

4 AUGUST 2004

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 4 August 2004.

p Cllr M J Kendal (Chairman)
p Cllr B Rickman (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

p G C Beck
e P C Greenfield
p J D Heron

Councillors:

p Mrs M D Holding
p M H Thierry
p C A Wise

In Attendance:

Councillors:

C Baker
C J Harrison
F R Harrison
Mrs M Humber
R J Neath
G J Parkes

Councillors:

Sqn Ldr B M F Pemberton
Mrs M J Robinson
D N Scott
Mrs S I Snowden
S S Wade
P R Woods

Also In Attendance:

Mrs P White, Tenants' Representative.

Officers Attending:

D Yates, N Gibbs, J Mascall, C Malyon, Ms J Bateman and Miss G O'Rourke and, for part of the meeting, N Cross, C Elliott, Ms D Lockyer and R Sired.

32. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2004, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr Mrs Robinson declared an interest in Minute No. 36.
Cllr F R Harrison declared an interest in Minute No. 43.

34. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

35. EX COUNCILLOR A D GOODALL.

The Chief Executive reported that the Council had just learned of the death of ex-Councillor Alan Denis Goodall, after a short illness, at the age of 83. Ex-Councillor Goodall was first elected to New Forest District Council in 1987 and represented the Boldre Ward. He had been, at various times, a member of the Policy and Resources, Leisure and Environmental Services Committees. He had also been a member of the Lymington Coastal area Joint Management Committee and Coastal Advisory Panel from 1987 to 1991.

36. NEW FOREST @ PLAY (REPORT A).

Cllr Mrs Robinson declared a personal interest as a member of the Waterside Neighbourhood Partnership Group who were a consultee group on the Play Strategy. She did not consider her interest to be prejudicial. She remained at the meeting and took part in the discussion. She did not have a vote.

The Cabinet considered a revised Children's Play policy and strategy document. The document also included an action plan that highlighted priorities for support and development.

Members expressed concern that some play areas were being encroached upon by development. In other new developments, some play areas were not being built at all. Once new developments were occupied, if residents then objected to the proposed play provision, it might not be provided despite developers' contributions being available.

Members congratulated officers on the excellent work that had been undertaken in the formulation of the Play Strategy.

RESOLVED:

That the Council's Play Strategy – 'New Forest @ Play' be approved.

37. TETRA (TERRESTRIAL TRUNKED RADIO) COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS (REPORT B).

The Cabinet considered a policy in respect of future proposals to site TETRA communication systems on Council-owned land.

RESOLVED:

That in all cases where Tetra development is proposed on Council owned land, the applications be appraised on a precautionary basis, with the presumption being that they are not approved if the public are likely to perceive a threat to their health or well being.

38. FINANCIAL REPORT – FORECAST FULL YEAR AND ACTUAL FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 2004 TO JUNE 2004 (REPORT C).

The Cabinet considered the forecast budget variations of all Portfolios and Committees from the approved original estimates for 2004/2005.

The Finance and Support Portfolio Holder said that he was pleased that the reported variations currently showed a decrease in the forecast net expenditure for the full year of £163,000. There was still considerable slippage in the Capital Programme and members agreed that more realistic forecasting was needed.

RECOMMENDED:

That the following supplementary estimates be approved:

- ***£35,000 income shortfall in Tourism***
- ***£75,000 net loss due to delay in implementation of new Liquor Licensing system***
- ***£47,000 for the Solent Dynamic Coast Scheme***
- ***£29,000 in respect of Pay & Reward Strategy costs***
- ***£71,000 in respect of the reinstatement of the remaining stock option appraisal budget***
- ***£189,000 in respect of Capital Financing Costs (this cost will be borne by increased Government Grant)***

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the revised General Fund budget, the revised capital expenditure and the revised Housing Revenue Account as set out in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 respectively to report C to the Cabinet be approved;
- (b) That the financial position of Commercial Services as set out in Appendix 4 of report C to the Cabinet be noted; and

- (c) 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 C to the Cabinet be noted.

