

**2 OCTOBER 2002**  
**NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**CABINET**

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

p Cllr S A Hayes (Chairman)  
p 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:**

K F Ault  
F J Bright  
B D Dash  
J J Dawson  
Mrs L C Ford  
F R Harrison

**Councillors:**

J A G Hutchins  
Mrs B M Maynard  
Mrs M J Robinson  
D N Scott  
D B Tipp

**Also In Attendance:**

Mrs P White, Tenant Representative

**Officers Attending:**

D Yates, N Gibbs, Ms E Malcolm, C Malyon and Ms J Bateman and, for part of the meeting R Millard and J Ward.

**66. MINUTES.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2002, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**67. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

The following members declared interests:-

Cllrs Hayes and Rickman – Minute 69

Cllr Kendal – Minutes 72 and 74

Cllrs Harrison and Dash – Minute 73

**68. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

**69. RECREATION CENTRES – OPTIONS FOR FUTURE SERVICE DELIVERY (REPORT A).**

Cllrs Hayes and Rickman declared personal interests as members of Recreation Centres. They did not consider their interests to be prejudicial and therefore remained at the meeting, took part in the discussion and voted.

The Cabinet considered the results of a benchmarking exercise carried out earlier in the year and ways forward for the future delivery of the service.

In discussing the issues the Cabinet recognised the importance of the work that was being undertaken and the outcomes that were being sought. Members also commented that work already carried out had resulted in a more cost effective service.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That a partnership approach as set out in paragraph 4.2 of Report A to the Cabinet, incorporating Process Benchmarking as the option to be pursued for the delivery of the Recreation Centre Service be agreed; and
- (b) That following the Process Benchmarking exercise an Action Plan identifying proposals to improve the financial performance of the Service be submitted to the Leisure Review Panel and Cabinet for approval.

**70. TRANSPORT INITIATIVES ANNUAL POSITION STATEMENT (REPORT B).**

The Cabinet reviewed the Council's transport initiatives in conjunction with the annual review of the Council's Expenditure Plan.

Members noted that originally, the schemes in place had been specifically targeted towards helping the young and the elderly in the rural areas of the district. The proposal was now to expand the Young Person's Concessionary Fares scheme to the whole of the district.

It was noted that the Concessionary Travel Scheme for the Elderly was a statutory scheme. In addition to the statutory scheme the Council also provided a Travel Token scheme that was means tested. The Cabinet noted that the budget for the Concessionary Fares Scheme for the blind allowed for a possible take up of 135. Currently 51 people had taken advantage of the scheme.

The Cabinet agreed changes that would make the Council's input more effective particularly in terms of partnership working.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the Young Person's Concessionary Fares Scheme be expanded, as set out in Report B to the Cabinet, and the savings of £14,000 be noted; and
- (b) That the Calshot Clubs Links Scheme be withdrawn allowing the whole Calshot Links budget to be spent on the Calshot Local Youth Link Scheme.

**71. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 2002 – AUGUST 2002 (REPORT C).**

The Cabinet considered a report setting out the forecast budget variations of all Portfolios and Committees from the approved original estimates for 2002/2003.

It was reported that the £48,000 for the Marchwood Skatepark Facility had previously been agreed by the Cabinet at their meeting on 5 June 2002 and therefore required no further approvals.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the revised General Fund budget as set out in Appendix 1 to Report C to the Cabinet be approved;
- (b) That the revised capital expenditure as set out in Appendix 2 to Report C to the Cabinet be approved; and
- (c) That the revised Housing Revenue Account as set out in Appendix 3 to Report C to the Cabinet be approved.

**72. REVIEW OF ENGLISH NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITIES (REPORT D).**

Cllr Kendal declared a personal interest as a Parish Councillor for Milford on Sea who was to be appearing as a witness in the National Park boundary review. He did not consider the interest to be prejudicial and therefore remained at the meeting took part in the discussion and voted.

The Cabinet considered a response to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) on a review they had carried out on English National Park Authorities.

The Chairman of the Cabinet, as the Policy and Strategy Portfolio Holder, said that he supported the response as set out in the report, which was consistent with the approach previously taken by the Council.

Members of the Cabinet reiterated the view that a “tailor made” National Park Authority was the most appropriate way forward for the New Forest. In particular there was a need to ensure that the lines of accountability in any future arrangements were clear which would be difficult in any hybrid situation.

The Cabinet noted that Parish Council member appointments to a National Park Authority were currently counted as Secretary of State appointees and were additional to the local authority members. Members were concerned that if in the future Parish members were included with the other local authority representatives this in effect would limit the number of appointments that could be made to represent local community and New Forest interests.

**RESOLVED:**

That a response, based on the officer suggested responses set out in Report D to the Cabinet and as amended in order to strengthen the responses in relation to:

- (a) The need to ensure clear lines of accountability in any future arrangements for a National Park Authority; and
- (b) The need to establish a membership that adequately reflected the special nature of the New Forest;

be made to the ministerial statement asking for comments on some recommendations made in the DEFRA Review of English National Park authorities.

**73. HANGER FARM BARN AND OPEN SPACE, TOTTON (REPORT E).**

Cllr Harrison declared a personal interest as a member of Totton and Eling Town Council. As the Town Council had a financial interest in the scheme Cllr Harrison considered his interest to be prejudicial. He left the meeting and took no part in the discussion.

Cllr Dash declared a personal interest as a Governor of Totton College. As the College had a financial interest in this scheme Cllr Dash considered his interest to be prejudicial. He left the meeting and took no part in the discussion.

The Cabinet considered a request from Totton and Eling Town Council for the use of developers’ contributions in the funding of the renovation of Hanger Farm Barn and the layout of the adjacent open space.

**RESOLVED:**

That, subject to the necessary permissions and the agreement of the Directors of Environment and Community Services on the detailing of the scheme, the sum of £114,000 be allocated from developers’ contributions for community facilities and £1,345,827 be allocated from developers’ contributions for open space, to enable the conversion of the barn to a community building and the construction of floodlit tennis courts, paddling pool, play area and support facilities at Hanger Farm, Totton, the funding to be released on the letting of phases as they progress.

**74. LOCAL NATURE RESERVE, STURT POND, MILFORD (REPORT F).**

Cllr Kendal declared a personal interest as a member of Milford on Sea Parish Council. He did not consider his interest to be prejudicial and therefore remained at the meeting, took part in the discussion and voted.

The Cabinet considered a request to declare Sturt Pond, Milford as a Local Nature Reserve.

**RESOLVED:**

That Sturt Pond, Milford on Sea be declared as a Local Nature Reserve.

**75. TRISTAN CLOSE AND TOP CAMP, CALSHOT (REPORT G).**

The Cabinet considered a request for a supplementary estimate to cover the cost of clearing up and remedial works to Tristan Close and Top Camp, Calshot following the recent occupation by gypsy and traveller families.

**RESOLVED:**

That a supplementary estimate in the sum of £8,000 be agreed for the remedial works to Tristan close and Top Camp, Calshot as outlined in Report G to the Cabinet.

CHAIRMAN