

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 14 March 2012 at 8 pm

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

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

In attendance: Mr D J Shimpe (Clerk to the Council)
Mr S Spencer (Deputy Clerk to the Council)
Mrs C Patterson (Minute Clerk)

Also present: Peter Wales – Chief Executive Officer, New Forest Citizens Advice Bureau
PC Clive Anthony, Hampshire Police
oMrs A McEvoy - Hampshire County Councillor
oMr M Harris – New Forest District Councillor
1 Member of the Public

* Indicates attendance
o Indicates apologies for absence

274/11 Declarations of Interest

Mr A Wade disclosed a personal interest in Minute 285/11 as he is a former player at Hythe and Dibden Cricket Club and will potentially play for them this season. He did not consider his interest to be prejudicial and remained in the meeting for the discussion.

275/11 Update on the New Forest Citizens Advice Bureau – Peter Wales, Chief Executive Officer

Peter Wales, Chief Executive Officer of New Forest Citizens Advice Bureau, attended the meeting to update members on the current position since the New Forest Citizens Advice Bureaux merged in April 2010 in order to gain one strategic direction across the district and achieve economies of scale.

Despite advising more clients in 2010/11 – 7409 with 19053 problems - funding from central government was cut by 20% in the last financial year and a further minimum of 15% will be cut in this financial year as the CAB is withdrawing from Legal Aid Delivery. Next year funding from the District Council will be cut by 8%.

This has resulted in a reduction in staff to an equivalent of 7 full time workers with a wage freeze. The Fordingbridge Office has been closed, the New Milton Office is about to move to smaller premises and the Hythe Office is downsizing. However an advice line is provided for clients which is open 5 days a week between 10 am and 4 pm.

Since a triage system was introduced clients are seen immediately in Hythe so that their needs can be assessed and urgent cases are seen on the same day. For non urgent cases the waiting times have dropped from 3 weeks to 7 days.

Members were advised that a trustee is due to retire and asked if anyone would be interested in taking over the position.

The Chairman stated that the CAB provides a lot of income recovery for the local economy and Mr Wales agreed to provide the figures for this at the end of the financial year.

Mr Wales was asked how long he envisaged being able to provide the same level of service. He responded that if the District Council continued funding with the same level of support it would be possible for at least 18 months and possibly up to 5 years.

Members paid tribute to the CAB for the service it provides under difficult conditions and hoped that the good relationship enjoyed for several years would continue.

276/11 **Minutes**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 8 February 2012.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 8 February 2012 be signed by the Chairman as correct.

277/11 **Public Forum**

Community Safety Update

PC Clive Anthony, Beat Officer for Hythe and Dibden, attended the meeting to update members on local issues.

In comparison to the same period last year dwelling burglaries are down 62%, non dwelling crimes are down 26% and vehicle crime has increased by 19%. However 2 custodial sentences of 8 months and 12 months have now been issued for vehicle crime.

There have been some attempted thefts of fuel in the Frost Lane area but it is hoped that these are isolated incidents.

The theft of cabling in Frost Lane is being investigated by the British Transport Police.

PC Anthony is the Waterside contact for Pubwatch, an organisation made up of local landlords, which meets monthly to exchange information and vote on banning disruptive customers from pubs.

The Chairman asked PC Anthony whether he was aware of accusations of racism in a local pub. He replied that he was and the matter was being dealt with.

PC Anthony advised members that he felt his local surgery held in the village is very useful.

PC Anthony felt that youth crime is being dealt with successfully but said it is difficult to quantify as the information is now being recorded differently.

It was agreed that the figures which prove that crime is decreasing should be released to the public as there is a fear of crime which needs to be allayed.

Raised gardens in Dibden Purlieu

Mr Wheeler asked whether it would be possible to provide a memorial seat close to the raised gardens in Dibden Purlieu.

The Clerk responded that a request had previously been turned down due to anti-social behaviour but as circumstances may now have changed officers would investigate the matter.

278/11 **Chairman's Announcements**

Further to Minute 143/11 discretionary bonuses of £250 pro rata have been awarded to lower paid members of staff.

The Chairman read out a letter of thanks from the maintenance team which accompanied a small gift.

The Chairman advised members that a briefing meeting on the new standards arrangements will be held on 22 March 2012. Mr Short was invited to attend.

The Chairman advised members that a lot of progress has been made on the future of Oak Road Car Park following discussions between the Church, the District Council and the Parish Council. It is hoped that the Church will take over the running of the Car Park with the Parish Council providing maintenance. There are further matters to discuss but the District Council agrees this arrangement in principle.

279/11 Reports of the County Councillors on County Council matters concerning the Parish

The Hampshire County Council portion of the precept has been frozen. A £30 million grant from central government and savings of £55 million including 1400 redundancies have enabled this along with increased charges for adult services.

65% of the contract for children's services has gone to one contractor.

Alterations and improvements to Claypits Lane are now complete. Investigations are ongoing into the Drapers Copse access following complaints.

A decision has been made to remove the traffic calming measures in Roman Road. Although they were successful in slowing traffic speed there were problems with vandalism of the posts and poor visibility in the dark and rain.

Traffic islands are to be constructed in Challenger Way but the complete traffic calming scheme was not passed by the safety audit.

The problems in Pylewell Road are being dealt with by Tim Lawton.

Complaints about parking along Beaulieu Road have been investigated and no significant safety issue found.

