mrs M McLean	*Mr M Wade
oMr G Parkes	Mr S Wade

In attendance: Mr D J Shimpe (Clerk to the Council)
Mrs C Patterson (Minute Clerk)
Mr M Kendall (Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor)

Also present: 5 Members of the Public

* Indicates attendance
o Indicates apologies for absence

The meeting began with a minutes silence in memory of Mr Doug Horrill following his recent death.

The Chairman told members that he was a previous Chairman of the Council and had been very active throughout the community giving generously of his time and expertise.

152/11 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

153/11 Minutes

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 14 September 2011.

Minute 132/11

It was clarified that the funds given to the Handy Trust by Mrs McLean were taken from her New Forest District Councillor's Community Grant.

Minute 132/11

The Clerk advised members that discussions had been held with Nick Hunt from the District Council. It was agreed that the current layout at the Hythe Transport Interchange was introduced as a temporary measure.

It was agreed that discussions should be held with the taxi licensing officer and progress from there.

RESOLVED

That, subject to the above, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 14 September 2011 be signed by the Chairman as correct.

154/11 Public Forum

PC Clive Anthony – Beat Officer, Hythe and Dibden

Members welcomed PC Anthony who advised the meeting that a Beat Officer or PCSO hoped to attend each Council Meeting to keep members up to date with activity in the Parish.

During the past 3 months crime statistics have been 20 – 25% down on previous figures.

There was a considerable problem with anti social behaviour at a property in Curlew Drive. A constant presence was maintained which has resulted in the owner of the property selling it and it now stands empty.

There are regular speed operations on the roads in the Parish and it is hoped that these will occur fortnightly. Unfortunately the equipment has to be shared with Totton and there is a long list of sites to be monitored.

Operation Nemesis is currently operating to crack down on burglary and vehicle crime. There is no anticipated end to the operation.

A recent report of attempted child abduction at Cadland Primary School is now thought to have been overstated by the child involved although officers remain vigilant.

There has been a recent report of an attempted child abduction at Spinney Dale by someone dressed as Father Christmas. Nothing has been found to substantiate this and the police are confident that nothing is going on, however caution is still advised.

The CCTV camera is back in operation in Netley View.

Members asked whether it would be possible to sponsor a dedicated speed gun for the Parish.

PC Anthony advised that he would investigate the matter with Inspector Reading.

Wildground School

Members were asked whether they or anyone they know would be interested in becoming a governor of Wildground School.

Any volunteers were invited to contact the school.

Zip wire Ewart Recreation Ground

Speaking on behalf of local residents, Mrs Summers advised the meeting that no issues have been identified since the change in arrangements for the zipwire at Ewart Recreation Ground and supported the proposed actions.

Diamond Jubilee

The meeting was advised that many local schools have started planning events for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and asked whether it would be useful for local organisations to co-ordinate their efforts.

Review of Parliamentary Constituencies

Members of the public spoke on the proposed review of boundary constituencies and felt that leaving Lyndhurst out of the New Forest East and Romsey constituency did not make sense. Including it would even out numbers and prevent the constituency from becoming a strip along the Waterside.

155/11 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman advised members that she, the Clerk and Deputy Clerk had had a very productive meeting with Inspector Reading. Some good ideas had been suggested for the whole of the area he covers and all are looking forward to working in a partnership which they hope will be as mutually beneficial as previous ones.

The Chairman advised members that she, the Clerk and Mr M Wade had attended a recent meeting at Appletree Court concerning the non domestic rate which will now be levied on Oak Road Car Park of between £5000 and £6000 per annum.

As it is thought that implementing car park charges in Oak Road will be unpopular, particularly for the Church users, it has been agreed to investigate alternative ways in which the Parish could work in partnership with New Forest District Council to remove the need to introduce car parking charges.

156/11 Reports of the County Councillors on County Council matters concerning the Parish

The Minerals and Waste Plan is to be presented to the County Council but Forest Lodge Farm will remain included. There are still issues to be resolved over targets.

