

1 OCTOBER 2003

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 1 October 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
p C A Wise

In Attendance:

Councillors:

K F Ault
C Baker
G C Beck
F R Harrison
R J Neath
B M F Pemberton

Councillors:

L R Puttock
Mrs M J Robinson
Mrs S I Snowden
G M Walmsley
J G Ward
P R Woods

Also In Attendance:

Mrs P White, Tenants' Representative.

Officers Attending:

D Yates, N Gibbs, C Malyon, Ms J Bateman, J Mascall and Miss G O'Rourke and for part of the meeting D Atwill, J Bull, N Miller and M Poole.

52. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 September 2003, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

53. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

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

54. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

55. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Accident

The Chairman announced, with regret, that earlier that morning a road traffic accident had occurred between Lyndhurst and Ashurst involving a council vehicle. It was understood that one of the Council's employees had died at the scene and another was seriously injured.

Members and officers stood for a minute's silence in memory of their colleague.

Capability Festival

People with disabilities were given a chance to find out just how many activities they were capable of taking part in at the Council's Capability festival on Saturday September 13.

The event, centered on Appletree Court, was the culmination of the European Year for the Disabled and was intended to break down barriers for people who may have thought that they could not participate in some sports, hobbies and pastimes.

The event attracted around 600 people and was opened by BBC's blind disabilities correspondent Peter White. The BBC facilitated a three hour long outside broadcast of the event and one of the guests on the show was 90-year-old Helen Tew who proved you were 'never too old' as she had sailed across the Atlantic last year.

The event underscored the Council's commitment to celebrating diversity and disability and it was intended that this would become an annual event.

The Chairman and the Housing, Health and Social Inclusion Portfolio Holder expressed their thanks to all the officers and councillors who took the time to make sure the event was such a success.

56. CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO MANAGEMENT OF OFF-STREET CAR PARKS (REPORT A).

The Cabinet considered a series of recommendations from the Economy and Planning Review Panel on proposed amendments to the District of New Forest (Off Street Parking Places) Order. The Panel had considered consultants' recommendations together with comments from Town and Parish Councils concerning the management of the Council's car parks.

The Chairman said that the introduction of car parking was the first stage of part of the Council's commitment to a New Forest Traffic Management Strategy. The Council were looking ahead at the way in which the traffic would increase over the next ten years and car parking charges were only part of a programme of measures that would be introduced to address the problem. The Council would be looking at partnership working with other bodies to consider issues such as alternative 'quick' routes through the forest, shuttle bus services and increased use of public transport.

Illegal parking added to congestion and the Chairman said that the aim was to introduce, as soon as possible, arrangements to take over responsibility of On Street Parking Regulations. Additional revenue would be needed to put these measures in place and therefore the intention was to introduce car parking charges with effect from 1 January 2004 to help fund the Strategy. It was intended that the parking clocks would be on sale in December. In view of the short timescale, for a specific period at the beginning of January, although parking charges would be in force, enforcement would not be undertaken. Instead, motorists would receive a reminder notice.

Members noted that the Review Panel and Town and Parish Councils felt that a review of the ratio of long/short term car parking should be done after the scheme had been in place for a year. By then any changes to patterns of parking would be apparent and alterations could be made accordingly.

Members also noted that any vehicle displaying a blue 'disabled badge' would be able to park free of charge.

In terms of individual car parks members made the following observations:

Brockenhurst

There were particular problems with commuter parking and parking for the college in Brockenhurst. These issues would be considered in the future as part of the overall traffic management strategy.

Burley

In Burley further consideration needed to be given in the future to increasing the car parking capacity generally.

Hythe

Members noted that a planning application had been made by the Marina residents to enable them to charge for parking in that area. This information had not been available to the Review Panel when they had considered the matter. A local member expressed concern that the proposal for the marina would affect parking patterns elsewhere in the town and this should be assessed before any changes were made.

The Cabinet agreed that, whilst the marina proposals might place additional pressure on parking elsewhere in the town, it would be better to have regulations in force that could then be amended in the light of any additional pressures. The situation would be monitored and a further report made to the Panel following any changes.

Lymington

Gosport Street Car Park - Long stay area should have been included in the tariff table at the same rate as other long stay car parks in Lymington. Members noted that there were a number of issues that had been raised by the Lymington Chamber of Commerce including the need to review the time periods permitted for short stay car parks in the town. These points would be addressed in future phases of the Traffic management scheme in the light of experience.

New Milton

A local member expressed concern that no dedicated provision had been made in the Spencer Road Car Park for parking for employees, from the new Council Information Offices or, for the residents of the new properties above the information offices.

Officers confirmed that they were aware of the concerns of the Town Council. Whilst better management of the car park, giving increased turnover, would assist the parking problems in this area it would be kept under review. The next stage of the Council's Traffic Management Strategy would look at the issue of on street parking which was also a particular problem in New Milton.

Ringwood

There were unique problems in Ringwood caused by the Bournemouth park and ride scheme which members agreed needed to be kept under review.

