

Minutes of the Meeting of Hythe and Dibden Parish Council

Held at The Parish Hall, West Street, Hythe
on Wednesday 25th April at 7.00 pm

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

Councillors:

p P Armstrong
p M Clark
a 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

p Cllr B Andrews (NFDC)
p Cllr K Crisell (NFDC)
a 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)

5 Members of the Public

284/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations of interest made and no requests for dispensation received.

285/17 MINUTES

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28th March 2018.

RESOLVED that

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28th March 2018 be agreed.

286/17 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman thanked the maintenance team and officers for the hours they have put in at Valleydene and said they had worked beyond the call of duty. The Chairman said that this Parish should be very proud of the staff. Members gave a round of applause.

The maintenance team have been working hard at St Anne's Neighbourhood Centre, including painting and renovating it ready to hand over to the Church. They have also been very busy with their seasonal tasks. The Chairman expressed her thanks and appreciation to the maintenance team.

The Chairman thanked Claire Donnelly, the Administration Assistant, for preparing and organising the Hythe and Dibden Awards presentations.

There was a tribute to Cllr Bob Wappet, Chairman of Fawley Parish Council and a member of New Forest District Council, whose funeral was held on 24th April. The Chairman said he was a well liked man who worked very hard and cared about the community.

The Chairman thanked the members of the public who had put their names forward to help restart the skate park in Jones Lane. She attended a community meeting and reported back to the Play Equipment and Open Space Working Party. A further meeting is planned.

Hythe will take part in the national Battle's Over tribute on 11th November 2018 to commemorate 100 years since the end of World War I. The Parish Council, the local churches and the marina are working together to organise the event, and there are plans for bell ringing and lighting beacons.

The Chairman read out a letter that she has sent to Chief Constable Olivia Pinkney in response to the letter that stated Hampshire Constabulary were not currently recruiting PCSOs, even if funded by the Parish. The Chairman wrote that this was not the answer the Council and community were expecting and the Chief Constable's response did not recognise the hard work and commitment that had been put into what could be an incredibly valuable piece of partnership working. The Chairman wrote that she would welcome a discussion with the Chief Constable on how this proposed partnership arrangement could be put in place in the immediate future whilst complying with their administrative processes. A copy of the letter was also sent to MP Julian Lewis and he was asked to raise the benefits of this partnership work with the Home Secretary. Julian Lewis had replied to the Chairman to say that he would be happy to take up the concerns with Home Office ministers but would first await a response from Chief Constable Pinkney.

287/17 CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UPDATE

PCSO Vicki Pressey presented the following report from the Police:

- Crime is at an all time low.

- The Police have been working with the Forestry Commission and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service regarding the recent forest fires. The Police will proactively patrol the areas, working alongside the Fire Service.
- Every 12 months residents are asked for their top three concerns in their neighbourhood via a survey on Survey Monkey. This year the police have identified that the main community priorities are: criminal damage, vehicle crime and non-dwelling burglaries.

288/17 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Malcolm Wade stated that Hampshire County Council committed to support Hythe Ferry last year and he is pleased to report that they have extended the subsidy to this year.

Cllr Malcolm Wade read out the following report regarding council tax bills:

*Social Care Precept shown on Council Tax bills (The amounts are for a Band D property): Amount Hampshire County Council - £1,113.86
Hampshire County Council Adult Social Care* £87.10 3% Change*

This presentation is required by legislation (The Council Tax (Demand Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2017) and is being used throughout England. The legislation prescribes that the County Council's council tax must be split up into these two lines, how the percentage changes are shown and the text which calls it a precept.

Most of the queries councils receive come from residents who have compared this year's council tax bill with last year's and think that the adult social care line has increased by a large percentage. This is due to the presentation on bills not reflecting how council tax is actually calculated. Council tax is calculated using total council tax (i.e. the main county council line plus the adult social care line). The example below sets out how 2018/19 council tax is calculated for a Band D property.

Hampshire County Council's total 2017/18 council tax = £1,133.10
 Plus: Increase for all county council services = £33.88 (£1,133.10 X 2.99%)
 Plus: Increase specifically for adult social care = £33.98 (£1,133.10 X 3%)
 Equals: Hampshire County Council's total 2018/19 council tax = £1,200.96
 (total increase of 5.99% compared to 2017/18)
 - A cumulative £87.10 of the £1,200.96 is being used to help fund adult social care pressures and is split out and shown separately on the bill. This shows the amounts of the council tax increases from 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 which are being used to help fund adult social care pressures (in addition to this, much other council tax is also used to fund adult social care).

The confusion could be entirely avoided if councils were allowed to just show their total council tax on bills, but the legislation unfortunately does not permit this. The legislation is the responsibility of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Cllr Malcolm Wade along with chief finance officers from many other councils, have raised this issue

with them, but there is no indication at present that the legislation will be changed.

REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Kate Crisell reported on the drainage issues at the Forest Lodge Farm development. Cllr Crisell also reported that due to the insurance company, there has been a delay in rebuilding the eight flats that burnt down. Residents have been upset by the works on Fawley Road. This is due to be cleared by 8th May. There are further roadworks planned on Fawley Road, although this has nothing to do with the Forest Lodge Farm development. Cllr Crisell praised the site manager for being helpful and supportive to residents.

Cllr Bill Andrews read out some responses he had to questions he asked NFDC senior management on the Parish Council's behalf:

Lidl expect to deal with the final pre commencement planning conditions over the next few weeks, following which they expect to commence works on site. The hoardings works have just commenced and should take about a week. Lidl have advised NFDC that they have just taken occupation of the former PCB owned part of the site.

Lidl say they did consider some kind of temporary car park pending development, but the complexity of making those arrangements in terms of signage, traffic management, lighting, risk of trespass etc. and the relatively short period between completing the purchase and starting work meant it was not possible in the end.

NFDC are currently, on a daily basis, monitoring the car park usage in Hythe. They are also set to appoint a consultant Road Engineer to design a scheme that will look at the feasibility of putting more car parking spaces in New Street Car Park adjacent to the railway if it's needed. They have had a productive meeting with the engineer.

Cllr Andrews also reported that he had a very successful meeting this week with local and senior central management of the Golf Centre, resolving several issues and that will result in greatly increased cooperation for more effective management and operation of the Centre. The NFDC Standing Group has encouraged the Golf Centre management to contact and work with this Parish to focus and enhance the Centre's offerings of community benefit activities and for more effective dissemination of their availability.

Cllr Peter Armstrong reported that he has given further help and advice to a number of charities. He also attended a Community Grants Task and Finish Group.

Cllr Armstrong was invited to attend a reception at Westminster by Keep Britain Tidy and made contact with a number of 'Litter Heroes' and businesses.

Cllr Armstrong has received a number of enquiries regarding the St John's Street Car park. He can confirm that it is now owned by Lidl and enquiries regarding the car park should go to Lidl. He reported that Lidl did put in a

plan to try and get help for the Waterside Cancer Centre by providing bays for drop off, but this was turned down by Hampshire County Council. The District Council does not have other land in the close vicinity of the Grove but they did check. Regarding further car parking spaces in Hythe he has again approached the Portfolio Holder Cllr Edward Heron. Cllr Armstrong suggests that a respectful letter be sent on behalf of all Hythe and Dibden councillors to ask that options for more short term and extra spaces is a high priority for the District Council and highlight potential loss of trade to local businesses and the market.

Cllr James Binns reported that on 25th April the Duke of Gloucester opened the Eling Tide Mill Experience. Much of the work was funded by a £1.7million Heritage Lottery Fund grant.

The Recreation Management Strategy of the New Forest National Park Authority has gone up from the steering group to the National Park Authority, before going out to wider public consultation. Cllr Binns urges the Council to put in a formal response when appropriate, as the plans are quite controversial and will impact all residents.

On behalf of the Parish Council, Cllr Binns attended a wreath laying ceremony on 25th April, organised by the Friends of HMS Conway Group, to honour Commander Edward Unwin, a First World War hero from Hythe who was awarded the Victoria Cross.

Cllr Dan Poole reported that as part of the Homelessness Task and Finish Group, he attended a tour of the shelters and bed and breakfasts in the district. He reported that the sites he visited in the Waterside, at Marchwood, Hythe and Holbury, were of a very good standard. The findings of all the areas in the district will be reported back shortly.

Cllr Alex Wade had nothing to report.

289/17 **REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr Eric Davey had previously submitted a written report. The Chairman expressed her thanks and congratulations to Cllr Davey for the thorough and interesting report.

Cllr Chris Harrison reported that as the South East Quadrant representative for the National Park Authority, he has been unable to attend their meetings as they fall on the same dates at the Parish Council meetings. With regard to the recreation strategy, he suggested that he attends a different area's meeting or will ask a representative to attend a Parish Council meeting to talk to members instead.

Cllr James Binns thanked officers for their support with the Butts Ash Community Association. He stated that BACA has surrendered its lease and that the Church will be taking over the operations associated with the building from 4th May 2018. BACA will continue to operate the booking system as a gesture of goodwill. BACA would like to continue to use the hall as a base for their community events. They are in the process of drafting a memorandum of understanding with the Church and Cllr Binns is pleased to

report that they have a good working relationship with Rev Jo Elvidge. Cllr Binns has agreed with Rev Elvidge that BACA will replace the kitchen in the centre.

Cllr Dan Poole stated that he attended General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) training for the Handy Trust and will report back to them at the next meeting.

