

FAWLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Services Committee held on Wednesday 17 September 2008 at 7.00pm in the Jubilee Hall, Fawley.

Present: Cllr E Holtham (In the Chair), Cllr L Dunsdon, Cllr M Fidler, Cllr B Hall

Also Present: Cllr A Glass
4 members of the public.

In attendance

Mrs M A Hitch, Clerk to the Council
Mrs S Markides, Clerical Assistant

- 1. Apologies.** Cllr Mrs B Maynard (Vice-Chairman), Cllr C A McDowall
- 2. Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Dunsdon declared a non-prejudicial interest in Minute 5 Planning, as he is a member of the New Forest District Council Planning Committee. He stated he would consider applications on the evidence in front of him.
- 3. Minutes:** To sign the minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2008.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be signed as a correct record.

PUBLIC SESSION

A member of the public raised his concerns regarding the amount of litter on Forresters Road and Heather Road. He had approached the Parish Council before and litter picking had taken place, which was appreciated but the situation had deteriorated. The Chairman advised that it is the responsibility of the District Council to litter pick in the area and suggested that the Clerk to the Council write a letter to them informing them of the complaint made.

Members of the public present wished to discuss agenda item 13, ground rear of public toilets at The Square, Fawley during the public session. They are keen to improve the appearance of the area and several ideas including the involvement of local school children were put forward. At present it is uncertain who owns the land and it was therefore decided that the Clerk to the Council would try to obtain further information after which a meeting of all the interested parties could be arranged to consult with the local people as to what would they would like to see there.

4. Chairman's Remarks.

The Chairman reported that the Fire and Rescue Service presentation event passing out ceremony for the Life Course at Hardley Fire Station would be taking place at 1pm Friday 26 September 2008 and members attending should let the office know.

Vandalism notices are due to be posted in the parish shortly, members were asked to advise the office of any problems to ensure all incidents are recorded.

The Chairman also drew members' attention to the need to tighten our purse strings from now until the end of the financial year. Although the budget set was more realistic this year, it had no fat in it and because the Council made certain decisions that affected the budget, the loss of Solent Blue Line contract which was not foreseen before the budgets were set, and the rise in inflation cut our income again.

The staff have been very vigilant to bring it to our notice at a meeting of the committee chairman last night, and they have been looking to see where savings can be made. Due to the reduction in our

reserves last year, we do not have the cushion for it to happen again, therefore we cannot make financial decisions that have an effect on our budget that have not been accounted for.

5. Planning.

a) **Parish List: RESOLVED:** To submit observations as follows:

08/93007

Co-op, 163 Long Lane, Holbury, Fawley SO45 2NZ

7 illuminated fascia signs; 1 illuminated totem sign; 1 non-illuminated service menu board; 4 non-illuminated wall mounted signs.

(4) We recommend refusal due to the illuminated totem pole, which would be distracting to drivers.

08/93082

Fawley Business Centre, Fawley Road, Fawley, SO45 1BX

Courtyard gate, (Application for Listed Building Consent)

(1) We recommend permission but would accept the decision reached by the District Council's Officers under their delegated powers.

b) **Tree Work Applications:**

08/0299 9 Forest Gate, Blackfield

T1 Oak – Crown thin by 20% and crown lift to 3m.

T2 Oak – Remove epicormic growth up to 6m and remove Ivy.

Support subject to the advice of the District Council's arboriculturist.

08/0300 19 Forest Gate, Blackfield

T6 Oak – Reduce lateral branches growing towards property, reduce and reshape the crown by 3m.

Support subject to the advice of the District Council's arboriculturist.

The Clerk to write to the District Council requesting that more information be provided regarding tree applications as members considered the current provision inadequate.

6. To receive reports for the following:

a) **Ashlett:** Cllr Hall reported that there had been a spate of thefts recently. On each occasion the police had been notified but as yet no results. The Clerk was asked to contact Hampshire County Council for a report on the drainage at the bottom of the hill at Ashlett as no progress appeared to have been made.

b) **Play equipment:** Cllr Fidler reported that the disabled swing at the QEII Recreation Ground had been stolen over the weekend. It was requested that the Centre Manager inform the press and that an insurance claim be made. Youths had been discovered sleeping overnight in the recreation ground.

c) **Footpaths:** Cllr E Holtham reported. See attached Appendix A

d) **Holbury Manor:** Cllr E Holtham reported. See attached Appendix A

e) **QEII:** Cllr Fidler reported that there were no toilets available at the ground last weekend and hoped that this would be rectified in time for the fixtures this weekend. Parking around the ground had been a problem especially as the road sign saying Thornbury Avenue leading to Recreation Ground had been demolished. This has been reported to the District Council and should be renewed within three weeks.

f) **Gang Warily:** Cllr E Holtham reported. See attached Appendix A

g) **Allotments:** Cllr E Holtham reported. See attached Appendix A

7. To receive a report on alternative, additional security arrangements at Gang Warily.

Members were advised that the installation of a code lock to improve security at the entrance of the gym was available at the cost of £195.

RESOLVED: To proceed with the code lock system to improve security at the entrance to the Gang Warily Gym at a cost of £195.

