

6 MARCH 2002

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 6 March 2002.

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

Councillors:

- p P C Greenfield
- p Mrs M D Holding
- p B Rickman

Councillors:

- p T M Russell
- p C A Wise

In Attendance:

Councillors:

- K F Ault
- G C Beck
- W R Catt
- B D Dash
- J J Dawson
- F R Harrison

Councillors:

- Mrs B M Maynard
- B M F Pemberton
- D N Scott
- S A Shepherd
- G Spikins
- D B Tipp

Also in Attendance:

Mrs P White, Tenant Representative

Officers Attending:

D Yates, N Gibbs, C Malyon, D Atwill, Ms J Bateman, P Butterworth, Mrs P Higgins, Miss G O'Rourke, R Powell and J Ward,

169. COUNCILLOR MAUREEN ROBINSON.

The Cabinet wished Cllr. Robinson a speedy recovery following her recent operation.

170. MRS MYRA JONES, PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE.

The Cabinet sent their best wishes to Myra Jones and hoped she would soon be feeling better.

171. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2002, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

172. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

No declarations of interest were made.

173. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

174. ELECTRONIC GOVERNANCE – UPDATE (REPORT A).

The Cabinet noted with pleasure the good work that was being made on implementing the Electronic Governance Strategy. The Finance and Support Portfolio Holder commented that he was particularly impressed with the flair, ingenuity and hard work that had been demonstrated by the Electronic Governance Team.

It was agreed that the Public Information System Kiosks had not been as successful as first anticipated, mainly because their locations were unsuitable. This area of the service was being reviewed.

Members were particularly pleased with the success of the on-line access to the new Choice Based Lettings scheme.

RESOLVED:

That the progress made on implementing the Council's Electronic Governance Strategy be noted.

175. PRINT SERVICES (REPORT B).

The Cabinet considered a report seeking approval to vire existing budget provision between business units.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) That budget provision of £24,410 be vired to Secretarial Services to enable all of the corporate high volume copying service to be undertaken by Secretarial Services in the Chief Executive's Department;**

- (b) *That budget provision of £32,000 be vired to Central Purchasing to enable the paper buying currently undertaken by Print Services;*
- (c) *That budget provision of £20,710 be vired to Graphics Services to enable the procurement of external colour copying to continue; and*
- (d) *That budget provision of £25,870 be vired to ICT Services to enable the continuation of document image processing work associated with the scanning of planning applications for the Council's web site.*

RESOLVED:

- (a) That certain print equipment that the Council owns be sold in accordance with Financial Regulations;
- (b) That the early termination of leases on certain print equipment be subject to the Director of Resources being satisfied with the resulting financial situation; and
- (c) That revenue provision in the Expenditure Plan of £5,300 for 2003/2004, increasing to £9,700 from 2004/05 onwards for print equipment be deleted.

176. PLAY PROVISION AT FOREST FRONT, HYTHE (REPORT C).

Following an unsuccessful Lottery bid a funding plan was agreed with Hythe and Dibden Parish Council proposing the use of Developers' contributions to develop a new play area at Forest Front in Hythe.

RESOLVED:

That a sum of £75,000 be allocated from developers' contributions to enable the implementation of a new play area and skatepark at Forest Front, Hythe.

177. RECREATION CENTRES : REVIEW OF OBJECTIVES (REPORT D).

Following the Best Value Review undertaken by the Recreation Centre Service, the Cabinet considered the first of three reports, setting out a revised vision and objectives for the service. Future reports would detail the outcome of benchmarking performance against other providers and give an assessment of different ways in which the Service may be delivered.

The Cabinet noted that the review did not commit the Council financially at this stage but that any proposals would be considered alongside other bids in the budget process at the appropriate time.

RESOLVED:

That the revised Vision and Objectives identified by the Review Panel for the Recreation Centres as detailed in Section 5 of report D be agreed.

178. RECREATION CENTRE CAPITAL PROGRAMME – VIREMENTS (REPORT E).

The Cabinet considered a report proposing virements to fund changing priorities in the Leisure Services Capital Programme.

RESOLVED:

That the savings, expenditure proposals and subsequent virements as detailed in Appendix 1 to these minutes be agreed.

179. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT – BEST VALUE REVIEW (REPORT F).

The Cabinet considered the Best Value Review Report of the Financial Management Service.

RESOLVED:

That the action plan included in the Continuous Improvement Programme for the Financial Management Service, as set out in Appendix 8 to report F, be approved.

180. PROPOSED MAJOR CHANGES TO PLANNING SYSTEM (REPORT G).

The Cabinet considered a response to a Government green paper: "Planning – Delivering a Fundamental Change"

In discussing the detail of the response to the Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions the Cabinet commented that, whilst a faster service delivery would be welcomed, this would be at the expense of consultation with parish councils. Members were of the view that this was another example of central Government control being imposed on local councils resulting in a further reduction in local democracy.