Meetings are continuing on the possible redesign of the facilities at Hythe Hospital.

Six reablement beds are now in use at Littlehaven but there are doubts over the beds to be provided at Forest Court. It is hoped that 15 beds will now be provided elsewhere.

280/11 Reports of District Councillors on District Council matters concerning the Parish

It has been agreed that taxi fares will increase by 5% in April. There has also been a request to simplify the system.

The Sheltered Housing Scheme will become Older Persons Accommodation on 30 March 2012. Radian will take over the running for 12 months although they will not deal with under 55 year olds. Residents have been left very confused by the changes which are being implemented.

Suggestions on using the surpluses from the Recreation Centres and Transport were not taken up by the Administration.

Some members recently visited a recycling centre and were surprised to learn that not all potentially recyclable goods are recycled as they are not included in the contract.

An application for development at The Wheelhouse, Lime Walk has been approved and should result in £46,000 in developers' contributions.

Mr Binns has donated £180 of his District Councillor's grant to the Waterside Cancer Charity. He is currently in talks with Anne McDonald, the HandyTrust's worker at Netley View, over the organisation of an event to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and will donate further funds if that is successful.

Membership at Applemore Recreation Centre has increased in the last year.

281/11 Reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies

Mr Short attended a meeting on the new Localism Bill and advised members of the following proposed changes:-

- All declarations of interest must be posted on public websites.
- Communities will only be allowed to accept increased planning developments not less.

- Neighbourhood Development Orders will allow local areas to define specific development which will be decided on by 50% of those voting in a local referendum.
- Infrastructure Development will see decisions made by the Secretary of State within 3 months.
- Community Rights mean that communities can bid to run services such as halls, badminton etc.
- Level of Council Tax increase will be set by a Minister of State. If it is higher it must go to a local referendum at the cost of the Parish.
- If a tenant invokes his right to buy a council owned house the money will go to the state.

Dibden Allotments Fund recently held an Open Day which was well attended.

The Fund is helping a lot more people due to the current economic climate and a better relationship has been forged with the Job Centre.

In the last year £61,000 was given to individuals in Hythe with a further amount given to individuals in Marchwood. £19,000 was distributed through the shoe scheme, £6500 spent on school trips, £21,000 spent in the community, £34,000 helped youth and £10,000 was spent on other benefits such as food vouchers.

Unfortunately Dennis Raison Shoes has ceased stocking children's shoes.

The Forresters Respite Centre is for sale.

Mrs Robinson recently chaired a meeting on the future of the Hythe Ferry Interchange. It was agreed that investigations would be made into matters such as traffic flow in order to progress the matter.

282/11 Questions to District and County Councillors and Representatives on Outside Bodies arising from their reports

Mr Guy asked Mr Dash what the actual shortfall in funding for the Children's Centres had been as it seemed a shame to alter the running when Ofsted Reports had judged them to be "Outstanding".

Mr Dash agreed and stated that the actual figure was thought to be around £3.8million out of a total of £55million.

Mr Parkes asked Mr Dash whether other methods of traffic calming in Roman Road are being considered.

Mr Dash replied that they are.

Mr Smith asked whether shoe vouchers for children will be available for use in other towns.

Mrs McLean advised that there are already shops in Totton and Southampton which accept the vouchers.

Mr M Wade asked whether the parking situation outside the new flats at Beaulieu Road could be revisited by Highways Division.

Mr Dash advised members that he did not feel that this would be a worthwhile exercise as the matter had already been investigated thoroughly.

Mr A Wade asked whether it was just Applemore Recreation Centre which had increased its membership or whether every Centre followed a similar pattern.

Mr Binns agreed to pass on the figures.

283/11 Questions under Standing Orders 25 and 26

Mrs Smith asked the Chairman whether she was aware of the recent death aged 90 of Geoffrey Owen. He had been a previous long standing Chairman of Hampshire Association of Local Councils and highly regarded by those who came into contact with him.

The Chairman replied that she had not been aware and expressed regret.

284/11 Reports of Committees**Planning Committee – 8 February 2012**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 8 February 2012.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 8 February 2012 be received and adopted.

285/11 Grant Applications – Final Batch 2011/12

Consideration was given to the allocation of Grant Aid in conjunction with the recommendations of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee.

RESOLVED

That grants be made to the following organisations for the amounts stated, from the 2011/2012 Grant Aid budget:-

Hythe and Dibden Cricket Club	£500
"It's your Choice"	£230
Age Concern	£230
Oakhaven Hospice Trust	£500
Hythe and Dibden Woodland and Waterside Conservation Trust	£500
Forest Forge Theatre Company	£200
Disability Awareness UK	£250

286/11 Signing of Documents

- Surrender of Lease by CAB in respect of rooms 109, 110 and 111 first floor, The Grove – Deed of Surrender
- Surrender of Lease by Waterside Cancer Support Centre in respect of rooms 4 and 4a The Grove – Deed of Surrender
- Lease of offices by Wessex Cancer Trust in respect of rooms 4, 4a and 111, The Grove

RESOLVED

That authority be given to sign the documents as required by the Clerk to the Council.

287/11 Accounts for Payment

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

RESOLVED

That accounts as detailed in Vouchers 7509 - 7599 inclusive, totalling £64,413.50, be approved and paid.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

Chairman

Date

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