

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 July 2012 at 8 pm

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

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

In attendance: Mr S Spencer (Deputy Clerk to the Council)
Mrs C Patterson (Minute Clerk)
Mr M Kendall (Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor)

Also present: 3 Members of the Public

oMrs A McEvoy - Hampshire County Councillor
oMr M Harris – New Forest District Councillor

* Indicates attendance
o Indicates apologies for absence

63/12 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

64/12 Minutes

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 13 June 2012.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 13 June 2012
be signed by the Chairman as correct.

65/12 Public Forum

The Chairman advised members that neither the Police nor the Community Safety Team would be able to attend the meeting due to a combined operation which would be taking place at the same time.

Mr Binns reported that there had been problems with flooding at Orchard Way the previous day at the same time as children were leaving the nearby school. The problem had been exacerbated by people driving across verges and pavements too fast and had resulted in water entering some houses.

Despite knowing that it was not its responsibility the residents had phoned the Parish Council for assistance and Mr Binns thanked the Maintenance Team and the Community Safety Team for their prompt response on behalf of the residents.

It was suggested that the problem could be highlighted on a future Community Messaging System email and Mr Dash agreed to liaise with Mr Binns to report the drainage problem to the County Council.

66/12 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman advised members that some Register of Member's Interest forms still needed to be returned. The Deputy Clerk should be contacted for advice if needed.

The Chairman advised members that she had attended an awards ceremony in Chipping Sodbury with Helen Owers, Parish Development Officer and ACSO Norman Bareham for the Action for Market Towns National Awards. They were proud to receive the Social and Community Category outstanding Market Towns Project Award for the Community Safety Messaging System.

The Chairman advised members that many visitors had attended the P and O Grand Event on 3 July 2012 in order to view the 7 ships from Hythe including 15 coaches from as far away as Swansea, Hull and Stoke. The influx of large amounts of traffic led to a potentially chaotic situation and she asked that thanks be conveyed to Helen Owers, Norman Bareham, Mike Robinson and the Special Constables for the way in which they dealt with it.

Mr Dash advised members that he had written to the local Police Inspector with regard to the traffic problems experienced and expressed his disappointment that it was not dealt with more proactively.

67/12 Reports of the County Councillors on County Council matters concerning the Parish

The company involved in the Claypits Lane cycle path has gone into voluntary liquidation so there will be a delay while sub contractors are found to complete the project.

A request has been made for a Speed Indication Device to be placed close to the Challenger Way crossing.

A draft design has been made for a crossing at Langdown Lawn but the road does not appear to be wide enough for it to include a refuge point.

Mr Dash agreed to make a list of drainage problems in the Parish in order to present it to the County Council. Any requests should be sent via the Deputy Clerk.

68/12 Reports of District Councillors on District Council matters concerning the Parish

A Task and Finish Group is considering charging Blue Badge holders for car parking but no contact has yet been made with them.

Some tenants still have concerns over the employment of Radian to run the warden service in sheltered accommodation. Radian will only support tenants if they have a need and ask for assistance.

At present the Community Alarm System has an income of £60,000 pa which goes into a general fund. The charges system is to be revisited.

At a meeting of the Planning and Development Control Committee earlier in the day members voted 15 – 1 to refuse an application in Alexander Road.

A Task and Finish Group will be reviewing the Localisation of Council Tax Support due to the abolition of the national benefit scheme which will reduce the grant by around £1 million but still leave local authorities to run their own schemes which must protect pensioners and the vulnerable.

Options under consideration include designing a local scheme for those of working age on low income or using new discretionary powers to change existing discounts and exemptions. A consultation period will run from 17 July to 31 October 2012 and any scheme needs to be in place by the end of the financial year.

Mr S Wade thanked members for nominating him to attend the Diamonds of the New Forest event on 19 June 2012.

Following the PFI agreement to renew the street lighting in the area a consultation will soon be taking place to raise awareness of the changes that are imminent.

69/12 Reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies

Mrs Smith attended a meeting of the Association of Local Councils New Forest with the Clerk who made a presentation on Localising Support for Local Tax.

Mr Dash attended the AGM of the New Forest National Park where a presentation was made on the adoption of the Village Local Plan for Fawley.

