

Minutes of the Meeting of Hythe and Dibden Parish Council

Held at The Grove, 25 St John's Street, Hythe
on Wednesday 27th September at 7.00 pm

p Maureen McLean (Chairman)
p James Binns (Vice Chairman)

Councillors:

p P Armstrong
p M Clark
p E Davey
p J Fowler
p C Harrison
p T Johnson

Councillors:

p G Parkes
p D Poole
p M Short
p A Wade
p M Wade

p = present
a = apologies
n = no apologies received

In Attendance

a Cllr B Andrews (NFDC)
p Cllr K Crisell (NFDC)
p Cllr A McEvoy (HCC)

Officers in attendance

Mrs S Bennett (Clerk to the Council)
Mr S Spencer (Deputy Clerk to the Council)
Miss C Donnelly (Minute Clerk)

3 Members of the Public, 2 PCSOs

90/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Eric Davey made a declaration regarding agenda item 17. He is a resident of the immediate area in Heatherstone Avenue.

The Clerk granted a dispensation to all Members to enable discussion at item 18.

91/17 MINUTES

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26th July 2017.

The first paragraph of Minute 60/17 was amended as follows: Cllr Malcolm Wade asked if the Chairman was aware that there is an issue with parked cars causing an obstruction in Beaulieu Road. He asked if HDPC would support the implementation of a traffic management scheme on Beaulieu Road. The District Councillors advised that this issue was already included on the TMO list and that they supported all efforts to tackle this issue.

RESOLVED that subject to the amendment above

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26th July 2017 be agreed

92/17 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

Congratulations to everyone who helped with the Walk The Plank event. A good time was had by all and £2750 was raised for the Hythe Pier Heritage Association.

The Chairman highlighted that Planning Permission had been approved for a Lidl foodstore in St John's Street car park.

The Chairman asked that thanks be passed on to the Maintenance Team who are busy planting the spring bulbs and winter flower displays.

Jean Adams, CEO of Age Concern New Forest has retired and the Chairman requested that thanks be sent from the Council for all of her hard work.

NFDC are proposing to suspend parking charges for 4 days to support Local Business. This includes: Saturday 2nd December 2017 to help promote Small Business Saturday and on the last weekend before Christmas – 23rd and 24th December 2017..

93/17 **CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UPDATE**

PC Mark Atrill presented the report from the police for the period 27 July – 27 September 2017.

- Burglary, vehicle crime and anti-social behaviour are all down.
- Cycle patrols targeting anti social behaviour have been set up and groups that have been met have had advice given
- A well received Cycle Safety Event, was held on 23 September in the Village Centre.
- Regular Beat Surgeries continue at Dibden Purlieu, Beaulieu Road and every fortnight at Hythe Market.
- Police are continuing their Junior PCSO Scheme for Year 5s throughout the Parish.
- Halloween/Firework Night anti-social awareness patrols will be undertaken.
- Parking at schools continues to be a problem. Attempts to address this issue have moved on from awareness raising and 3 parking tickets have been issued outside Orchard School.

94/17 **REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Cllr. Alexis McEvoy acknowledged that Councillors have lots of difficult decisions to make in these austere times. She reported that the County Council's grant funding has been cut by £140million. The Leader has written to the Prime Minister to complain about the inadequacy of their grant.

Children's Services has a budget of £148.9million and savings of £30.1million need to be made by 2019.

Hampshire County Council will be the first local authority to use new Amazon Echo technology to help older people live independently in their homes for longer.

The executive Member for Environment and Transport has approved an annual subsidy payment of £75,000 to Blue Funnel Ferries Ltd towards the operation of the Hythe Ferry service. This will run until 31st March 2018 with an option to extend the Grant until 31st March 2019.

Cllr. Malcolm Wade reported that the HCC Childrens Services are the best in the UK. He raised concerns that with just 0.002% of the population of Hampshire responding o 'hcc's consultation that the results are not statistically valid. IT was also reported that there will be no school crossing patrols unless the parish council fund this and that salting of the highway will be reduced.

REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Kate Crissell reported the good news that 43 new, affordable homes in this Parish will be ready by Spring 2018. The problem regarding surface water drainage has been referred back to NFDC.

Cllr. James Binns reported that he had attended the consultation with regards to the future of the Fawley Power Station site. The proposals to create a new town include 1500 homes and Business Park. There is a proposal for a fast catamaran to Southampton and the viability of opening the Railway Line is to be considered.

The Parish has the lowest crime levels, apart from Lyndhurst, based on percentages per CCTV camera.

Applemore Leisure Centre's learner pool has a crack in the bottom. The pool is closed while this is being investigated.

The Housing Policy Green Paper has been released and highlighted changes that will mean that if someone is classified as intentionally homeless the District Council is likely to be required to provide housing for them. The District is also looking to see if housing can be provided on what is currently garage blocks.

Cllr. Bill Andrews

Cllr. Dan Poole read Cllr Andrews report. Cllr. Andrews was pleased to see a positive outcome on the Lidl application and that the Hythe Pier Heritage Associations activities is going well. Cllr. Andrews reported on the NFDC meetings that he attended.

Cllr. Dan Poole reported that he had attended the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel and the Planning Development Control committee and that he is serving on the Public Conveniences Task and Finish Group and will take a tour of public conveniences around the District.

He also attended a consultation at Appletree Court with regards to the proposed Fawley Waterside development and expressed concern about the increased use of traffic on the A326 and will look closely at how this challenge will be approached.

Cllr. Alex Wade reported on the work of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee including introducing a new knowledge and safety test for taxi drivers.

Cllr. Peter Armstrong previously submitted a report. He has attended a meeting about the new Fawley/Waterside proposal and is concerned about the impact on the roads. He pointed out that representations need to be made to Hampshire County Council to make a strong case for improvements to the roads.

95/17 **REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr. Trevor Johnson reported that Age Concern New Forest had secured benefits for local people who were unaware of their entitlement. It was also reported that the owners of the Age Concern shops are putting the rents up.

Cllr. Dan Poole attended the Port Consultative Committee where there was a lot of emphasis on Southampton and the private investment in developments which will be beneficial for the City and surrounding areas. He asked and was advised that the results of the ABP consultation would be made public before the end of the year.

He reported that he is settling into his role as a Trustee at the Dibden Allotments Fund and NFDC will be rolling out Universal Credit in this Parish from 30th May 2018. The Dibden Allotments Fund will be working with NFDC to promote awareness of this through public meetings.

Cllr. Maureen McLean reported that with the roll out of Universal Credit, more people will need to be supported by the Dibden Allotments Funds, especially as there will be a six week waiting time for receipt of monies

Cllr. Maureen McLean reported that the Dibden Allotments Fund has a vacancy for a Trustee.

Cllr. Chris Harrison reported that there had been a burglary at Dibden Allotments Fund and food vouchers and petty cash were stolen. The cost of the damage is £26,000 and the window will not be fixed until January 2018.

96/17 **PUBLIC FORUM**

Mr Allan Fairhead, local resident, asked to speak regarding item 16, Helping Hands Open Space Champion. He commented that the proposal had moved away from his original idea. He wanted to aim the award at unsung people and was concerned they wouldn't be eligible for nomination for the award unless they underwent the two hour training course. However, he will accept the decision of the Councillors

97/17 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDERS 25 AND 26

Cllr. James Binns asked the Chairman is she was aware that John Towndrow, former Chairman of the Council, had passed away. The Chairman acknowledged that she was aware.

Cllr. Alex Wade asked Cllr. James Binns if the damaged pool at Applemore Centre was the one that was refurbished six years ago. Cllr. James Binns confirmed that it was.

Cllr. Malcolm Wade asked Cllr. James Binns about the NFDC cuts. Cllr. James Binns replied that it's £1.4 million over the next four years.

Cllr. Alex Wade asked Cllr. James Binns whether the local schools were accommodated during the closure of Applemore swimming pool. Cllr. James Binns confirmed that they were.