Members also commented that the future roles of District Councils in regional/sub regional planning and of the County Council needed to be clarified to ensure that there was no loss of local democracy arising from the proposed changes.

RESOLVED:

That the Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions be sent New Forest District Council's response to the various consultation documents, based on the comments set out in report G, and taking into account the comments made by the Economy and Planning Review Panel; the Planning Development Control Committee; the Economy and Planning Portfolio Holder and by the Cabinet particularly in relation to:

- (a) the need to allow for the consultation process with parish councils and the effect this may have on the speed of service delivery; and
- (b) the need to clarify the future roles of District Councils in regional/sub regional planning and County Councils to ensure that there was no loss of local democracy arising from the proposed changes.

181. PROPOSALS FOR PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES IN NEW FOREST DISTRICT (REPORT H).

The Cabinet considered a response to the Boundary Commission on proposals for revised Parliamentary Constituencies in Hampshire.

The current review was based on the new District Wards that come into effect in 2003. Under these new arrangements, Boldre and Sway would form a single District Ward. At present, these two Parishes, being two different District Wards, were in different Constituencies, Boldre in New Forest East and Sway in New Forest West. This would no longer be permissible. The Commission therefore proposed that the whole of the Boldre and Sway Ward should form part of the New Forest West Constituency. The effect would be to transfer the Parish of Boldre from New Forest East to New Forest West.

The Cabinet considered written comments received from both Parish Councils, attached as Appendix 2 to these minutes, and noted that they were both strongly opposed to the proposal to place the new ward in the New Forest West Constituency. The Cabinet supported the arguments put forward by Boldre and Sway Parish Councils for the new ward to form part of the New Forest East Constituency.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Boundary Commission be informed that this Council welcomes the proposal that the New Forest District Council should continue to be divided between two whole seats; and
- (b) That the Council objects to the Commission's proposals for the new Boldre and Sway Ward to be located in the New Forest West Constituency.

182. STREET NAMING AT CALSHOT.

RESOLVED:

That the principle of re-naming the access road to Calshot Activity Centre after the late Jack Maynard be agreed and officers be asked to undertake the appropriate consultation.

183. EMPLOYEE MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION.

RESOLVED:

That no action be taken on the recommendation of the Corporate and Finance Review Panel in relation to Employee Monitoring and Management information until after the reinforced employee monitoring procedures have been introduced and their effect assessed.

184. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES.

RESOLVED:

That the following members be appointed to Outside Bodies as indicated:-

(a) Hampshire Voluntary Housing Society Management Committee

Cllr B M F Pemberton.

(b) Lymington Coastal Area Joint Management Committee and Coastal Advisory Panel

Cllr T M Russell.

(c) Options

Cllr Mrs L C Ford.

(d) South West Hampshire Transportation Panel

Cllr Mrs D M Brooks, W R Catt, Mrs M D Holding (Cllr D S Burdle and F R Harrison are members on the previous body and transfer their membership to the newly constituted group).

(e) Local Government Association Coastal Issues Special Interest Group, (Deputy)

Cllr T M Russell.

- (f) Martin Down Management Advisory Committee**
Cllr Mrs L C Ford.
- (g) Solent Water Quality Conference**
Cllr B M F Pemberton.
- (h) Lyminster Buckland Rings Management Advisory Committee,
(Deputy)**
Cllr T M Russell.
- (i) Lyminster Citizens' Advice Bureau Management Committee**
Cllr B M F Pemberton.
- (j) Milford & Pennington United Charities**
Cllr B M F Pemberton.
- (k) Community Safety Action Group**
Cllr K F Ault.
- (l) Manor Farm Pennington Liaison Panel**
Cllrs K F Ault and B M F Pemberton.
- (m) Dorcas – New Forest**
Cllr J M Hoy.
- (n) Local Government Association – Rural Commission**
Cllr K F Ault.
- (o) New Forest Primary Care Trust**
The Health and Social Exclusion Portfolio Holder (Cllr Mrs M D Holding).

CHAIRMAN

SAVINGS

<u>All Centres</u>	£
Pool and Changing Room Grills	11,000.00
Energy Management	4,100.00
Automatic Doors	1,400.00
<u>Applemore</u>	
Ventilation to Activity Hall	3,000.00
<u>New Milton</u>	
Dry Side Change Refurbishment	6,000.00
Activity Hall Wall Panelling	3,000.00*
Wet change Floor Tiling	9,000.00*
<u>Ringwood</u>	
Activity Room Flooring	3,500.00
Filter Modification	7,000.00*
Learner Pool Spectator Seating	10,000.00*
	<hr/>
	58,000.00
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* Denotes schemes which have not commenced, as they are lower priority than those schemes which are proposed.

