

FAWLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Fawley Parish Council held on Wednesday 17 February 2010 at 7pm in the Jubilee Hall, Fawley.

Present: Cllr L Dunsdon (In the Chair), Cllr M Fidler (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Mrs M Alderman, Cllr A Glass, Cllr B Hall, Cllr E Holtham, Cllr R Lewis, Cllr Mrs K Lord, Cllr Mrs B Maynard, Cllr Mrs S Read, Cllr R Wappet.

In attendance:

Gordon Richardson, Acting Clerk to the Council.
Mrs S Markides Clerical Officer.

Also Present: County Councillor Mrs A McEvoy (until item 113), Steve Foye New Forest Group Manager, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service (until item 109) PC A Woodhead, Police Community Safety Officer Bev Hayes (until item 108), one member of the public.

- 103. Apologies:** Cllr A McDowall, Cllr D Walker, Inspector K Leckey, Sergeant S Flint, Hythe Police and Youth Worker Debbie Elliott.
- 104. Declarations of interest:** Cllr Wappet declared a non-prejudicial interest in Item 109 Planning, as he is a member of the New Forest Planning Committee. He stated that he would consider the applications on the evidence in front of him at this time.
- 105. Minutes:**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2009 and the minutes of the Extraordinary meetings held on 23 December 2009 and 13 January 2010 be signed as a correct record.

- 106. Chairman's Announcements:** The Chairman reminded members of the training sessions taking place on the Code of Conduct for Councillors on Tuesday 30 March and Thursday 8 April 2010 both at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Appletree Court, Lyndhurst. Members to advise the office if they wished to attend.

PUBLIC SESSION The Commodore of the Venturers distributed leaflets and then gave a short talk on the work that the Venturers Search and Rescue Organisation perform and requested that support be shown to them when the rent review of the lease of land at Gang Warily was undertaken.

- 107. An update Police Report:** PC Woodhead reported that a good start had been made to the new year with low crime figures currently being experienced. When information or complaints had been received these had been actively investigated and results achieved. Holbury Precinct was currently experiencing problems with youths but these were being dealt with. Untaxed vehicles were being targeted and uninsured vehicles could under new powers be seized. Concerns were raised by members following the diversions put in place during the recent fire at Exxon; these were to be forwarded by PC Woodhead to Inspector Leckey and by the Clerk to New Forest District Council. The Clerk requested confirmation that speed checks in Church Lane, Fawley would be undertaken so that these could be taken into consideration at a forthcoming Traffic Management meeting.

108. A presentation from Steve Foye, New Forest Group Manager, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service: The meeting received a very informative talk on the Fire and Rescue Service which included the new response standards, fire prevention and other safety work, dedicated training for fire fighters, the new strategic reserve system to make the best use of the fire fighters and the small fire vehicles which will, in the case of small fires, replace the first response vehicle.

Members thanked Steve Foye for the interesting presentation.

109. Planning: RESOLVED: To submit observations on planning applications, as follows:

10/95117

17 Springfield Avenue, Holbury, Fawley, SO45 2LN

Detached garage

(No 3) We recommend permission.

10/95155

Granuaile, Thornbury Avenue, Blackfield, Fawley SO45 1YQ

Rear conservatory

This application had been invalidated as the site and block plans showed the incorrect curtilage of the application site.

b) Tree Works:

10/0046

Wayside, Blackfield Road, Fawley, Southampton. SO45 1ED

T1 Oak – Crown lift to 5.2m & crown clean by removing all deadwood

The Parish Council supports this application subject to the advice of the District Council's

arboriculturist but would also like to add the comment that a crown lift to 5.2m would appear high and suggest that 4m may be sufficient.

110. To receive an update report from the Youth Worker: (see attached Appendix A)

111. County Councillor's report:

Hampshire Action Team

Since I was last here, Hampshire Action Teams or HATs have been re-established. There are 7 HATs in the county and I have been appointed Vice – Chairman of the New Forest HAT, which comprises the eleven County Councillors in the New Forest. Our focus is

- Tackling economic, social and health inequalities in the area
- Supporting the delivery of Hampshire's improvement priorities as reflected in the Hampshire Local Area Agreement.
- Supporting the Executive Member for Environment on highways and transportation priorities through local stakeholder engagement.

What is new and most exciting is that each HAT will have the opportunity to submit a business case against a small budget for initiating projects and work around these topics.

