

4 JUNE 2003

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 4 June 2003.

p Cllr M J Kendal (Chairman)
p Cllr T M Russell (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

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

Councillors:

p B Rickman
p M H Thierry
e C A Wise

In Attendance:

Councillors:

K F Ault
F R Harrison
B M F Pemberton
Mrs M J Robinson
D N Scott

Councillors:

Mrs B Smith
Mrs B Vincent
J Ward
P R Woods

Officers Attending:

D Yates, N Gibbs, C Malyon, Ms J Bateman and Miss G O'Rourke and for part of the meeting A Groom.

3. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meetings held on 2 and 28 April and 19 May 2003, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as correct records.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

No declarations of interest were made by any members in connection with any agenda items.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

6. DEVELOPMENT OF THE PERFORMANCE PLAN : PERFORMANCE MATTERS 2003/04 (REPORT A).

The Cabinet considered the development of the Performance Plan: Performance Matters 2003/04. Members noted what the plan aimed to achieve, its development process, content, resources available and the proposals for approving this year's plan.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the changes to the statutory requirements of the Performance Plan be noted as set out in section 1.2 of Report A to the Cabinet;
- (b) That this year's Performance Plan be produced in full colour;
- (c) That appropriate portfolio co-ordinators work with CMT and portfolio holders, as detailed in section 4.4 of Report A to the Cabinet, to set and approve content and performance targets for each portfolio; and
- (d) That the approval process for the Performance Plan 2003/04 be approved as set out in section 6 of Report A to the Cabinet.

7. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES (REPORT B).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That appointments to outside bodies as detailed in Appendix 1 to these minutes be agreed; and
- (b) That each member appointed be asked to produce an annual report on the work of the body to which they have been appointed.

8. DELEGATION OF POWERS TO OFFICERS (REPORT C).

The Cabinet considered proposed amendments to the Scheme of Delegations of Powers to Officers and, after discussion agreed two further amendments to the Scheme.

RESOLVED:

That the amendments to the Scheme of Delegation of Powers to Officers, that are the responsibility of the Cabinet, as set out in Appendix 1 to Report C to the Cabinet be approved and adopted with immediate effect subject to :

Delegation 218 (page 35) – Delegation amended to read : 'Chief Executive, or appropriate Director, or Heads of Service and in consultation with the appropriate Portfolio Holder and the Leader of the Council where the consultants fees will be more than £10,000'

Delegation 226 (page 36) – Only the words 'Director of Environment Services' be deleted the rest of the delegation to remain.

9. BREAMORE VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT (REPORT D).

The Cabinet considered a village design statement prepared by Breamore Parish Council. The statement outlined the main features of the environment in Breamore that the community value, and provided general design guidance for the parish as a whole.

RESOLVED:

That the Breamore Village Design Statement (incorporating the amended Conservation Area boundary and the statement of consultation undertaken) be adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance to the adopted New Forest District Local Plan and the deposited First Alteration.

10. STILLWATER PARK (REPORT E).

The Cabinet considered a report setting out the discussions to date and briefing members on the terms negotiated for the sale of the Stillwater Park to a Residents' Co-operative. Members noted the detail of the current financial position and the implications for the Council with regard to the disposal of the site. It was noted that, following changes to the local government financing regulations and the increase in the cost of housing provision, the position had altered significantly since negotiations were first entered into.

The Corporate and Finance and Housing, Health and Social Inclusion Review Panels had met concurrently on 3 June 2003 to consider the issue. The Panels' recommendation, reported to the Cabinet, was that the sale of the Park should not be pursued.

The Cabinet were addressed by Mr Ian Monks, of Independent Commercial Finance; Mr Norman Rides, representing the Co-operative Assistance Network Limited and Mr Brian Terry, Chairman of the Co-operative.

Mr Monks said that he wished to confirm that in terms of debt servicing, on going management and maintenance, the lending institutions involved in the negotiations were all satisfied with the arrangements proposed by the co-operative. A business plan was in place and satisfactory research had been undertaken in terms of the marketability of new homes.

Mr Rides said that there were a number of examples of local control of businesses and co-operatives that were led by the workforce. Over time these types of arrangement could achieve great efficiencies. There were a great many advantages to control being held by those whose livelihoods were directly affected.