OVERSPENDS

<u>Applemore</u>	
Reception and treatment Room Extension	15,000.00
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	15,000.00
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Overall Savings	<hr/>
	43,000.00
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PROPOSED SCHEMES

Priority	Scheme	Cost
1	Totton Wet change Refurbishment (disabled change)	£13,500.00
2	Applemore External Wall Repairs	£10,000.00
3	New Milton Access Control	£9,000.00
4	Applemore CCTV	£6,000.00
5	Reflections Refurbishment	£4,500.00
	Total	£43,000.00

Boldre Parish Council

Peter Wales A.C.I.B.
Parish Clerk / RFO
18 Oberfield Road
Brockenhurst
Hampshire
SO42 7QF
01590 622514

Rosemary Rutins
Democratic Services Manager
New Forest District Council
Appletree Court
Lyndhurst
Hampshire SO43 7PA

Your ref : RR/JA

4th March 2002

Dear Rosemary,

Proposals for New Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries.

Thank you for your letter of 11th February.

Firstly, the Parish Council registers its protest about the short statutory consultation period, particularly given the long timescale involved. It was not helped by your letter arriving the day after the February Parish Council meeting with representations required by the District Council before the March Parish Council meeting. Fortunately, we had our Annual Parish Assembly tonight & were able to include this item on the Agenda.

Boldre Parish Council fully accepts that legislation does not permit a single District ward being divided between Parliamentary Constituencies. Boldre Parish Council, therefore proposes that Sway be transferred from the West to the East Constituency to join Boldre. Boldre Parish Council is pleased to note that a realignment in this manner would produce a lower disparity than the alternative option.

Boldre Parish Council notes the Boundary Commission's News Release but has not had sufficient time to investigate why the Commission considers that the Boldre & Sway Ward "looks more to the west than to the east". Indeed, Boldre Parish Council contends that the opposite is true for the following reasons:

1. Boldre is located in the east with the Lymington River being a substantial boundary mark.

2.

2. Boldre has a long cultural association with Beaulieu, Brockenhurst & East Boldre stemming from as far back as the existence, power & influence of Beaulieu Abbey, being the centre of this rural area.
3. Many more people in this area work in Southampton, Totton & on the Waterside than in Lymington.
4. The Churches are all in the Winchester Diocese, in the east.
5. The schools work together in the Solent Cluster Partnership & indeed the Tertiary School is in Brockenhurst not Lymington.
6. The County Council Division would be further fragmented. If Sway joins Boldre in the East Constituency then only one Parish remains outside of the new area.
7. We are led to believe that Sway Parish Council supports joining Boldre in the East Constituency, though once again have been unable to confirm this due to the short consultation period.
8. Boldre Parish Council believes that Sway looks to the east, particularly Brockenhurst with their joint medical practices, pharmacies, playgroups & junior football teams.
9. Both Boldre & Sway are rural communities in sharp contrast to the Lymington shopping & administrative area.
10. The Annual Parish Assembly was well attended & a straw poll suggested that 97% were in favour of Sway joining Boldre by being transferred from the West to the East Constituency.

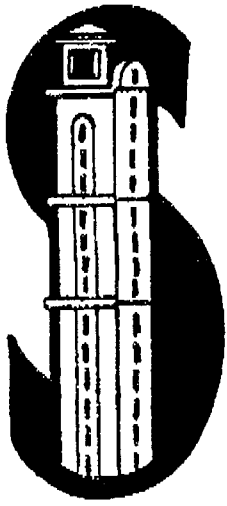
For these reasons, Boldre Parish Council strongly opposes the present Boundary Commission proposal that Boldre be transferred from the East to the West Constituency, to join Sway.

Boldre Parish Council proposes that Sway be transferred from the West to the East Constituency, to join Boldre. Boldre Parish Council will itself make representations direct to the Boundary Commission & has encouraged residents to act likewise

Yours sincerely



Peter Wales
Clerk



SWAY PARISH COUNCIL

PROPOSALS FOR NEW PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES EFFECTING BOLDRE AND SWAY.

It would be better to put the Boldre and Sway single district ward into New Forest East and Not bring Boldre into the West as suggested by the boundary commission's proposals. It can be contested that the statement by the Commission that ward "looks more to the West" is incorrect, for the following reasons.

Sway is a proper New Forest rural village set on the edge of the Forest, and with little in common with the more urban nature of the towns along the coastal developed area.

The village has great historical connections with Boldre and Brockenhurst, indeed before St. Lukes Church was built the Parish Church for Sway residents was Boldre Church.

There are several charity trusts set up to do good works in the joint Parishes, and road naming after important individuals who served this community . (Te Gilpin Hill etc.)

The health and social services have always taken Brockenhurst and Sway as a "related" area, indeed they have a joint GP practice.

Youth services are connected across the two village.

Placing the Sway electorate in the East would make an "evening up" of the change realignment in respect of the number of electors transferred.

The Churches of Sway and Brockenhurst have many connections as do the WI and other groups, including sports provision.