Totton

A local member said that the proposals for the north of Totton needed to be considered as interim in view of the regeneration proposals for Totton Town centre. There was a particular problem in Elingfield car park with commuter parking blocking local parking. Officers agreed that this issue would be looked at carefully in the review.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That, subject to the addition of Gosport Street Car Park - Long stay area being included in the tariff table at the same rate as other long stay car parks in Lymington, the recommendations of the Economy and Planning Review Panel set out at (a) to (q) of report A be approved; and

- (b) That officers be authorised to take the appropriate steps laid down in the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) Regulations to advertise amendments to the District of New Forest (Off-Street Parking Places) Order to implement these recommendations, to initiate charging from 2 January 2004.

57. FINANCIAL REPORT – FORECAST FULL YEAR AND ACTUAL FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 2003 TO AUGUST 2003 (REPORT B).

The Cabinet considered the forecast budget variations of all Portfolios and Committees from the approved original estimates for 2003/2004.

In particular, members noted that special collections and domestic and garden waste sacks were now exempt from VAT. The Council had received a refund for transactions made between June 1998 and May 2003. It was agreed that, on production of a receipt, a VAT refund would be given to customers who had used the special collections service or purchased sacks during the specified time period.

The Environment Portfolio Holder said that he was of the view that the cost of special collections and domestic and garden waste sacks should remain the same. However, all review panels would be considering their fees and charges as part of the budget process, and it was for them to take a view.

RECOMMENDED:

That the following supplementary estimates be approved:

- ***£23,000 for the income shortfall on Offices***
- ***£59,000 income shortfall from Hythe Market***
- ***£120,000 reduction in interest earnings***

RESOLVED:

- (a) That subject to the approval of the above supplementary estimates the revised General Fund budget as set out in Appendix 1 of report B be agreed;
- (b) That the revised capital expenditure as set out in Appendix 2 of Report B be approved;
- (c) That the revised Housing Revenue Account as set out in Appendix 3 of Report B be approved;
- (d) That the financial position of Commercial Services as set out in paragraph 5.1 of Report B be noted;
- (e) That the actual expenditure to profiled budget positions of the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account as set out in Appendices 1 and 3 of Report B be noted; and

- (f) That on production of a receipt, a VAT refund be given to customers who had used the special collections service or purchased domestic refuse or garden sacks during the period from June 1998 to May 2003.

58. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) SERVICES – BEST VALUE REVIEW (REPORT C).

The Cabinet considered the Best Value review of the ICT services together with an Action Plan for continuous improvement over the next five years.

In response to a question relating to greater electronic access for members to information, it was agreed that consideration would be given to member access to the Geographical Information System (GIS) but there were issues of data protection as well as resource implications that would need to be taken into account.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Action Plan for continuous improvement of the service as set out in Appendix A of report C be approved;
- (b) That those actions not requiring additional resources be implemented in accordance with the timetable; and
- (c) That those actions requiring additional resources be met by efficiency savings, or be not implemented until sufficient budgetary provision is provided.

59. COMMERCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE – BUILDING MAINTENANCE SECTION – ADDITIONAL RESOURCE (REPORT D).

The Cabinet considered a request for the creation of an additional clerical post within the building maintenance section of the Commercial Services directorate.

RESOLVED:

That the creation of the new clerical post in the Building Maintenance Section of the Commercial Services Directorate be approved to support the new appointments regime as detailed in Report D.

60. LEADER+ APPOINTMENT OF FOREST FRIENDLY FARMING (FFF) LOCAL PRODUCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (REPORT E).

The Cabinet considered a bid to the New Forest Leader+ programme for funding of a part time FFF Local Produce Development officer to help commoners and other small scale local producers to meet the requirements of suppliers, promotional events and marketing opportunities.

RESOLVED:

That the bid to the LEADER+ programme for a FFF Local Produce Development Officer be supported with the Council acting as employer for the post.

61. RINGWOOD CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL (REPORT F).

The Cabinet considered recommendations regarding the adoption, as supplementary planning guidance to the New Forest District Local Plan, of the Ringwood Conservation Area Appraisal.

Members congratulated officers on the quality of the appraisal which was a credit to the work of the Conservation Team.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Ringwood Conservation Area Appraisal, as attached at Appendix 2 to Report F be approved and adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance to the New Forest District Local Plan; and
- (b) That the response of the District Council to the representations received during the public consultation exercise be as detailed in Appendix 1 to report F.

62. CABINET MEETINGS 2004/05 MUNICIPAL YEAR.

RESOLVED:

That the following dates be agreed for meetings of the Cabinet for the remainder of 2003/2004 and for 2004/2005:

- 5 November 2003
- 13 November 2003 (*Thursday - 4.00 p.m. start)
- 3 December 2003
- 7 January 2004
- 4 February 2004
- 3 March 2004
- 7 April 2004
- 5 May 2004
- 2 June 2004
- 5 July 2004
- 4 August 2004

1 September 2004
6 October 2004
3 November 2004
1 December 2004
5 January 2005
2 February 2005
2 March 2005
6 April 2005
4 May 2005

63. APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODY.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Cllr Greenfield be appointed to serve on the Hampshire Children and Families Forum North West New Forest branch in place of Cllr Tinsley; and
- (b) That Cllr Tinsley be appointed to serve on the Hampshire Children and Families Forum South West New Forest branch in place of Cllr Greenfield.

CHAIRMAN

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