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, 28th November, 2018 at 7.00 pm

Mrs M McLean (Chairman)
Mr E Davey (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors
Mr P Armstrong
Mr J Binns
Mr C Harrison
Mr G Parkes

Councillors
Mr D Poole
Mr M Short
Mr A Wade
Mr M Wade

Apologies: Councillors Mr M Clark, Mrs J Fowler and Mr T Johnson
Cllr A McEvoy and Cllr B Thorne

In Attendance
Cllr B Andrews, New Forest District Council
Cllr K Crisell, New Forest District Council

Officers in Attendance
Stephanie Bennett, Clerk to the Council
Sean Spencer, Deputy Clerk
Claire Donnelly, Minute Clerk

3 members of the public

165/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Cllr. Peter Armstrong declared an interest in agenda item 12 as he is a board member of the New Forest Business Partnership. Cllr Malcolm Wade declared an interest in agenda item 12 as he a Trustee of the Handy Trust. Cllr Graham Parkes declared an interest in agenda item 12 as he is the Chairman of Waterside Heritage.

166/18 CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UPDATE

Inspector Helen Andrews introduced herself. She has been in the police for 26 years and has experience of working in various roles in the New Forest and was an Inspector for ten years at Southampton. She also lives in the New Forest area. She started her new role in October and is responsible for the teams in Totton, Hardley and Lyndhurst. She announced that the Police will be recruiting more PCSOs next year, although she was unable to comment on the potential recruitment of PCSOs in Hythe. Inspector Andrews explained that in the future
Neighbourhood Policing will have more PCs and fewer PCSOs. At present, the Waterside Neighbourhood Policing Team consists of a new Sergeant, two PCs and three PCSOs. They can get assistance from the 999 Response Team, and officers from other districts can be called in, if necessary. She said there was an operation coming up concerning unlawful drug supply and she will give an update about this at another meeting. Inspector Andrews said she would like to regularly attend Council meetings and the Chairman said that she would be most welcome.

167/18 MINUTES

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 24th October 2018.

RESOLVED that

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 24th October 2018 be agreed.

168/18 CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

Congratulations to all the team who worked on the Battle’s Over event. Especial thanks to Rev’d Jo Elvidge, who played a significant role in the evening. Also thanks to the Parish Council Officers, Sean, Marcus and Claire, and also the Maintenance Team for their roles in organising and running the event. Thanks to Kath Wade and Norman Fowler for lighting the beacons at The Grove and Hythe Marina. The Chairman has received lots of good feedback about how well the tribute went.

Much praise goes to Maggie Riddett and the team of Poppy Ladies who produced 14,5000 poppies and made a wonderful display around the village. Also, well done to the gentlemen who built the Silent Soldiers on Prospect Place. The Chairman commented that this is what our community is all about.

Peter King from Hythe Pier Heritage Association wishes to thank the councillors who attended his workshop; the notes are to follow.

The Chairman wrote a letter of thanks, on behalf of the Council, to Charles McGill MBE, the Fire Officer who recently retired after 30 years. Charles has written to the Chairman to thank her for the letter.

The Mistletoe Fayre is on Saturday 1st December. The Chairman invited everyone to attend and encourages everyone to shop locally for Christmas. Congratulations to Hythe Alive and the Christmas Lights, Tourism and Events Working Group for doing a great job organising the Christmas tree and decorations in Hythe, which look wonderful.
The drop in for residents of Valleydene to meet Hampshire County Council Officers and the consultant drainage engineers took place. The Chairman reported that Mr Cramp from Hampshire County Council praised the Parish Council in its efforts to find a solution to the issues at Valleydene and that the Parish Council had done everything right.

REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT MEMBERS

Cllr Malcolm Wade reported that, as part of the Corporate Parenting Board, he attended a meeting with HCC child care professionals, social workers and support workers. Government cuts are affecting Children’s Services deeply and have resulted in loss of social workers due to challenging working conditions, out of area placements of children in care and a total change of role, removing a support element for looked after children.

Cllr Malcolm Wade also attended the Children and Young People Select Committee. One of the agenda items was the two year review of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. This organisation assesses and treats young people with emotional, behavioural or mental health difficulties. It has an 11 week waiting time for an assessment and a further 29 week waiting time for treatment. The Committee recognises that this is unacceptable. They have tasked them to improve things and will review on a yearly basis.

Another issue of note is the possibility of Hampshire Fire and Rescue amalgamating with the Isle of Wight Fire Service.

Hampshire Highways continues to struggle under funding cuts. However, there have been two flooding and drainage projects in Butts Ash in the last twelve months and a new pavement for School Road has been completed. Cllr Malcolm Wade remarked that we are doing better as a Parish than many.