Mr Terry said that best value was not always reflected in best price. He understood that the Government had made changes to social housing grant funding but felt that the proposed six new homes for the site would address this position as well as providing additional low cost homes. Mr Terry also said it was unfair that the residents remained uncertain as to their future.

A resident also spoke and said that since 1966 Stillwater Park had been up for sale 7 times and, as a result, the residents felt very insecure. Residents were not second class just because they lived in mobile homes but they did have low incomes. They needed security and she was of the view that the co-operative was the only way this would happen.

The Chairman said that he agreed that the residents deserved a secure future. He asked what the residents' reaction would be if the Council retained the site but pursued the option to increase the number of homes on the site.

Mr Terry responded that the residents had not voted on this specific issue but his view was that they would not support that course of action. The only reason they had supported the loss of open space was to assist in financing the co-operative's loan. It was the price they were prepared to pay for their independence.

The Cabinet then moved into private session for the remainder of their discussion and their decision.

11. 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 involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 9 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

12. STILLWATER PARK (REPORT E).

Members discussed in detail the advantages and disadvantages of the sale of Stillwater Park.

It was noted that there were 2,500 people on the Council's housing register. The Housing Portfolio Holder said that the Council had a duty to consider the provision of housing across the district. Members felt that they could not ignore the financial realities following the change of Government rules for Social Housing Grant.

However, they were also very concerned over security for the residents. The more profitable the site became the more secure its future would be. Whilst the Council had confidence in the ability of the Co-operative to manage the business, members did not feel that sale of the site to the residents would produce a greater degree of security than if the Council retained the site.

After further discussion the Cabinet agreed that the sale of Stillwater Park should not be pursued. However, Members were of the view that, in the future, the residents should have a much bigger role in managing and controlling the site. In the light of that decision, members asked officers to explore the possibility of reimbursing the residents for reasonable costs that they had incurred in progressing the arrangements to date.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the sale of the Park be not pursued;
- (b) That the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer investigate the possibility of reimbursing residents' reasonable costs associated with the preparation for taking over the site; and

- (c) That the Housing Portfolio Holder and officers work together with the residents and the Housing, Health and Social Inclusion Review Panel to put in place measures to reassure the residents and address their concerns as to the permanence and future stability of the site; and to agree ways to give them greater control over the management of the site.

Attachment : Minute No. 7 – Appendix 1

CHAIRMAN

(DEMOCRAT/CB040603/MINUTES.DOC)

APPENDIX 1

Name Of Outside Body	Number of NFDC Reps	Name (C = Con, L = Lib Dem)
Age Concern Hampshire	1	C Cllr Mrs M D Holding
ArtSway	1	C Cllr B Rickman
Association of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Local Authorities	2	C Leader of the Council C Cllr Mrs M D Holding
Blashford Lakes Consultative Committee	1	C Cllr M H Thierry
Bleak Hill/Hamer Warren Liaison Panel	2	C Cllr J D Heron C Cllr M H Thierry
Bournemouth International Airport Consultative Committee	1 plus 1 deputy	C Cllr W H Dow C (dep) Cllr P C Greenfield
Brockenhurst College Board of Governors	1	Chief Executive
Bournemouth Orchestras Local Authority Forum	1	C Cllr T M Russell
Burgate Scheme Fordingbridge Community Use Management Committee	2	C Cllr P C Greenfield L Cllr Lt Col M J Shand
Bury Farm Marchwood Liaison Group	2	L Cllr G M Walmsley L Cllr F R Harrison
Calmore and District Community Association	1	C Cllr D A Hibbert
Community First (formerly the New Forest Voluntary Service Council)	1 **	C Chairman of the Council
Court of the University of Southampton	1	C Cllr D N Scott
Credit Union Steering Group	1	C Cllr Mrs M D Holding
Crime and Community Safety Action Group	3	C Cllr K F Ault C Cllr J D Heron L Cllr Mrs M McLean
Dorcas – New Forest West Management Committee	1	C Cllr J M Hoy
Dorset New Forest Tourism Partnership Steering Group	1	C Cllr P Woods
Eling Tide Mill Trust Ltd	5 including Chairman of the Council	C Chairman of the Council C Cllr M J Molyneux C Cllr A W Rice L Cllr G Abbott L Cllr D J Russell
Forest Arts Consultative Forum	2	C Cllr P R Woods C Cllr B Rickman L (dep) Cllr Mrs M Humber
Forest Forge Theatre Company	1 plus 1 deputy	C Cllr J M Hoy C (dep) Cllr P C Greenfield
Friends of Forest Front Nature Reserve for the Disabled	1	L Cllr S S Wade

