

1 MAY 2002

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 1 May 2002.

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

Councillors:

e P C Greenfield
p J D Heron
p Mrs M D Holding

Councillors:

p B Rickman
p T M Russell
p C A Wise

In Attendance:

Councillors:

B M F Pemberton
Mrs L C Ford
K F Ault
Mrs M J Robinson

Councillors:

M H Thierry
P R Woods
D N Scott

Officers Attending:

D Yates, N Gibbs, Ms E Malcolm, C Malyon, D Atwill Ms J Bateman and Miss G O'Rourke and for part of the meeting S Cranston and M Devine.

Also in Attendance for Minute : 213

Mr B Terry, Resident, Stillwater Park.

207. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meetings held on 8 and 15 April 2002, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as correct records.

208. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr Rickman declared a personal interest in Minute 211 in that the applicant had been known to him in a business capacity last year. As he did not consider the interest to be prejudicial he remained at the meeting and took part in the consideration of this item and voted.

Cllrs Heron and Thierry declared personal interests Minute 212 as members of the Ringwood Town Council. Cllr Mrs Ford declared a personal interest in Minute 212 as a Ward member for Ringwood North. None of these members considered their interests to be prejudicial and they remained at the meeting. Cllr Ford took no part in the consideration of the item; Cllr Thierry took part in the discussion but did not have a vote; Cllr Heron took part in the consideration of the item and voted.

209. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

210. BEST VALUE REVIEW – INTERNAL AUDIT – FINAL REPORT AND PERFORMANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN (REPORT A).

The Cabinet considered the Best Value review of the Internal Audit service. It was noted that this was the first Best Value review to be undertaken using the new streamlined process. Members congratulated officers on the work they had undertaken and the clear concise report produced.

RESOLVED:

That Best Value Internal Audit Performance and Improvement Plan attached as Appendix 1 to report A be approved.

211. OPERATION OF A PASSENGER SERVICE AT HURST SPIT (REPORT B).

Cllr Rickman declared a personal interest in this item in that the applicant had been known to him in a business capacity last year. As he did not consider the interest to be prejudicial he remained at the meeting and took part in the consideration of this item and voted.

The Cabinet considered a proposal for the operation of a vehicle passenger service at Hurst Spit.

Major Beeton, a local member and Mr Crane, the operator of the Ferry Service to Hurst Castle, addressed the Cabinet.

Major Beeton said that Milford on Sea Parish Council fully supported the proposals put forward by Mr Crane.

Mr Crane said that he had been involved with Hurst Spit for many years. For over 30 years he had been a commercial boat operator out of Keyhaven. He was also the Lighthouse Keeper and managed Hurst Castle on behalf of English Heritage. As part of that management Mr Crane arranged the transportation of fresh water to the Castle. In view of his involvement in the area he felt he had the appropriate experience to offer a safe passenger service along the Spit.

Mr Crane commented that Keyhaven was becoming very busy and a service operating from Milford on Sea would, in his view, be successful. The maintenance of the Castle depended on the revenue raised from visitors and it was important to boost these numbers as much as possible in order to have sufficient funding to maintain the Castle adequately. A passenger service would also open up the area to the disabled.

It was envisaged that an agricultural tractor with adapted tyres to lessen the effect on the area would be used with a trailer.

The Leisure Portfolio Holder said that he strongly supported the implementation of the proposals for a trial period. A passenger service would support tourism in Milford on Sea and help with the upkeep of the Castle. In response to a question the Portfolio Holder confirmed that the service would mainly operate in the summer season with some winter weekends. The maximum speed of the vehicle would be 10 mph.

The Cabinet noted that realistically it was unlikely that all the required permissions would be in place to enable the trial period to take place this year as the agreement of other affected landowners was also required. However, officers would progress the matter with a view to implementing the trial period as soon as possible.

RESOLVED:

That the operation of a vehicle passenger service at Hurst Spit be approved in principle subject to:-

- (i) The necessary legislative requirements being met;
- (ii) When (i) is satisfied, a report being made to the Portfolio Holder for Leisure to approve the detail of a trial period and the conditions and detail of the licence; and
- (iii) Should the trial take place, a report to review the trial be presented to Cabinet before any further action is taken.

212. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS.

RESOLVED:

That, under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and the Press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 9, of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

213. STILLWATER PARK (REPORT C).

Cllrs Heron and Thierry declared personal interests this item as members of the Ringwood Town Council. Cllr Mrs Ford declared a personal interest in this item as a Ward member for Ringwood North. None of the three members considered their interests to be prejudicial and they remained at the meeting. Cllr Ford took no part in the consideration of the item; Cllr Thierry took part in the discussion but did not have a vote; Cllr Heron took part in the consideration of the item and voted.

The Cabinet considered a report updating them on the latest position in relation to the future of Stillwater Park.

Cllr Thierry addressed the Cabinet. He broadly welcomed the proposals in the report. He reiterated his previous concerns that the well being and long term future of the residents should be of paramount importance. Cllr Thierry reported that some residents did not feel that they were being kept fully informed of developments.

A member commented that it was very important that the residents had access to the right advice and that the Council should provide an independent advocate to assist them.

It was noted that £2,000 had been budgeted for in the General Fund to cover such costs. However, officers needed to consider the Council's legal position in offering such assistance.

RESOLVED:

That officers be authorised to continue the negotiations with the Stillwater Park Co-operative for a leasehold disposal of the site with a further report back to the Cabinet as soon as possible in respect of the details and terms of such a possible disposal.

CHAIRMAN