I will be doing my best to promote the needs of this Parish for inclusion in a funded project.

Salt bins

I think our highways teams coped remarkably well during the recent exceptionally bad weather and they deserve our thanks. The County Council's salt stocks were run low but not critically depleted. However, the Cabinet has agreed to provide up to 4000 additional salt bins and Parish Councils will be consulted on the location of bins. If you think additional salt bins would benefit this Parish, please write to the Leaders office at Winchester to confirm your request.

Community Engagement Grants

I have reminded you before that I have a small budget to allocate to good causes locally and anyone can find more information on my Hampshire County Council web page. So far I have been able to help at St Francis Church Hall, the MODCATS and the Venturers Search and Rescue Organisation. In addition I hope you will be pleased to hear that I have donated £1000 from my grant for the Fawley Police Office here at Gang Warily and £1000 to help with the refurbishment of the Calshot play area. The money for Calshot should be transferred to your bank account and is to be ring fenced specifically for the purpose for which it has been provided.

Calshot Watch Tower

I think you may have had a letter from Phil Bridges regarding the lookout tower at Calshot. I met with Phil and Mollie (his assistant / secretary) on Monday to see if I could help with any funding for this project run by volunteers. He did mention that should any Councillor like to visit the tower to find out more about this project he'd be happy to organise a visit. He would also be happy to come along to a meeting to answer questions and explain why this project is something from which the community WILL benefit. Just one word of warning to anyone wanting to go up the tower: you do need to be fit as access to the look out area is by a series of ladders inside the tower.

HAT Funded Project

One last important point I nearly forgot to mention. As you know, it is common knowledge that this Council has failed to stick to the previous administration's sensible and prudent policy of ensuring that there was always sufficient funding in the budget to maintain the children's play areas within the Parish. The sad result of this is that the play area at Calshot is currently closed for health and safety reasons as it is in need of a substantial amount of money for refurbishment.

As I said earlier, I have already donated £1000 of my County Council Community Engagement Grant specifically for the Calshot play area but I recognise this is nowhere near enough to cover the costs of the repairs and frankly it isn't my job to bail this out Council. However, it is wrong that the children of Calshot should suffer so I put together a good business case for some funding to present to New Forest HAT. I am delighted that my proposal was the first to be accepted and early in the new financial year, this Council will receive a further £10,000 for the Calshot play area. The funding does come with the condition that a properly funded maintenance plan is put in place so that a situation such as this will never arise again. I hope you are pleased with this outcome but more importantly, I hope the youngsters of Calshot and their parents will be pleased.

Members thanked Cllr Mrs McEvoy for her hard work in obtaining the grant for the Calshot play area.

112. Reports from District Councillors: Due to the bad weather and the re-scheduling of meetings Cllrs Wappet and Dunsdon would report to the next meeting.

Cllr Mrs Lord reported on the success of the free swimming available at New Forest District Council Recreation Centres.

Cllr Mrs McEvoy thought the following might have been of interest as it concerned the Consultation on Draft National Policy Statement for Ports.

The Planning Act 2008 provided for decisions on nationally significant infrastructure projects to be made by a new Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC). National policy statements would be the primary consideration in all IPC decisions. The draft National Policy Statement on Ports was of particular relevance to the Council given the likely future proposals for Dibden Bay.

The Cabinet agreed that the document raised serious concerns, in particular relating to the apparent redefinition of alternatives that needed to be considered, where a port development proposal would have a significant adverse impact on internationally designated nature conservation sites.

It was felt there was no justification for departing from the national policy position basis in the 2004 Secretary of State's decision that rejected the port development at Dibden Bay.

A response was submitted to the Secretary of State for Transport on the draft National Policy Statement on Ports setting out several strong objections to this change which, if not accepted, could still see a port being developed at Dibden Bay.

This is clearly something to watch.