Name Of Outside Body	Number of NFDC Reps	Name (C = Con, L = Lib Dem)
Hampshire Archaeological Committee	1	L Cllr M H G Fidler
Hampshire Archives Trust	1	C Cllr A W Rice
Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust	1	C Cllr A W Rice
Hampshire Children and Families Forum, North West New Forest Branch	1	C Cllr A R Tinsley
Hampshire Children and Families Forum, South West New Forest Branch	1	C Cllr P C Greenfield
Hampshire Children and Families Forum, Hythe and Totton Branch	1	C Cllr M J Molyneux
Hampshire County Arts Forum <i>About to be re-titled Southampton, Hampshire, Portsmouth & Isle of Wight Arts Forum</i>	1 plus 1 deputy	C Cllr P C Greenfield C (dep) Cllr J M Hoy
Hampshire Gardens Trust	1	C Cllr Mrs M D Holding
Hanson Concrete Charitable Trust	1	C Cllr Dow
Hyde Housing Association Ltd - Hampshire Regional Committee	1	C Cllr D B Tipp
LEADER+ Programme Decision Making Group	2	C Economy & Planning Portfolio Holder C New Forest Committee member
Local Government Association	1	C Cllr Mrs M D Holding
Local Government Association Coastal Issues Special Interest Group	1 plus 1 deputy	C Cllr J M Hoy C (dep) Cllr T M Russell
Local Government Association Rural Commission	2 plus 1 deputy	C Cllr K F Ault C Cllr Mrs M D Holding (dep) Chief Executive
Local Government Association Urban Commission	2 plus 1 deputy	C Cllr M J Kendal C Cllr Mrs M D Holding (dep) Chief Executive
Lymington Buckland Rings Management Advisory Committee	1 plus 1 deputy	C Cllr K F Ault C (dep) Cllr T M Russell
Lymington Church of England (Aided) Infant School Community Room Management Committee	1	C Cllr T M Russell
Lymington Citizens' Advice Bureau Management Committee	2	C Cllr K F Ault C Cllr B M F Pemberton
Lymington Coastal Area Joint Management Committee and Coastal Advisory Panel	3	L Cllr M H G Fidler C Cllr B M F Pemberton C Cllr T M Russell
Manor Farm Pennington Liaison Panel	2	C Cllr K F Ault C Cllr B M F Pemberton

Name Of Outside Body	Number of NFDC Reps	Name (C = Con, L = Lib Dem)
Marchwood Energy from Waste Liaison Panel	2	C Cllr L R Puttock L Cllr G M Walmsley
Martin Down Management Advisory Committee	2 plus 1 deputy	L Cllr Dr M N Whitehead C Cllr Mrs L C Ford (dep) the Valuer
Mockbeggar Lake Ibsley Liaison Panel	2	C Cllr J D Heron C Cllr M H Thierry
Mount Pleasant (IDO) Sway Liaison Panel	1	C Cllr B Rickman
New Forest Committee	2	C Cllr Miss P A Drake Head of Policy, Design & Information C (dep) Cllr T M Russell
New Forest Consultative Panel	1	C Cllr D N Scott
New Forest Dial-a-Ride Association Management Committee	2	C Cllr Mrs L C Ford C Cllr T M Russell
New Forest Public Health Group	1	C Health & Social Inclusion Portfolio Holder
New Forest District Local Strategic Partnership	2 plus 1 deputy	C Cllr Mrs M D Holding L Cllr Mrs M J Robinson (dep) Chief Executive
New Forest Environmental Protection Liaison Committee	3 plus 1 deputy	C Cllr P R Woods L Cllr M S Wade L Cllr Mrs M McLean C (dep) Cllr Mrs L C Ford
New Forest Highway Management Advisory Panel	11	C Cllr K F Ault C Cllr J M Hoy C Cllr B M F Pemberton C Cllr D N Scott C Cllr M H Thierry C Cllr P R Woods C Cllr Mrs P A Wyeth L Cllr F R Harrison L Cllr P E Hickman L Cllr M H G Fidler L Cllr M J Shand
New Forest Industrial Association	1	C Cllr M J Molyneux
New Forest Ninth Centenary Trust (Note: The Council is entitled only to make a nomination – whether this is accepted is a matter for the Trust)	1	C Cllr Miss P A Drake
New Forest Primary Care Trust	1	C Health & Social Inclusion Portfolio Holder

