

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 Monday 19 June 2006 at 8 pm

Members: *Mrs B Smith (Chairman) – in the Chair

*Mr J Bennett	*Mr R Podesta
*Mr G Dawson	*Mrs M J Robinson
*Mr R Guy	*Mr M Short
*Mr C Harrison	*Mr D Smith
oMrs M McLean	*Mr M S Wade
*Mr G Parkes	*Mr S S Wade

* Indicates attendance
o Indicates apologies for absence

In attendance: Mr B Dash – Hampshire County Councillor
Mr L Dunsdon - Hampshire County Councillor
Mr D J Shimpe (Clerk to the Council)
Ms S A Maitland (Deputy Clerk to the Council)
Mrs C Patterson (Minute Clerk)

Also present: 8 Members of the Public

100/06 **Declarations of Interest**

Mr Guy, Mrs Smith and Mr S Wade declared an interest in Min 108/06 (re. Minute 62/06 (b)) as they are allotment holders.

101/06 **Minutes**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 8 May 2006.

(a) Minute 8/06

It was agreed to amend the final sentence of paragraph 3 to read "New Forest District Council had been urged to support its continuation as an employment area".

(b) Public Forum – RAF Hythe

It was agreed that, whilst Members agreed that the building should be listed, they did not take the view that listing should be sought.

(c) General

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Council held on 8 May 2006 be signed by the Chairman as correct.

102/06 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman advised the meeting of her pride and honour at the opening of the Ewart Recreation Ground Play Area on Friday 16 June 2006 and also of how delightful it was to see all the children who had helped in the design there too.

Members were advised of a letter received from the Jones Lane and Dibden Lodge Residents Association thanking the Parish Council for the Grant Aid which had been given over the years for the benefit of the Royal Navy Commando Reunion. Due to advancing years it has been decided that this year will have been the last reunion in its original format but previous assistance has been much appreciated.

103/06 Reports of the County Councillors on County Council matters concerning the Parish

There is to be a review of maternity provision in the New Forest. There are a number of options to explore, but great concern that a loss of beds at Hythe Hospital will have a knock on effect on other services.

As a result of consultation on the St John's St Car Park area there are likely to be some changes to the plan such as the retention of the entrance at St John's Street and a pedestrian walkway from the Waitrose end of St John's Street to just past The Grove.

An Accident Incident Diagram has been passed to the Clerk showing minor, serious and fatal road accidents in the area which shows that as many fatal road accidents occur away from the A326 as occur on it.

The "SID" will be placed in various locations around the Parish in future weeks.

Heatherstone Avenue has had some new turf laid in a bid to reinstate the area after gas work.

Some bus routes in the area have changed including one which no longer goes through Jones Lane but goes through New Road to Langdown Lawn. As there is no bus stop on the return it is suggested that one with a seat is needed near the Church on Southampton Road.

Funding has been allocated to 6 new 999 life courses at Hardley Fire Station. These courses have had a big success rate among youth with behavioural problems.

Mr Dunsdon has been appointed Chair of the Forest First Children's Centre which has recently opened. It has been very busy and successful with things such as Youth Drop in, Job Centre Plus, Housing Advice, Health Visitor Clinic, CAB advice and Nursery and Baby Group etc all taking place.

104/06 Reports of District Councillors on District Council matters concerning the Parish

Planning Permission has been given for the building of flats on the site of the Arena on Southampton Road under Officer delegation as no formal objections were made. The serious concerns this Council had over the traffic junction have not been taken into account by the County Council's Highway Authority. Access to the site is along the old Southampton Road which has no pedestrian footway and no yellow lines which means that if cars park along one side of the road it will cause gridlock and also be dangerous for pedestrians.

Mr Dash agreed to pursue the installation of a footpath and yellow lines with the County Council.

There is a new internal audit committee for the District Council's Standards Committee. The Monitoring Officer has justified the need to form a panel to sit in judgement of a councillor from another council.