It has been concluded that keeping beds open in Hythe Hospital is not economic. However, surveys of the community suggest that local beds are still desired. For this reason reablement beds will be provided in Nursing/Care homes in the community. These will enable older people who no longer need acute care to have up to 6 weeks of free nursing provision to enable them to recover and establish their preference on whether they wish to return home or move into care.

Discussions are still taking place over the future of the Hospital site but it appears that improving ambulatory clinics is a priority. This may involve the sale of peripheral land to finance any plans as no new funds are available.

It is disappointing that the Minor Injuries Unit will remain closed but there are assurances that a review will be made of extra payments to GP's in order to provide a minor injuries option.

157/11 Reports of District Councillors on District Council matters concerning the Parish

Two applications which had been supported by the Parish Council were considered at the last meeting of the Planning and Development Control committee but both were refused permission.

New charges for planning services which should have been brought in on 1 April 2011 are 6 months behind as the Government has not fully processed them. A Task and Finish Group will report back at the end of October.

Consultations are taking place with the National Park Authority and Hampshire County Council concerning new street name plates.

90% of recycling is diverted from landfill although 8% of clear sacks are still contaminated.

It is felt that the County Council's Highways Division changed its own criteria when permission was given for a planning application at RobinBush, North Road. Discussions are ongoing.

A suggestion was made at the Task and Finish Group that housing should be put on half of the Oak Road Car Park in order to pay the car parking levy.

A suggestion was made at a meeting discussing the amounts of community grants that the Dial a Ride service be reduced but it was decided that the service is vital in rural areas.

The Housing Revenue Account Task and Finish Group has been exploring ways of building up housing stock and how to repay the funds borrowed to pay for this.

Regeneration opportunities have been looked into along with affordable homes and the purchase of empty homes for refurbishment. The debt could be paid off completely in 20 years or extended to 30 years which would generate a surplus of between £4 million and £6 million per annum.

The District Council is putting together a new Corporate Plan to cover the next 4 years.

The District Council has commented on the proposed closure of the acute mental health ward at Woodhaven in Calmore. The Clerk has received a notification of consultation which he will circulate.

158/11 Reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies

Following a half term makeover by Hythe Youth St Anne's Centre will be reopened on 12 November 2011 by The Chairman of the Council and the Reverend Eileen Wetherall.

A resident is hoping to organise a Community Group in Curlew Drive. Members will be kept informed.

Mr Dash attended a meeting of the Waterside Street Pastors. He felt it demonstrated the commitment of the Waterside Churches to address the needs of the community and thought it would work well alongside the Handy Trust and Community Safety Team. The scheme is already operating in Winchester and has been most effective with people who live on the streets.

Mrs McLean attended a meeting of the Practice Based Commissioning Stakeholders Group. She confirmed that the decision to remove the beds permanently from Hythe Hospital had been a very difficult one and taken with much soul searching. The reablement beds will be provided at Little Haven or West Cliff Hall.

Only 100 patients used the beds at Hythe Hospital per year and only 50% of those were from the local area. There were 50,000 outpatients in a year so extra outpatient services will be provided.

There is a community based diabetes specialist and service based in Lyndhurst and a community clinic in Hythe.

Mr Guy attended a Southampton Airport Stakeholders Conference and heard that passenger numbers are down. 18% of passengers arrive or depart from the airport using the rail link and it is hoped to increase this to 20% and possibly 25%.

Flybe are to introduce new aircraft over the next few months. They currently have 500 employees living in the local area.

Changes in the flight paths have seen significant reductions in noise related complaints and these are now only 25% of the previous amount.

It is anticipated that the 2012 Olympics and particularly the sailing events in Weymouth will see more aircraft using the airport but there is no intention to increase operating hours. There will be an increase in the holding areas for aircraft and one particular engine has been banned due to excessive noise.

South West Trains will increase the length of trains in order to accommodate the extra passengers to Weymouth.

There is a Hythe Hospital Project Steering Group which will investigate the options for the site.