Name Of Outside Body	Number of NFDC Reps	Name (C = Con, L = Lib Dem)
New Forest Road Safety Council	5	C Cllr J D Heron C Cllr P R Woods C Cllr Mrs P A Wyeth L Cllr Mrs B M Maynard L Cllr P E Hickman
New Forest Supported Housing Forum	1	C Cllr P C Greenfield
New Forest Totton and Romsey Victim Support Scheme	1	C Cllr D Hibbert
New Forest Tourism Association Management Committee	3 plus 1 deputy	C Leisure Portfolio Holder C Cllr J D Heron C Cllr J A G Hutchins C (dep) Cllr G C Beck
New Forest Transportation Strategy Members' Panel	5	C Cllr D N Scott C Cllr L R Puttock C Cllr Mrs P A Wyeth L Cllr M H G Fidler L Cllr M J Shand
New Forest Villages Housing Association Management Committee	1	C Cllr R J Neath
New Milton Christian Association for Single Homeless (NEMCASH)	1	C Cllr K E Austin
New Milton Citizens' Advice Bureau	1	C Cllr K E Austin
Options New Forest Management Committee	1	L Cllr Mrs M J Robinson
Poulner Community Management Committee	1	Cllr D E Cracknell
Project Integra Management Board	1 plus 1 deputy	C Environmental Portfolio Holder C (dep) Chairman of Environment Review Panel
Project Integra Policy Review and Scrutiny Committee	1 plus 1 deputy	L Cllr S A Shepherd L (dep) Cllr B Smith
Ringwood and District Community Association	1	C Cllr J D Heron
Ringwood, Fordingbridge and Totton Citizens' Advice Bureau Management Committee	1	C Cllr P C Greenfield
Solent Forum	2 plus 1 deputy	C Cllr A W Rice Head of Technical Services C Cllr C A Wise (dep)
Solent Sea Rescue	1	C Cllr K F Ault
Solent Water Quality Association	2	C Cllr M Pemberton Assistant Director (Environmental Health)

Name Of Outside Body	Number of NFDC Reprs	Name (C = Con, L = Lib Dem)
South East Employers' Organisation	2 plus 2 deputies	C Cllr W H Dow C Cllr Mrs M D Holding C (dep) Cllr M J Kendal C (dep) Cllr C A Wise
South East England Regional Assembly	1 plus 1 deputy	C Cllr Mrs M D Holding C (dep) Cllr M J Kendal
South West Hampshire Enterprise Agencies Ltd	1	C Cllr D N Scott
South West Hampshire Transportation Panel	5	C Cllr D N Scott C Cllr R J Neath C Cllr Mrs M D Holding L Cllr J E Coles L Cllr F R Harrison
Southampton Port Consultative Committee	2	C Cllr K F Ault Head of Policy, Design & Information
Standing Conference on Oil and Gas Development in the English Channel	1 plus 1 deputy	C Cllr M J Kendal C (dep) Cllr P C Greenfield
Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coastline	1	C Cllr J M Hoy
Testwood Lakes Forum	1	C Cllr L R Puttock
Tourism South East (formerly Southern Tourist Board)	1	C Cllr J A G Hutchins
Waterside Citizens' Advice Bureau Management Committee	1	C Cllr R J Neath
Waterside Gym Management Committee	1	L Cllr Mrs B Smith
Wessex Water Southern Customer Liaison Panel	1	C Cllr W H Dow
Western Challenge Housing Association Ltd	1	C Cllr B Rule