

**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 10 April 2013 at 8.15 pm

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

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

In attendance: Mr D J Shimpe (Clerk to the Council)  
Mr S Spencer (Deputy Clerk to the Council)  
Mr M Kendall (Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor)  
Mrs B Edwards (Minute Clerk)

Also present: \*Mr M Harris (New Forest District Councillor)  
Sergeant A Jones (Hythe and Dibden Safer Neighbourhood Team)

\* Indicates attendance  
o Indicates apologies for absence

292/12 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

293/12 **Minutes**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 13 March 2013.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 13 March 2013  
be signed by the Chairman as correct.

294/12 **Discussion with Sergeant Jones – Hythe and Dibden Safer Neighbourhood Team**

Sergeant Jones reported that all targets set by the Government had been met by the Safer Neighbourhood Team. A new Inspector was due to start soon and any ideas on improving communication would be welcomed. Sergeant Jones advised that Hythe Police use Twitter to convey messages to the public.

A query was raised with regard to speeding and parking issues within the Parish. Sergeant Jones reported that the Safer Neighbourhood Team is duty bound to investigate any reported problems.

Concerns were raised with regard to the issue of perceived non-co-operation of the Police in matters of traffic control during significant boating events taking place in the port of Southampton which impact on Hythe. Sergeant Jones stated that there is a dedicated Events Unit within Southampton Police to manage such occasions and in future, Hythe Police would liaise with the Southampton Events Unit to ensure a more 'joined up' working ethos.

Sergeant Jones was asked what action was being taken with regard to an increase in the level of car-crime beyond the usual low norm. Sergeant Jones responded that although these were isolated and non-related incidents, there was a good vehicle crime unit which was making its presence known within the community.

Sergeant Jones stated that there are very strong links between the Safer Neighbourhood Team and the Accredited Community Safety Officers and both work collaboratively where possible.

The Chairman of the Council thanked Sergeant Jones for attending and emphasised a desire for the Council and Hythe Police to work together.

295/12 **Public Forum**

There were no members of the public present.

296/12 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman announced that in response to a letter from Julian Lewis, M.P regarding pot holes and road repairs, Mel Kendal (Hampshire County Council) had replied that Operation Resilience had been prioritised in respect of Furzey Avenue and Lytton Road.

297/12 **Reports of the County Councillors on County Council matters concerning the Parish**

Brian Dash gave his final report as the County Councillor for Hythe and Dibden. He had attended a meeting on the Employment in Hampshire County Council Committee to discuss training for new Councillors. The current governance arrangements for the County Council were to be discussed.

The Chairman of the Council expressed great gratitude to Cllr. Dash for his commitment, dedication and hard work during his term of office.

298/12 **Reports of District Councillors on District Council matters concerning the Parish**

Malcolm Wade reported that The Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel was looking at the Community Covenant Armed Forces. A Task and Finish Group has been set up to look into the treatment of soldiers within communities when entering civilian life. The Committee were advised that Hythe and Dibden Parish Council had agreed to sign the Covenant.

The impact of changes in the benefit system on low income families is not on the agenda of the New Forest District Council. Councillor Wade had sought to have the situation monitored to establish what mitigating action can be taken.

Chris Harrison reported that The Task and Finish Group formed by the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel had its first meeting to discuss what action can be taken to tackle homelessness.

Michael Harris reported that Councillor Mel Kendal has personally visited Lytton Road where pot holes were prevalent and requested an immediate temporary repair. As the repair only lasted for two days, Councillor Kendal was contacted again and advised that as Lytton Road was formerly a cul-de-sac and is now a through road, a longer term solution would be required.

The empty unit (formerly Racal) on Hardley Industrial Estate is close to being resolved. There is an interested party from Hythe and Dibden Parish which would result in the unit becoming economically viable. Additionally, the sum of £140,000 in back rent has been received and banked.

The Audit Committee is looking at how New Forest District Council invests its cash reserves. Five years ago income from interest received was £1.8 million, this figure has fallen to £300,000 for this financial year.

Maureen Robinson reported that, following a motion put forward at full Council by Chris Harrison, a Task and Finish Group had been set up to look into reducing the number of Councillors.

A new system has been implemented for those in council or social housing to escalate a housing complaint to District Councillors in instances where they feel a complaint is not being dealt with adequately. She further advised that there is a duty on all authorities to ensure that Members received appropriate training for this and that a briefing paper had been issued.

**299/12 Reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies**

Brian Dash reported that the latest press release by The Forestry Commission concerning cycling in the Forest was a measured response to a difficult problem.

**300/12 Questions to District and County Councillors and Representatives on Outside Bodies arising from their reports**

Brian Dash asked Michael Harris whether New Forest District Council would look at investments that attract a higher risk. Michael Harris stated that all investments were being looked at to see what improvements can be made.

Mr. Dash asked what capacity New Forest District Council has for re-housing residents affected by the 'bedroom' tax. Maureen Robinson replied that NFDC has very little capacity and that it is not a high priority for the District Council.

Alex Wade queried with Chris Harrison the number of rough sleepers within the New Forest area. Chris Harrison responded that officers had been tasked to find out at the first meeting of the Task and Finish Group.

**301/12 Questions under Standing Orders 25 and 26**

David Smith asked whether other members had heard that First Group planned to withdraw the number 11 service and would this result in Blue Star reviewing the service they provided once First Group had withdrawn.

It was decided that the Clerk to the Council should write a letter to First Group expressing concern.

**302/12 Reports of Committees****Planning Committee – 13 February 2013**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 13 March 2013.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 13 March 2013 be received and adopted.

**303/12 Annual Review of Business Risks and Insurance**

Consideration was given to the Annual Review of Business Risks and Insurance. The Clerk to the Council advised that capping of precept increases, reduction in District Council grants and the Netley View Youth Club had been added as a risk.

RESOLVED

- (a) the schedule of risks be agreed
- (b) the schedule of insurance be agreed
- (c) the Council continue with the self- insurance of play equipment

**304/12 - No Cycling – Hythe High Street**

A copy of the proposal for No Cycling – Hythe High Street had been circulated to all members. The Clerk to the Council further advised that a Cycling Parking Survey would be undertaken from 8 a.m to 6 p.m on a weekday to gauge the usage of cycle racks and bikes chained to railings.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk to the Council will respond to the proposal to reflect the discussion that took place.

**305/12 Proposed Installation of Dog Bin at Partridge Road**

A copy of the report into the siting of a Dog Bin at Partridge Road had been circulated to all members.

RESOLVED

That a general waste bin be installed and the content monitored for a period of 3 – 6 months.

306/12 Notes of the Parish Meeting held on 27 March 2013

Consideration was given to the Notes of the Parish Meeting held on 27 March 2013.

RESOLVED

That the Notes of the Parish Meeting held on 27 March 2013 be noted.

307/12 Accounts for Payment

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

RESOLVED

That accounts as detailed in Vouchers 8480 – 8524 inclusive plus the accounts detailed on the supplementary list (voucher numbers to be allocated after year end close), totalling £89,630.68 be approved and paid.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

Chairman

Date

8/5/2013

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