

2 JANUARY 2002

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 2 January 2002.

p Cllr S A Hayes (Chairman)
p Cllr M J Kendal (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

e T J Droogleever
e P C Greenfield
p Mrs M D Holding

Councillors:

p B Rickman
p C A Wise

In Attendance:

Councillors:

K F Ault
G C Beck
F J Bright
W R Catt

Councillors:

J E Coles
Mrs M J Robinson
D B Tipp

Also Present:

Mr B Birks and Mrs P White, Tenant Representatives.

Officers Attending:

D Yates, N Gibbs, Ms E Malcolm, C Malyon, D Atwill, Ms J Bateman, A Bradbury, Mrs L Evans, Mrs J Hawker, Miss G O'Rourke, Mrs A Sleet, G Tombs and J Ward.

133. COUNCILLOR PETER CUMMINGS.

The Chairman reported that Cllr Cummings had resigned from the Council. The Chairman expressed his regret at Cllr Cummings' resignation and paid tribute to his valuable contribution to the Council. Members wished Cllr Cummings and his family well for the future.

134. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2001, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Arising from the Minutes:

In relation to Minute 116 the Chairman commented that it had not been possible to report on proposals for the development of a Traffic Management Scheme. As the issue was so wide ranging further detailed work was needed. Consideration also needed to be given to the Government proposals for the future.

A report would be brought to the Cabinet as soon as possible.

135. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

No declarations of interest were made.

136. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

137. SOUTH EAST STRATEGIC REGIONAL COASTAL MONITORING PROGRAMME (REPORT A).

The Cabinet considered a report seeking agreement to proceed with the application to the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) for the South East Strategic Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme.

RESOLVED:

That approval in principle be given to proceed with an application to Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to develop a South East Strategic Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme.

138. RINGWOOD TOWN CENTRE – PROPOSED PUBLIC CONSULTATION (REPORT B).

The Cabinet considered proposals on ways to progress further the Council's investigations into the development potential of land in its ownership in the Furlong Area of Ringwood Town Centre.

Some concern was expressed that the development could result in a loss of lorry parking which would exacerbate problems already experienced in some parishes. Officers confirmed that this issue would be taken up with the County Council.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That public consultations take place in Ringwood on the two development options identified in Chesterton's report to the Cabinet;

- (b) That detailed arrangements for the public consultation be agreed with the Economy and Planning Portfolio Holder; and
- (c) That the results of the consultation be reported back to the Cabinet, with recommendations on the way forward.

139. PROPOSED STRATEGY FOR TENANT PARTICIPATION IN THE NEW FOREST (REPORT C).

The Cabinet considered the existing arrangements for tenant participation, the current issues and how arrangements could be changed to ensure a more effective tenant involvement process.

The Review Panel which had previously considered the report, had agreed that new arrangements should be developed to increase tenant participation. The Portfolio Holder was concerned that the proposals might have considerable resource implications for the Council and was of the view that further work was needed to highlight the cost implications.

Mr Birks, Tenant Representative, whilst initially unhappy with the proposals, now felt that his concerns had been allayed and supported the view that every option should be considered to encourage tenant participation to make the best use of consultation with all stakeholders.

The Cabinet supported the principles of developing tenant participation along the lines indicated in the report and asked for further information on the associated costs.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and that the Housing, Health and Social Exclusion Panel be requested to reconsider the report and advise Cabinet of more specific and costed options for the proposals for increasing tenant participation.

140. SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE – FORMER WEBBS FACTORY SITE, LYMINGTON (REPORT D).

The Cabinet considered a draft Supplementary Planning Guidance for the former Webbs Factory site, Lymington.

Mr Richard Webb, a local resident addressed the Cabinet.

Mr Webb commented that the redevelopment of this large riverside site provided an outstanding opportunity for Lymington. He was part of a group of local residents who had been working on proposals that they felt redevelopment of the site could offer. Currently, when approached from the east, the area was an eyesore and there was now a prospect of providing an attractive area that could include economic opportunity, open space and mixed housing. This was an important site and the chance should be taken to create an attractive riverside link with the existing town centre.

The Chairman commented that the importance of this site close to the river was recognised and he was very pleased that local people had been involved in the search for a solution. The Supplementary Planning Guidance would now be published for consultation and would give all interested parties an opportunity to comment formally.

RESOLVED:

That the draft supplementary Planning Guidance for the former Webbs factory site, Lymington, be approved for public consultation.

141. AUTHORISATION OF INVESTIGATIONS (REPORT E).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That delegated powers be granted to the officers set out in Appendix 1 to Report E to the Cabinet to authorise the carrying out of surveillance or the conduct or the use of a covert human intelligence source and other functions to the extent stated in Appendix 1; and
- (b) That the policy specified within Appendix 2 to Report E to the Cabinet be adopted.

142. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET (REPORT F).

The Cabinet considered the latest forecast for the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2002/03. It was noted that there had been an error in the Government's calculation of the general grant support and that this could amount to an additional £88,000 being made available to the Council.

In relation to charges for Pest Control the Portfolio Holder reported that the costs of treatment of rats and mice in domestic premises could be charged to the owner of the property and therefore the Council would bear the cost of any works undertaken in Council houses.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the amendments to the Expenditure Plan proposals as contained in Appendix 2 to Report F to the Cabinet be agreed;
- (b) That the draft budget as outlined in Appendix 1 to Report F to the Cabinet be noted;
- (c) That the comments from the Review Panels, as contained in Appendix 3 to Report F to the Cabinet, be noted; and

- (d) That a further report be considered by the Cabinet in February, when the provisional figures were confirmed and a final budget would be recommended to the Council for approval.

143. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE : FUTURE DELIVERY OF THE SERVICE (REPORT G).

The Cabinet considered proposals for the future delivery of the Council's grounds maintenance service.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the delivery of the service be brought back in-house and that New Forest Commercial Services carry out the work on a partnership basis as outlined within report G to the Cabinet;
- (b) That the financial position as outlined in report G to the Cabinet be noted;
- (c) That a further report be presented to Cabinet if:
 - (i) Hampshire County Council are unwilling to make the additional contribution to the cost of carrying out their element of the grounds maintenance activity; and/or
 - (ii) The Council is not able to support the bid for the additional £60,000 put forward in this year's financial review; and
- (d) That, subject to the above, a further report be presented on the options for alternative forms of service delivery as identified in the Best Value Review.

144. CABINET MEETINGS 2002/03 MUNICIPAL YEAR.

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet meet on the following dates and times for the coming municipal year:

Wednesday, 5 June 2002
Monday, 8 July 2002
Wednesday, 7 August 2002
Wednesday, 4 September 2002
Wednesday, 2 October 2002
Wednesday, 6 November 2002
Wednesday, 4 December 2002

Cabinet

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Monday, 6 January 2003
Wednesday, 5 February 2003
Wednesday, 5 March 2003
Wednesday, 2 April 2003
Wednesday, 23 April 2003

CHAIRMAN

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