

## Minutes of the Meeting of Hythe and Dibden Parish Council

Held at The Council Chamber, The Grove, 25 St. John's St, Hythe, SO45 6BZ  
on Wednesday, 26th February, 2020 at 7.00 pm

Cllr M Wade (Chairman)

### Councillors

Cllr S Cullen  
Cllr S Delemare  
Cllr P Dowd  
Cllr A Fairhead  
Cllr M Kitcher

### Councillors

Cllr S Lodge  
Cllr D Marshland  
Cllr S Osborne  
Cllr M Roberts  
Cllr A Wade

**Apologies:** Cllr R Clark and Cllr M Clark

### Officers in Attendance

Tracy Predeth, Locum Clerk  
Sean Spencer, Deputy Clerk  
Claire Donnelly, Minute Clerk

32 Members of the Public

### 304/19 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

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

### 305/19 **COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE**

Inspector Andrews gave an update on crime in the area. She said that there had been a spate of business burglaries and reported that the suspects are now in prison for other offences. Inspector Andrews stated that a number of factors determine whether police attend after a crime is reported and gave assurances that enquiries are often made further afield in order to obtain evidence.

The Council suspended Standing Orders to allow a member of the public to address the Inspector.

A representative from the Waterside Neighbourhood Alert Facebook group announced that approximately 250 separate letters had been sent by residents to Julian Lewis MP regarding concerns about the increase in crime in the area. It is hoped that this will result in a positive response from the MP to improve the policing situation in the area. Inspector Andrews responded that Hampshire Constabulary will be recruiting more PCs but it will take time. She reiterated the importance of reporting all incidents of crime.

Standing Orders were then reinstated.

PCSO Lewis Rutter and PCSO Charlie Hampton gave an update on their recent activities, including dealing with anti-social behaviour and covering 30 miles on foot patrol over three days.

306/19

**MINUTES**

RESOLVED that

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020 be agreed and were signed by the Chairman.

307/19

**CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman welcomed the Locum Clerk, Tracy Predeth.

The Chairman read out a letter that was sent to NFDC from Marchwood Parish Council regarding their resolution to support, in principle, the restoration of a passenger railway serving the Waterside.

The Chairman announced that Councillors will be conducting an audit of the signposts in their wards.

Standing Orders were suspended.

RESOLVED that

Agenda item 14 be moved to Agenda Item 6.

308/19

**THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY RAILWAY**

The Chairman announced that there would be representations from a local resident, Cllr Sue Bennison and a presentation from Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership.

A local resident gave an overview of his counter-arguments to the restoration of a passenger rail service, which had previously been circulated to Councillors. He stated that he did not believe that Hythe and Dibden Parish Council should support this project.

Cllr Sue Bennison, NFDC Councillor for Marchwood, read out a report that she sent to Cllr Sean Woodward, HCC, in 2014 highlighting her concerns about the impact of re-introducing of a passenger rail service in the Waterside. It was noted that Hampshire County Council and Network Rail did not progress the project at that time. Cllr Bennison also reported that a motion about the railway has been put forward to NFDC's Environment and Scrutiny Panel which is due to be considered in March 2020.

Nick Farthing from Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership gave a presentation on 'Bringing Passenger Trains back to The Waterside'.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

RESOLVED that

The Council supports, in principle, the Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership project.

309/19

### **REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT MEMBERS**

Cllr M Wade (HCC) attended the County Council's annual budget setting meeting on 13th February. It was noted that £80 million savings will need to be made over two years. Cllr M Wade was pleased to confirm that Hythe Library is not on the list for closure but it was noted that the Library Consultation gives a stark choice of either shutting all libraries for 25% of their current opening times or to close 10 libraries and 4 community libraries and shut the rest for 15% of the time.

Cllr Osborne (NFDC) gave an update on the NFDC Environment Overview and Scrutiny panel. She has attended the Tree Strategy Task and Finish group where they are working with officers to produce relevant policies. Cllr Osborne supports the request for more staff to cope with impending outbreaks of serious diseases in trees.

Cllr Dowd (NFDC) attended the Waste Strategy working group meeting where they received a presentation from an Environment and Infrastructure consultant. Cllr Dowd reported that over 4000 residents have completed the online Waste Survey and he urged Councillors to encourage all residents to take part in the survey.

Cllr A Wade (NFDC) reported that the NFDC's budget was voted through and the council tax level for 2020/21 was set at £1,836.35. This is an average figure based on a band 'D' property and is an increase of £71.03 (4.02%) over the equivalent figure for 2019/20. The NFDC contribution to council tax is a 2.8% year on year increase at £178.36. The net budget requirement will be £19,194,110 and there will be a general fund capital programme of £9.894 million.

Cllr A Wade reported that NFDC has voted on its warding patterns proposals to be sent to the Boundary Commission. He also gave an update on the Leisure Centre Review and reported that the Portfolio Holder has announced that any new agreement would start from January 2021 and there would be a 12 month period for clubs to keep their existing bookings at the leisure centres.

Cllr Delemare (NFDC) had nothing to report.