Cllr Dan Poole reported that at NFDC’s Cabinet meeting next Wednesday the work of the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Panel will be considered. This includes the new Housing Strategy, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and Housing Allocation Policy. Cllr Poole commended the Panel and said that a lot of effort has gone into the proposed policies and he will be glad to see them progress.

Cllr Kate Crisell endorsed Cllr Dan Poole’s report and said that she was very impressed with the work of the NFDC committees regarding housing and homelessness.

Cllr Bill Andrews reported that last week’s Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Panel discussed Super and Ultra Fast Broadband provision throughout the New Forest. Despite asking a couple of times, he has not heard any complaints about broadband provision from the residents of Hythe.
Cllr Andrews also attended the Totton and Waterside Forum. This group is looking at the infrastructure requirements for the largest development proposal for the area ever.

Cllr Andrews wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy 2019.

Cllr James Binns reminded everyone about the Mistletoe Fayre on Saturday 1st December. There will also be a free bus service operated by Waterside Tours. The Christmas tree for Dibden Purlieu is due to arrive on 29th November.

Cllr Binns gave an update about NFDC enforcement activity regarding Capers on Beaulieu Road. The owners have now removed the billboards and they are working towards improving the look of the building. There is another meeting planned with the owners and it is hoped that the archway and security fencing will be removed and that the building will be painted.

Cllr Binns stated that the Health and Wellbeing Board had been reconstituted and has been restructured into cluster areas. The key topics they will be looking at include Mental Health Services and Sexual Health Services. Cllr Binns will keep the Council up to date on the progress of the Board.

Cllr Binns informed the Council that Tina Harwood from NFDC had sadly passed away.

Cllr Peter Armstrong reported that he had recently been a member on a panel that considered grants made by NFDC. It was clear that many third sector organisations delivering community services to the residents in the New Forest are also delivering a beneficial outcome in tackling issues relating to mental health.

Cllr Alex Wade reported that there was a meeting on 20th November where the recommendations of the Health and Leisure Task and Finish group were considered regarding the most efficient and effective way of managing and delivering the Health and Leisure provision. Cllr Alex Wade said the preferred method is a partnership arrangement and the full report can be found on NFDC’s website.

Cllr Eric Davey previously submitted a written report.

Cllr Maureen Mclean reported that the Dibden Allotment Fund will be giving out hampers to those identified as in need between 11th – 18th December. The Foodbank will also be giving out hampers to people in need.
Local resident, Dave Twydell of Valleydene, asked the Council why it had not undertaken the work recently completed by Hampshire County Council in removing the blockages behind his home that was situated in the piped watercourse.

The Clerk responded and provided a full account of all of the work undertaken by the Parish Council, the difficulties that were encountered and the Parish Council’s continuing assistance to the residents, who not only are riparian owners but are also affected by residential flooding.

The Chairman emphasised the opinion of HCC Flood Risk Management manager, Simon Cramp, who stated to her that the Parish Council could not have done any more.

The Chairman also emphasised that the Parish Council is continuing to work with residents and HCC and if Mr Twydell has any complaints about the work currently being undertaken, he should address those complaints to Mr Cramp.

Cllr Graham Parkes asked Cllr James Binns for help from the new Health and Wellbeing Board with obtaining a Joint Strategic Health Needs Assessment, which would have helped the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Binns agreed to chase it up.

Cllr Dan Poole thanked Cllr James Binns for the update about Capers in Dibden Purlieu. Cllr Poole asked if Cllr Binns knew what was happening in the long term. Cllr Binns informed the Council that Planning Permission has been obtained for a ground floor restaurant and flats above. However, the new owners would like a small mini-market. Cllr Binns reported that this is felt to be unfeasible and they would be reiterating this to the owners.

Cllr Malcolm Wade asked Cllr James Binns to confirm if two of the most deprived areas are located in Hythe and Dibden. Cllr James Binns replied that there is one site at Netley View and a second area is in nearby Heather Road in Fawley.

Cllr Malcolm Wade said that Hampshire County Council’s Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside is considering cutting funding for theatre and asked Cllr James Binns if NFDC will be picking up the slack. Cllr Binns replied that he didn’t think NFDC will be filling the gap and other funding initiatives would need to be looked into.

Cllr James Binns asked Cllr Malcolm Wade if he knew how many children Hampshire County Council act as corporate parents to. Cllr Malcolm Wade said that it was many thousands.
Cllr James Binns asked Cllr Malcolm Wade if the County Council went ahead with the cuts in respite breaks for young carers. Cllr Malcolm Wade said that the County Council are amending how respite is provided.

173/18  HYTHE AND DIBDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Graham Parkes, Chairman of the Hythe and Dibden Neighbourhood Planning Group presented the draft Neighbourhood Plan to Council. The Plan is entering the formal Regulation 14 consultation on 1st December 2018 until 31st January 2019. There will be roadshows at the Hythe Mistletoe Fayre on 1st December, at Hythe Cinema on 18th December and at Hythe Marina on 18th January. The public are encouraged to share their views. Cllr Parkes reassured councillors that the Neighbourhood Plan does not commit the Parish Council to spending any money. It is anticipated that the public will vote on the Neighbourhood Plan in a referendum in October 2019.