Further to the Crime and Disorder Panel's scrutiny of the effectiveness of CCTV and ACSOs, the Council Leader has arranged for more ACSOs to be appointed, although no Service Level Agreement has been ordered.

The "Fear of Crime" sub group has sent out a survey to ascertain in which areas Fear of Crime is more prevalent. It appears that this is in urban areas such as this one and ideas are being sought on how to address this.

A review of the South East Plan in the Cabinet Meeting revealed that the number of houses which must be built in the area in the next 20 years is lower than expected at 207 per year of which 20-30% should be affordable. However, it is estimated that 200 new affordable homes are needed in the area per year.

A range of employment sites are needed to ensure economic prosperity but emphasis is to be put on those which are close to public transport links and the proposed workforce's homes. There will also be a priority put on re-using existing areas. The Cabinet Meeting were asked to note the case of the RAF Base in Hythe in this respect.

The Local Government Review has gone out for consultation. Some say it works well as it is and others feel a radical shake up is needed. A local Government Association leaflet was passed to the Clerk for reference.

Trafalgar House is due to be demolished within the next month.

Mrs Robinson recently attended a Waterside Heritage Presentation evening and passed on her congratulations to Mr Parkes and his colleagues.

The Leisure Review Panel Grant Aid fund has been reduced in recent years from £120,000 to £40,000 and questions have been asked over whether it is still necessary in the days of National Lottery funding.

The Project Integra Scrutiny Panel Strategy Group wish to collect ideas and comments from the grass roots level upwards. It is hoped to invite a representative to a meeting of the General Purposes and Finance Committee.

105/06 **Reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies**

Transport Liaison Group

There are a few problems with the new bus services such as one bus is leaving as another arrives which means that passengers are unable to transfer if necessary. This will be investigated further.

Studies are taking place into public transport links to the new Lymington Hospital which is due to open soon. It is hoped that bus links will be improved and a possible rail link is also being investigated.

Twinning Association

The recent visit of 30 people to Mauves sur Loire went well. The continued involvement of the Parish Council is welcomed.

106/06 **Questions to District and County Councillors and Representatives on Outside Bodies arising from their reports**

Mr Dawson stated that lottery funding was not intended to replace local authority funding and asked Mr Wade to ascertain how much funding the District Council has cut as a result of lottery funding.

Mr Wade apologised for misleading members and advised that he was referring to Partnership Funding which involves larger organisations.

107/06 **Questions under Standing Orders 25 and 26**

There were no questions under standing orders 25 and 26.

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At this point the Meeting adjourned to allow a Public Forum to be held.

Ewart Recreation Ground Play Area

Mrs Hunter asked who is responsible for Health and Safety in the new Play Area and what the implications of injury to a child whilst playing there would be.

The Clerk responded that this Council is fully compliant with Health and Safety Regulations and carries out daily inspections and regular risk assessments on all play areas. It is also fully covered by insurance.

Mrs Hunter complained of excessive noise from the Play Area after it opened at the weekend, particularly from older girls shrieking, and asked what measures the Council would be taking to combat this. Other problems such as a dog and motorbike in the play area were also mentioned.

The Clerk responded that the Hythe and Dibden Community Safety Team begin work on 26 June 2006 and, together with the ACSOs, they would carry out regular inspections of the area as necessary and directed by this Council. The Hythe and Dibden Community Safety Team will be easily identifiable and can be contacted direct by members of the public. If necessary, they will also have the power to enforce byelaws to enable the smooth running of the facility. The noise incident referred to was dealt with by the Handy Trust Youth Worker who will also be involved.

The Clerk also asked residents to contact the Parish Council with relevant information such as the timing of problems so that the Community Safety Team can be deployed efficiently but suggested that serious incidents such as riding a motorbike in the play area should be reported directly to the Police.