113. Reports from Representatives and Nominees on Local Bodies:

- a) New Forest Consultative Panel: Cllr E Holtham reported the meeting had been cancelled due to bad weather.
- b) New Forest Sports Council: Cllr D Walker, not present.
- c) Waterside Citizens Advice Bureau: Cllr A McDowall, not present.
- d) New Forest Environmental Liaison Committee: Cllrs M Fidler and Mrs S Read had attended a recent meeting where topics had included the omissions from Marchwood Power Station which were available live on line, the complaints restitution at Exxon and the transportation of nuclear waste.
- e) Transport Committee: Cllr M Fidler reported that the 30 mph temporary speed limit coming into force soon would affect bus services and time tables had been amended. Cllr Holtham pointed out that valid timetables had not been posted at all bus stops particularly in the Calshot area. Cllr Fidler was asked to look into this.
- f) Waterside Youth Steering Committee: Cllr Mrs K Lord, no meeting held.
- g) Calshot Project: Cllr G Smith, not present.
- h) Waterside Heritage: Cllr E Holtham, meeting scheduled for next week.
- i) Police Working Party: Cllrs M Fidler, A Glass and A McDowall advised of a new permanent officer to work within the Parish.
- j) New Forest Association Local Councils: Cllrs A Glass reported he was disappointed by the lack of progress made by the association.
- k) Age Concern: Cllr R Lewis had been unable to attend. Cllr Fidler advised that the Dibden Allotments Charity had issued Age Concern with shoe vouchers to distribute, vouchers for slippers were already available. Mr D Horrill, President of Age Concern New Forest East had been awarded the MBE in the New Year Honours List.

114. Minutes of Committees:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Amenities Committee 13 January 2010 be signed as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Public Services Committee 20 January 2010 be signed as a correct record.

RESOLVED: To amend the minutes to read apologies received from Cllr R Lewis. Following this amendment the minutes of the Policy, Resources & Personnel Committee meeting 3 February 2010 be signed as a correct record.

115. A review of the Parish Council website:

RESOLVED: The Acting Clerk to provide a report to include statistics and a brief précis of the contents of the website for consideration at the next Parish Council meeting to be held on 14 April 2010.

116. Calendar of Meetings 2010/11:

RESOLVED: To adopt the proposed Calendar of Meetings for 2010/11 without a summer break. See attached Appendix B.

117. Newlands Park Sub – Committee: Next meeting date to be arranged after the meeting closes.

118. Correspondence:

a) For response:

i. National Association of Local Councils: Invitation to nominate for Local Council Awards 2010.

RESOLVED: The Acting Clerk to nominate a staff member.

ii. New Forest National Park Recreation Management Strategy – revised draft. Comments by post or by email to rms@newforestnpa.gov.uk Noted.

iii. National Coastwatch Institution: Request to provide meeting venue: Members regretted that due to the financial implications the Parish Council was unable to provide a meeting venue.

RESOLVED: The Acting Clerk to suggest another possible venue to the National Coastwatch Institution.

b) For information:

i. Friends of Fawley School Association: Thank you letter for recent raffle prize. Noted.

ii. NFDC Transportation Section: Advice of temporary 30mph speed restrictions A326 Totton/Dibden/Fawley areas. Noted.

c) Available from the office upon request: Planning and Transportation Portfolio Holder Decision: February 2010 Draft Traffic Management Programme for 2010/11 to be progressed by NFDC as HCC's agent, HCC Hampshire Now Special Edition January 2010, Solent News the newsletter of the Solent Forum Winter 09/10, Local Councils Update January/February 2010, Safer New Forest Partnership target January 2010.

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.

119. A presentation to a local resident:

RESOLVED: The Acting Clerk to liaise with Cllr Hall regarding an appropriate presentation to the local resident.

120. Staffing matters:

a) Update Clerk: Members were updated regarding the possible ill health retirement of the Clerk.

b) Proposed Staff presentations: Councillors to be advised when presentations are taking place.

c) Staff retirements: The Acting Clerk advised of the retirement of a Caretaker / Cleaner at Jubilee Hall and the continuing contracts of employment of a Caretaker / Cleaner at the QEII Recreation Ground and a Caretaker / Cleaner at Jubilee Hall.

d) CRB checks: The Centre Manager had advised the Acting Clerk that all necessary checks were in place.

e) Confirmation of grant funding for the Youth Worker: The meeting was informed of a shortfall in the budget for the salary of the Youth Worker for the financial year 09/10 and of a one off grant payment received from ExxonMobil towards this shortfall.

Cllr Hall requested that in future Council meetings did not include presentations. The Acting Clerk was requested to speak to the Police to see if future update reports could be presented to the meetings of the Public Services Committee when there was not so much business on the agenda.

121. Date of next meeting: 14 April 2010.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.28 pm.

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Chairman