Cllr M Wade (NFDC) gave an update on the NFDC Council meeting where the budget was agreed. It was reported that the council tax for an average band D property will rise by 4.02% or £71 for the year across all the authorities and the NFDC portion is £5 (a 2.88% increase). Cllr M Wade also attended the Waste Strategy Working Party with Cllr Dowd and reported that he can foresee a dramatic change in how NFDC collects its waste in the future.

310/19 **REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

There were no reports.

311/19 **PUBLIC FORUM**

The following comments/questions were received from the public:

- A local resident said that he endorsed the decision by the Council to support the Railway project.
- A local resident referred to agenda item 10 (Climate Emergency Committee) and requested that the costs relating to the Council's renewal of their energy supply be made available to the public. He also highlighted that Robin Hood Energy had nearly lost its licence to operate in October 2019. The Chairman responded that the renewal prices will be a cost saving for the Council.

312/19 **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED that

The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020 be agreed.

313/19 **CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Climate Emergency Committee meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

RESOLVED that

- a) The Minutes of the Climate Emergency Committee meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020 be agreed.
- b) The Council contracts Robin Hood Energy to provide the 100% green option electricity supply to the Council buildings for a period of 24 months.
- c) The Council contracts Crown Gas and Power to provide the 25% renewable gas supply to the Council buildings for a period of 12 months.

- d) Delegated powers be given to the Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor to sign off the best price, as energy prices are subject to change.

314/19

**COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP**

The notes of the Communications Working Group meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019 were received. Consideration was given to the recommendations of the working group.

RESOLVED that

- a) The Council to go ahead with the Community Spirit Award and the Environmental Champion Award this year at the Annual Meeting of the Council but to revamp the Awards next year.
- b) A Survey Monkey survey be created based on the Boldre Parish Survey to include questions about the H1 service.
- c) The Council will await the outcome of New Forest District Council review of their Firework Policy and then this item will be referred back to the Communications Working Group.
- d) The 'Helen Hythe' Facebook page is left as it is.
- e) The main source of communication be the website and 'Hythe Peer'.
- f) Any communications instructions need to be sent by email to the Parish Development Officer by the Chairman of the Communications Group.

315/19

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP**

The notes of the Economic Development Working Group meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020 were received.

316/19

**NEW ACSO WORKING GROUP - NOTES TO FOLLOW**

The Locum Clerk gave an update and the notes of the ACSO Working Group were received.

RESOLVED that

- a) The Council to appoint 2 x ACSOs, with one being at supervisory level to report into the Clerk to the Council.
- b) The vacancy will be advertised for a 2 week period, or longer if necessary.

- c) The Interview Panel to consist of:  
The Locum Clerk  
The Chairman  
Cllr Dowd  
Cllr Kitcher  
Cllr Roberts (if available)  
Inspector A Johnson

317/19 **REMOVAL OF PUBLIC CALL BOXES**

Consideration was given to the consultation notice from British Telecom regarding its programme of intended public payphone removals. Councillors highlighted the importance of these payphones for the community.

RESOLVED that

- a) The Council opposes the proposed removal of the public payphones at:
- i. Fairview Drive, Hythe;
  - ii. Netley View/PCO Cedar Road;
  - iii. Outside Post Office North Road, Dibden Purlieu.
- b) The Deputy Clerk will send the Council's consultation response to NFDC.

318/19 **POLLING STATION AT WATERSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Consideration was given to the proposal from NFDC to relocate the polling station at Waterside School to The Grove. Councillors raised concerns that this would cause difficulties for people with mobility issues as they would have further to travel to vote. It was also highlighted that the school is the only polling station in the Hythe West and Langdown wards and it was agreed that residents should have a polling station within the ward.

RESOLVED that

The Council does not support the proposal to co-locate the Polling Station for the Langdown HK1 Polling District (currently Waterside Primary School) with the Polling Station for the Langdown HK2 Polling District at The Grove.

319/19 **REMEMBERING SREBRENICA**

Councillors considered a report from Cllr Delemare which recommended that the Council commemorates the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2020. The Chairman suggested that the Council also commemorates the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day in May 2020. It was suggested that a small group of councillors work together to organise ways to observe these anniversaries.

RESOLVED that

The Chairman, Cllr Delemare and Cllr Kitcher will meet to consider how the Council could commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day.

320/19 **FINANCE 2019-2020**

RESOLVED that

- a) The bank reconciliation report for January 2020 be noted.
- b) The accounts for payment as detailed totalling £67,211.17 (gross) be agreed and paid.

321/19 **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.

322/19 **LAND REGISTRY**

Councillors received an update from the Deputy Clerk.

323/19 **COUNCIL LAND**

The Chairman gave an update.

324/19 **STAFF MATTERS**

The Chairman gave the following update: "On the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2020 Stephanie Bennet left the employment of Hythe and Dibden Parish Council. Tracy Predeth is currently acting as Locum Clerk through this period as we seek a fulltime replacement for the Role of Clerk to the Council."

The Meeting closed at 9.15 pm

**Chairman**

**Date**