Mrs Hunter asked why the Play Area had been constructed in a different part of the Recreation Ground to the one marked on an early plan. It was explained that this had been done as a result of consultation with the Steering Group and the Working Party and had been notified on the planning application lodged with the District Council.

Advertising on van parked on verge of A326

Mr Vickers asked what progress had been made with removing the van parked on the verge of the A326 and occasionally on Southampton Road advertising a local garage.

Mr Dash advised the meeting that the Police have written to the garage concerned, the District Council do not appear to have the powers to act and the County Council's Highways Department are consulting with their Legal Department to see what action can be taken.

Ports Policy Review

Mr Vickers asked whether Members were aware that the Government has initiated a Ports Policy Review.

A consultation document has been sent to trade associations trading around ports. The Company which put the document together has used erroneous information and makes claims that England will run out of container capacity in 2015 when it is known that this will not be until at least 2030.

Mr Vickers stated that information such as this needs to be challenged and requested a joint initiative from the District and County Councils to do this.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would obtain a copy of the document so that it could make a formal response.

The Promenade

The Chairman read a letter from a member of the public congratulating the Council on the refurbishment of The Promenade which will be a great asset to the area.

A request was made for a dog waste bin and that privately owned land in the vicinity be kept tidy and recycling bins emptied frequently so that they are not allowed to overflow.

It was agreed that these matters would be dealt with in a review of the Promenade usage.

Mr Uglow asked who is responsible for the maintenance of the gardens and litter collection. He was informed that the Parish Council maintain the gardens and the District Council are responsible for litter, although the situation is currently being monitored.

Mr Uglow also enquired as to who is responsible for the foreshore as access has been requested so that litter can be removed from there.

It was agreed to investigate the matter.

Mr Dash asked that former councillor Keith Estlin be invited to the official opening of the Promenade as he did so much to ensure the retention of the project.

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The Council Meeting then resumed.

108/06 **Reports of Committees**

(a) Planning Committee – 8 May 2006

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 8 May 2006.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 8 May 2006 be received and adopted.

(b) Amenities Committee – 8 May 2006

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 8 May 2006.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 8 May 2006 be received and adopted.

(c) General Purposes and Finance Committee – 8 May 2006

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the General Purposes and Finance Committee held on 8 May 2006.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the General Purposes and Finance Committee held on 8 May 2006 be received and adopted.

(d) Planning Committee – 8 May 2006

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 8 May 2006.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 8 May 2006 be received and adopted.

(e) Accommodation Committee – 8 May 2006

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Accommodation Committee held on 8 May 2006.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Accommodation Committee held on 8 May 2006 be received and adopted.

(f) Planning Committee – 17 May 2006

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 17 May 2006.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 17 May 2006 be received and adopted.

(g) Planning Committee – 5 June 2006

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 5 June 2006.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 5 June 2006 be received and adopted.

(h) Amenities Committee – 5 June 2006

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 5 June 2006.

1. Minute 62/06

It was suggested that this item be referred back to the Amenities Committee as there may be other measures which can be taken in the event of a hosepipe ban.

(Mr Guy, Mrs Smith and Mr S Wade declared an interest in this item and left the meeting during consideration thereof. Mr Podesta took the Chair.)

2. General

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 5 June 2006 be received and adopted.

(i) Planning Committee – 12 June 2006

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 12 June 2006.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 12 June 2006 be received and adopted.

(j) General Purposes and Finance Committee – 12 June 2006

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the General Purposes and Finance Committee held on 12 June 2006.

1. Minute 80/06

It was agreed to continue to investigate improvements to arrangements in the Council Chamber to enable everyone to hear the proceedings clearly.

2. General

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the General Purposes and Finance Committee held on 12 June 2006 be received and adopted.

109/06 **Accounts for Payment**

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

RESOLVED

That accounts as detailed in Vouchers 2260 - 2285 inclusive, totalling £55,134.09, be approved and paid.

The Meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Chairman

Date

Mncou99