174/18  WORKSHOP TENDER

Consideration was given to the report of the Clerk.

RESOLVED that

a) The Council abandons the procurement process for the provision of a new build workshop.

b) The Council seeks further advice regarding the specification of new build temporary buildings.

c) The Council seeks further advice on the cost of a traditional build workshop that meets the requirements of the new regulations.

d) The Council requests a further report from officers detailing the options available and a revised specification.

175/18  BUDGET 2019 - 2020


Councillors recognised the risks to the Council highlighted in section 7, in particular the likely cost of the solution at Valleydene. Considerable discussion took place regarding service improvements and the use of underspend from the current financial year. Councillors strongly felt that any improvement in the public realm is of benefit to the whole community however they would wish to see some contribution from the principal councils under a potential devolution agreement.
During the budget discussion the Chairman left the room at 8.30pm whereupon the Vice Chairman took the Chair until the Chairman’s return at 8.31pm.

RESOLVED that

a) The schedule of fees and charges is agreed.

b) The proposed budget is considered and a precept of £751,805 is notified to NFDC for 2019 – 2020.

c) The Council require outstanding reports to be provided in relation to grants. In the case of no report being received grant is to be withheld until the report is received.

d) Council to continue delegated authority to officers to remove any play equipment that reaches end of life and/or is condemned.

e) Council note the risks highlighted in section 7 and the outstanding budget related decisions highlighted in section 8.

f) Council instructs the Clerk to develop a partnership approach to work with existing partners to consider the prosperity and sustainability of the current retail centres as community hubs and report back to Council.

g) Council approves in principle to consider the appointment of an additional Maintenance Team post to deliver a devolution agreement with NFDC and HCC. The Clerk is to develop a draft arrangement and agreement and report back to Council.

h) Council to continue to provide free office accommodation to the Handy Trust and Hythe Pier Heritage Association for 2019/2020 and the Clerk to liaise with both organisations and report back to Council on potential future rental agreements.

i) Not to include the CCTV contribution within the precept request.

COUNCIL CHAMBER TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Council received the notes of the Council Chamber Task and Finish Group meeting held on 9th November 2018. The recommendations were considered and
RESOLVED that

a) That the Council Chamber is not used as a wedding venue.

b) That a hard flooring option is progressed at a cost of up to £5,845.00.

c) That the following work is undertaken at a cost of up to £8,450.00
   i) Construction of a new ceiling forming a bulkhead to the perimeter to allow the existing cornice to remain exposed.
   ii) Remove surface mounted cables and chase into walls.
   iii) Install and commission a new Mains Control Board.
   iv) Supply and fit 27 LED down lighters.
   v) Plaster all walls and new ceiling.

d) That the Council suspends standing order 18 (d) to allow the contract set out in e) above to be awarded to Forestside Construction.

e) That delegated power be provided to the Council Chamber Task and Finish Group to determine whether a cost to provide ceiling perimeter lighting is justified.

f) That the Council purchase two widescreen televisions suitable wall brackets, wireless transmitters and ancillary equipment at a cost of £2,783.00.

g) That the Council does not purchase replacement chairs and tables at this time.

177/18 VALLEYDENE

Councillors considered an update report giving an overview of the progress of work relating to the overland flow of the watercourse at Valleydene.

178/18 CODE OF CONDUCT

Consideration was given to the revised NALC Councillor Code of Conduct with bespoke wording suitable for this Council with regard to Declarations of Interest.
RESOLVED that

Council adopts the NALC template Code of Conduct, with the revised wording.

179/18 COMMUNITY DEFIBRILATORS

Council considered the report of the Deputy Clerk.

RESOLVED that

a) The Council continues to provide the two defibrillators located at St Andrew’s and St John’s.

b) The Council maintains the maintenance responsibilities of the two defibrillators. An initial £660.00 be made available from general reserves to fund the purchase of one set of pads for the device located at St Andrew’s and reimbursement of the £90.00 for a set of pads to St John’s Church and a battery for each device.

c) The following budget provision is agreed for future years to ensure replacement parts can be purchased when necessary:

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2021/22</td>
<td>£285.00</td>
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180/18 FINANCE 2018-2019

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

RESOLVED that

a) The bank reconciliation for October 2018 be noted.

b) The accounts for payment as detailed totalling £45,836.41 (gross) be agreed and paid.

181/18 DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

Councillors considered whether to convene a Full Council meeting in December 2018.
RESOLVED that

A Full Council meeting in December 2018 will not be convened unless there is urgent business requiring the attention of Council, in which case Council will meet after the December Planning Committee meeting.

The Meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Chairman