A request has been made for the Project Manager of the Hythe Hospital Stakeholder and Project Group to make a presentation to Fawley Parish Council. It was suggested that it is made into a joint Parish Council briefing with other adjoining Parishes such as Hythe and Dibden, Marchwood, Beaulieu and Denny Lodge. The Chairman stated that the Council Chamber would be available for such a meeting.

Age Concern is considering becoming Age New Forest. A management plan is currently being compiled.

70/12 Questions to District and County Councillors and Representatives on Outside Bodies arising from their reports

Mr A Wade asked Mrs McLean whether there had been any consultation with Blue Badge holders over car parking charges.

Mrs McLean confirmed that there had not.

Mr A Wade asked Mrs Robinson whether the street lighting initiative was only to improve existing lighting or whether new locations could be submitted.

Mrs Robinson confirmed that the initiative only applied to already agreed sites and any new proposals should go through the existing County Council system.

Mr S Wade asked Mr Dash whether he was aware of problems with a footpath leading to 6 houses on Southampton Road.

Mr Dash stated that the problem had already been reported.

Mr Dash asked all District Councillors whether they had been aware of a letter sent to all single occupants of properties regarding single occupancy discount on council tax as he had received complaints over the tone of the letter.

It appeared that District Councillors had not been consulted but they had not received complaints either.

Mr Dash advised members that people who were in the process of selling houses to the District Council were having problems contacting the District Council's solicitor.

71/12 Questions under Standing Orders 25 and 26

Mrs Smith asked the Chairman whether she was aware that the Hythe of Activity Day scheduled for Saturday July 14 2012 had been cancelled and whether the public had been made aware of this fact.

The Chairman replied that she was aware that this decision had been taken regretfully but felt sure that the public had been made aware through the Parish Development Officer's messaging system and the Community Safety Team's messaging system.

72/12 Reports of Committees

Planning Committee – 13 June 2012

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 13 June 2012.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 13 June 2012 be received and adopted.

73/12 The Localism Act 2011, The Standards Regime, Codes of Conduct and Standing Orders

Consideration was given to the proposed changes to the Standing Orders and Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED

That the revised Standing Orders and Code of Conduct be adopted.

74/12 Lawnswood Close Open Space – Consultation Results

Consideration was given to the results of a local consultation following the request for the installation of seating at Lawnswood Close Public Open Space. There was overall objection to the proposed installation of seating.

RESOLVED

That provision of seating at Lawnswood Close Public Open Space be denied.

75/12 Haynes Way Open Space

Consideration was given to the ways in which the problem of youths gathering and using foul and abusive language in Haynes Way Public Open Space could be addressed.

Members felt that the use of foul language could be dealt with by the Community Safety Team and Youth Team under existing legislation. It was also felt that closing off the area would move any problems elsewhere and prevent other people from using Public Open Space.

RESOLVED

That the Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor consult with residents on an appropriate planting plan for the area.

76/12 Proposed Bus Shelter – Southampton Road

Consideration was given to the provision of a bus shelter in Southampton Road.

RESOLVED

That Option 2 – the delivery and installation of an Arun Cantilever Shelter with a half end panel using the existing footpath as the base for the sum of £2588.00 – be agreed.

77/12 Play Equipment Working Party – Notes of the meeting held on 2 July 2012

Consideration was given to the Notes of the Meeting of the Play Equipment Working Party held on 2 July 2012.

Members were advised that the roundabout located at Forest Front Play Area has already been removed.

RESOLVED

That the Notes of the Meeting of the Play Equipment Working Party held on 2 July 2012 be received and adopted.

78/12 Consultation on District/Borough Transport Statements

Consideration was given to the Consultation on District/Borough Transport Statements.

Mr Dash stated that there had been no information received about funding for the transport exchange at Hythe Pier.

RESOLVED

That the Council had no comments to make on the Consultation on District/Borough Transport Statements at this time.

79/12 Accounts for Payment

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

RESOLVED

That accounts as detailed in Vouchers 7850 -7913 inclusive, totalling £62,188.37, be approved and paid.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Chairman

Date

SH August 2012

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