159/11 **Questions to District and County Councillors and Representatives on Outside Bodies arising from their reports**

Mr Dash told the meeting that the local Council in Cornwall are hoping to compulsorily acquire empty houses to refurbish and add to their housing stock and asked whether this had been considered.

It was agreed that many options are under consideration and suggested that possible building sites within the Parish need to be explored.

160/11 **Questions under Standing Orders 25 and 26**

Mrs McLean asked whether the Chairman was aware that from 16 October 2011 there would be no buses through Marchwood on a Sunday and the No 8 would only travel along Hythe Road every 2 hours.

Mr Smith answered this question on behalf of the Chairman and stated that the changes to the No 8 bus had been reported at the last meeting and suggested that Marchwood Parish Council should be contacted with regard to the bus route in their area.

161/11 **Reports of Committees**

Planning Committee – 14 September 2011

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 14 September 2011.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 14 September 2011 be received and adopted.

162/11 Conclusion of Annual Audit 2010/11

Consideration was given to the Annual return for 2010/11 which has been published after being approved without qualification or comment.

RESOLVED

That the Annual Audit 2010/11 be noted.

163/11 Proposed changes to Hythe Library opening hours

Consideration was given to the proposed changes in opening hours at Hythe Library.

Members were surprised that the Library had not been designated as a key library alongside Lymington which has a smaller population but pleased to note that the library would now be opening at 9am.

It was regretted that a day had been lost but agreed that this was preferable to shortening existing hours on other days.

RESOLVED

That the proposed changes to Hythe Library opening hours be noted with regret.

164/11 Zip wire – Ewart Recreation Ground

Consideration was given to making permanent the increased availability of the zip wire in Ewart Recreation Ground following the successful trial.

RESOLVED

1. That the extended hours at Ewart Recreation Ground are continued and the zip wire's availability is similar to that of the opening and closing times of Noads Way Recreation Ground.
2. That Officers be delegated in consultation with the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Council to take appropriate action should the need arise.

165/11 Notes of the Play Equipment Working Party

Consideration was given to the notes of the Play Equipment Working Party held on 26 September 2011.

RESOLVED

1. That the notes of the Play Equipment Working Party held on 26 September 2011 be noted and the following recommendations agreed:-
 - (a) That exercise equipment be installed at Noads Way Play Area at a cost of £11000 subject to the Council's Standing Orders for purchasing being complied with.
 - (b) That the option offered by Kompan at Shore Road Play Area be selected and a tender process entered into.
 - (c) That suitable funding be sought to enable a replacement trampoline or alternative piece of equipment to be installed at Ewart Recreation Ground.

- (d) That Officers have delegated powers to remove the trampoline at Ewart Recreation Ground should it become unsafe.
- (e) That the fencing at Forest Front Skate Park is not replaced until ongoing vandalism and arson issues are solved.
- (f) That any unsafe areas of fencing at Forest Front Skate Park are removed and the situation monitored.

166/11 **The 2013 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in England**

Consideration was given to the 2013 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in England.

Members were pleased that the Waterside has not been included in a constituency with Southampton and acknowledged the view held by some that Lyndhurst should be included in the New Forest East and Romsey Constituency, however it was felt that it was the responsibility of the residents of Lyndhurst to make this point if they wished.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk respond to the Boundary Commission for England.

167/11 **Diamond Jubilee**

Following enquiries from a member of the public consideration was given to ways in which to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Many organisations in the Parish are planning their own events and it was suggested that the Parish Council act as a facilitator and organise a meeting so that events can be co-ordinated.

There was a further suggestion that planned improvements to The Grove Gardens could include some kind of recognition of the Jubilee such as a piece of artwork.

RESOLVED

That a meeting be organised for any organisations interested in celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

168/11 **Rights of Way**

Members were asked if they would be willing the walk the Rights of Way in the Parish to ensure that they are passable.

RESOLVED

That Members advise the Clerk which Rights of Way they would be willing to walk.

169/11 **Accounts for Payment**

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

RESOLVED

That accounts as detailed in Vouchers 7146 - 7226 inclusive, totalling £57,364.37, be approved and paid.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Chairman

Date

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