Cllr Mark Clark reported that the Hythe Sea Scouts had raised £60,280. Work will commence next week. The number of children attending has increased and Hythe Sea Scouts attended the St George's Day Parade at Beaulieu.

290/17 **PUBLIC FORUM**

Local resident, Brian Uglow, raised some issues regarding speeding along New Road, Shore Road and Beaulieu Road. He also expressed his concern about overgrowing hedges, dilapidated fences and the poor conditions of the pavements. Cllr Malcolm Wade responded that any member of the public can report issues on the Hampshire County Council website. Alternatively, please email him and he will do it on your behalf. Cllr Malcolm Wade also advised that 20 mph limits are under extended review by HCC but they will only put in limits where they think traffic will go slowly.

291/17 **QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDERS 25 AND 26**

Cllr Chris Harrison asked the Chairman if she was aware that the police had contacted the council regarding the suspension of Norman Bareham. Cllr Chris Harrison then read out an excerpt from minute number 99/16 from the Full Council meeting held on 24th August 2016: "With regard to the situation relating to ACSO Bareham the Chairman stated that due process was followed, the decision on suspension was made by the Clerk of the Council in consultation with the Council's legal advisor and then in consultation with the Council Chairman and the then Chairman of the Personnel Committee Cllr. Malcolm Wade who felt that suspension was appropriate." Cllr Harrison stated that Cllr Malcolm Wade had not challenged these minutes. Cllr Malcolm Wade responded that this was not his recollection.

Cllr Alex Wade asked the Chairman if the Council would be happy to follow Cllr Armstrong's suggestion to write a letter to the District Council regarding the parking situation. The Chairman asked members and everyone was in agreement.

292/17 **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 11th April 2018.

RESOLVED that

The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 11th April 2018 be agreed.

293/17 **PLAY EQUIPMENT AND OPEN SPACES WORKING GROUP**

Members received the notes of the Open Spaces and Play Equipment Working Group meeting held on 9th April 2018.

294/17 **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WORKING GROUP**

Members received the notes of the Christmas Lights Working Group meeting held on 18th April 2018. Consideration was given to the recommendations of the Working Party.

RESOLVED that

- a) The Council agree to Waterside Tours providing a bus and driver to assist the community to attend the Mistletoe Fayre. Funds towards the cost of the service would be provided by Cllr James Binns from his NFDC grant allowance.
- b) The Council continues with the provision of solar powered lighting decorations for the same lamp columns in the Village Centre and Dibden Purlieu that were decorated last year. The cost is to be met from the existing Christmas lighting budget.
- c) The Council provide bunting so that bunting can be provided from Pylewell Road up to the former NatWest Bank site. The cost is to be met from the existing Christmas lighting budget.
- d) The Council provide a Christmas tree, suitably decorated in the Marsh. The cost is to be met from the existing Christmas lighting budget.

295/17 **ANNUAL REVIEW OF BUSINESS RISKS AND INSURANCE**

Members gave consideration to the business risks and insurance plan. The Clerk made a recommendation that in future the annual review of business risks and insurance will take place in July, when the insurance policy is due for renewal.

RESOLVED THAT

- a) The business risks and insurance plan is agreed.
- b) From now on the annual review will take place in July.

296/17 **ANNUAL REPORT**

Consideration was given to the Annual Report of the Council 2017 – 2018. The clerk highlighted an error on page 47 of the agenda. The total for Land and Buildings should read £2,738,160.00 and therefore the Total Fixed Assets should read £3,668,189.94. The annual report will be amended and the correct figures will be put on the website.

RESOLVED THAT

- a) The Annual Report of the Council 2017 – 2018 is noted.
- b) The Community Infrastructure Levy report be agreed
- c) The Investment Report be agreed

297/17 **COUNCIL CHAMBER**

The Deputy Clerk reported to the Council that a consultant will be looking at the Council Chamber on Friday 27th April. A report will be prepared and presented at the next full council meeting in May. Members considered the draft terms of reference for a Task and Finish group to make recommendations on the refurbishment of the Council Chamber. Members were also invited to volunteer for the Task and Finish Group

RESOLVED THAT

- a) The draft terms of reference for the Council Chamber Task and Finish group be agreed.
- b) As most members of the Council volunteered to be on the Task and Finish Group, it was decided that there were too many form a group. All members will be invited when the meeting is convened at The Grove.

298/17 **FINANCE 2017 – 2018**

Consideration was given to the bank reconciliations for March 2018 and the Schedule of Payments for the period 1st March 2018 to 31st March 2018.

RESOLVED that

- a) The bank reconciliation for March 2018 be noted.
- b) The accounts for payment as detailed totalling £89,462.40 be agreed and paid.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Chairman

Date

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