Cllr. Alex Wade asked Cllr. Malcolm Wade for an update on the specialist on fly tipping. Cllr. Malcolm Wade responded that he didn't know if they had been appointed yet but he would find out.

Cllr. Eric Davey asked Cllr. Malcolm Wade for feedback on the Roads Department Quality Control. Cllr. Malcolm Wade replied that there was a new contractor and they were looking at doing their own quality control.

Cllr. Eric Davey asked the Chairman if there was an update about Caper's Restaurant. He noted that the weeds there were shoulder high and wondered if the owners could be asked to clear them. The Chairman replied that there have only been rumours about what is happening. Cllr. Graham Parkes suggested that the District Council could approach the Agent with a nuisance order regarding the weeds. Cllr. James Binns agreed to make NFDC aware that the issue persists.

98/17 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 9th August 2017 and 13th September 2017.

RESOLVED that

The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 9th August 2017 and 13th September 2017 be agreed.

99/17 PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 7th September 2017.

RESOLVED that

The Minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 7th September 2017 be agreed

100/17 EXTERNAL BODIES

RESOLVED that

- a) The NPA South East Quadrant meeting will be adopted as an external body. Cllr. Chris Harrison was appointed as the representative.
- b) The Council will not join the New Forest Association at this time.

101/17 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WORKING GROUP

Members received the notes of the Working Group meeting held on 28th July 2017. Members supported the ideas proposed and agreed to the provision of bunting and a Memory Tree.

The Chairman reported that she will buy a Christmas tree with the Chairman's allowance and it will be located in the Library.

102/17 CONCLUSION OF AUDIT

RESOLVED that

The External Auditor certificate and report 2016/2017 be approved and accepted.

103/17 HELPING HANDS OPEN SPACE CHAMPION

The report of the Clerk to the Council was considered and

RESOLVED that

A meeting of the Awards Group be called to include Mr Fairhead in order to discuss alternative options for the award of the donated cup.

104/17 HEATHERSTONE AVENUE GREEN

Cllr. Mike Short presented on his concerns that the Heatherstone Avenue Green forms an important green space in the community and that it could be at risk of development.

RESOLVED that

The protection of Heatherstone Avenue Green be referred to the Neighbourhood Planning Group.

105/17 COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES

The report of the Clerk to the Council was considered and

RESOLVED that

- a) Members did not wish to receive allowances.
- b) Travel expenses for Councillors undertaking Council work to be reimbursed at the levels set by HMRC.

106/17 **NO CYCLING SIGNS IN THE HIGH STREET**

The report of the Clerk to the Council was considered and

RESOLVED that

The words 'No Cycling' be placed beneath the highways cycling prohibited sign for 6 months as part of an education phase, before moving on to an enforcement stage.

107/17 **NALC BROADBAND CONSULTATION**

The report of the Clerk to the Council was considered

RESOLVED that

The proposed response to the consultation be sent.

108/17 **FINANCE 2017 – 2018**

Consideration was given to the bank reconciliations for July and August 2017 and the Schedule of Payments for the period 1st July to 31st August 2017

RESOLVED that

- a) The bank reconciliation for July and August 2017 be noted.
- b) the accounts for payment as detailed totalling £89,717.58 (gross) be agreed and paid

109/17 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED that

The press and public be excluded from the Council Meeting for the following items of business on the grounds they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972.

110/17 **CLAYFIELDS**

Consideration was given to the recommendations submitted by the Deputy Clerk to the Council.

RESOLVED that

The recommendations are agreed

111/17 **SPECIAL EVENTS**

Consideration was given to the recommendations submitted by the Clerk to the Council.

RESOLVED that

The recommendations are agreed.

112/17 **VALLEYDENE**

A presentation was given by the Clerk to the Council covering land ownership, boundaries and fencing.

RESOLVED that

The Maintenance Team to assist residents, where requested, to remove the fencing from the leased land boundaries.

113/17 **OPEN SPACE**

The Clerk to the Council gave an update to Members regarding the victim reports and the actions agreed by the Open Spaces Working Party.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

Chairman

Date

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