8. Allotment sites: To review charges for 2009.

Members discussed an increase of around 4% on allotment charges. The deposit charged per plot to cover any remedial works once an allotment was vacated was also discussed

RESOLVED: To increase the annual allotment charge to £10.10 for 2009, the deposit charged to new allotment holders to be raised from £20 to £25.

9. Skate Park: To discuss provision of fence on existing site.

Members discussed the existing skate park and the lack of funds available to provide additional fencing plus the recommendation that an overall project including a new skate park be looked into.

RESOLVED: To not pursue the provision of a fence at the existing skate park.

10. Warren Copse: Report from Cllr Holtham. See attached Appendix B.

Members discussed the report, which detailed several options regarding the woodland.

RESOLVED: To await the decision from Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust regarding the purchase of Warren Copse. Agreed in principle to work with the Trust if they obtain the woodland but if this did not proceed, the Parish Council itself be willing to purchase Warren Copse if suitable funding were available and the opportunity arose.

11. HGV Traffic Management Experiment Lime Kiln Lane: Report from Cllr Holtham See attached Appendix C.

Members discussed the traffic issues and the restrictions imposed, some of which are regarded as a success. However it was suggested that the Clerk investigate whether any further action could be taken to improve the problems currently being experienced such as the lack of an adequate turning area for HGVs and the overnight parking of lorries in the vicinity.

RESOLVED: To enquire whether any improvements to the traffic management experiment in Lime Kiln Lane could be made and to request a meeting with the Area Traffic Management team to discuss this further.

12. Jubilee Hall: To discuss exterior decoration and signage.

Members discussed repairs needed to improve the appearance of Jubilee Hall, which included new signage, the cleaning of signage, a new kitchen door and repainting of the corridor to the squash courts.

RESOLVED: That the maintenance manager assess what could be done regarding the exterior decoration and signage of Jubilee Hall and that New Forest District Council be approached to provide funds to enable this to take place.

13. Ground rear of public toilets at The Square, Fawley: See public session

14. Correspondence:

a) For response:

- i) NFDC: Invitation to view Police Community Reassurance Van/Speed Casualty Reduction Initiatives. Committee Room 1 Lyndhurst (ATC) Tuesday 18 November 2008 9.30 am – 10.45 am. Noted
- ii) SEERA: Partial Review of the South East Plan: Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs. Noted.
- iii) NFDC: Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 – Shopping trolleys consultation. Response to questionnaire to be sent, recommending that charges be imposed on trolley use.
- iv) NFNPA: Corporate Plan 2008-09. Comments invited, copies at office and Jubilee Hall. Noted.
- v) SLCC: Annual Policy and Technical Update for Clerks and Councillors, Uckfield, Wednesday 12th November 2008 10.00 am – 3.45 pm. Cost £45. Noted.
- vi) Hampshire Trustees Forum: The Charities Act and Companies Act 2006. Thursday 2nd October 2008. 6.30 pm. Brookvale Village Hall, Basingstoke. Cost £7.50. Noted

b) For information:

- i) The Post Office, Holbury Branch: Confirmation of move to new premises 163 Long Lane from September 2008. Noted. It was reported that the Co-op is to close for a short time to incorporate the new Post Office.
- ii) NFDC: Notification of Revocation Order No 40/95 & 46/92 Land of Dryad Spinney, West Common, Blackfield with effect from 29 August 2008. Noted
- iii) Silicon.com. Save a red phone box. Noted.

c) Available from the office on request: New Forest Access for All, Autumn Newsletter, CPRE Fieldwork September 08, Waterside Heritage Newsletter Aug 08, Clerks and Councils Direct September 08, Hampshire Now, Autumn 08, Community Action Hampshire, Parish Plan News September 08, Action News Update September 08, Action News Update Extra, September 08, Communique, September 08, Local Council Review September 08. Standards Board for England August 08(circulated)

Exclusion of public and press.

RESOLVED: That, considering the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public, including the press, be excluded from the remainder of the meeting.

15. Wessex Close: To consider quotes to upgrade fencing at the Wessex Close site and provide an extra gate and litterbin.

Members were informed that the cost of the fencing could be met from developer's contributions held by New Forest District Council. It was also suggested that the Clerk ask NFDC if funds could be available to pay retrospectively for the cost of the play equipment installed at Wessex Close earlier in the year.

RESOLVED: To accept the quote from Record Play Equipment at £6122.09 to upgrade the fencing at Wessex Close, funds to be requested from Developer's Contributions held at NFDC, including cost of installation (£650) by Parish Council staff.

16. Brickstore QEII, repair to roof: Members considered estimates received.

RESOLVED: To accept the quote from Baileys Building Ltd at £2469 to replace the flat roof on the QEII brickstore, providing that appropriate funding is available from the QEII development fund.

- 17. QEII:** To consider estimate for replacement of safety surfaces. Members were informed that the replacement of safety surfaces at the QEII was not in the budget for this financial year.

RESOLVED: To reconsider replacement of the safety surfaces at the QEII Recreation Ground after completion of the QEII project.

- 18. Date of next meeting:** 12th November 2008.