39. INSTALLATION OF POWER TEE – DIBDEN GOLF CENTRE (REPORT D).

The Cabinet considered proposals for the installation of an automatic range ball teeing system together with two options for financing the proposal.

The Health and Social Inclusion Portfolio Holder was pleased to support this proposal that would provide additional help for people with disabilities wishing to use the facilities.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the installation of an automated range ball teeing system be approved; and
- (b) That the business case and associated financial implications, to include a supplementary estimate in the sum of £13,320 in 2004/05, as shown in Appendix 2 of report D to the Cabinet be approved.

40. HOUSING – FINAL BEST VALUE REPORT (REPORT E).

The Cabinet considered the findings of the Housing Best Value Review and the Action Plan for continuous improvement of the service.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Action Plan for continuous improvement of the service as set out in Appendix 1 to report E to the Cabinet be approved;
- (b) That the Action Plan be implemented in accordance with the timetable; and
- (c) That those actions requiring extra resources be met by efficiency savings or only implemented when included in the appropriate budget.

41. WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (REPORT F).

The Cabinet considered the Council's Waste Management Strategy that set out the Council's aims for dealing with waste for the next three years, together with longer-term strategic issues.

The Environment Portfolio Holder said that the extension of the kerb side recycling scheme to Ringwood was working well and, as a result of this success, 96% of the residents of the District would have access to the clear sack recycling scheme.

In response to questions the Portfolio Holder acknowledged the problem of chewing gum on pavements and said that the Council did make efforts to remove it. The problem in the New Forest was not however as bad as elsewhere. In terms of customer satisfaction, the Portfolio Holder responded that the Council took this very seriously and he would continue to address comments and provide feedback to the public as necessary. In terms of a national unified colour scheme for sacks, this was not currently a statutory requirement but the Portfolio Holder said that certain colours were generally regarded as specific to particular types of waste.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Council's Waste Management Strategy attached as Appendix 1 to report F to the Cabinet be approved;
- (b) That the Council's refuse collection policy be changed from back door collection to edge of curtilage collection for all suitable properties by 31 March 2005; and
- (c) That the detailed changes as set out in Section 16 of the Strategy be approved.

42. DELEGATION OF POWERS TO OFFICERS (REPORT G).

The Cabinet considered amendments to the Scheme of Delegation of Powers to officers to reflect recent changes within the organisation.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Scheme of Delegation to Officers relating to functions which are the responsibility of the Cabinet be amended as set out in Appendix 1 to report G to the Cabinet ; and
- (b) That, in addition to the changes set out in Appendix 1, the terms "Solicitor" and "L Moore – Solicitor" be replaced by "Solicitor or Employed Barrister" throughout the Scheme of Delegation and Proper Officer Appointments.

43. HANGER FARM – COMPLETION OF WORK (REPORT H).

Cllr F R Harrison declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this matter as a member of Totton and Eling Town Council. He left the meeting during consideration of this item.

The Cabinet considered financial arrangements that would enable Totton and Eling Town Council to complete the works at Hanger Farm, after the bankruptcy of the principal contractor in this scheme.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That a sum of up to £80,000 be allocated from developers' contributions for open space, Totton and Eling Town Council having made its best endeavours to secure funding assistance from other partners, such sum to be applied to the Hanger Farm scheme on the basis of the current arrangements for stage payments;
- (b) That a sum of up to £285,000 be made available from developers' contributions for open space to assist the cash flow in completing the project, this sum to be applied on the basis of the current arrangements for stage payments and be subject to repayment in full by the Town Council, within a defined timescale set by the Director of Resources in consultation with the Director of Community Services; and
- (c) That, should there be a shortfall on the recovery of the bond from the first contract, the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Director of Community Services, be authorised to approve the level of funding required from developers' contributions, up to a sum of £285,000, Totton and Eling Town Council having made its best endeavours to secure funding assistance from other partners.

44. APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODY.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Cllr Dr Whitehead be appointed as this Council's representative on the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership Panel; and
- (b) That the Head of Policy Design and Information (or his appointee) be given delegated authority to vote at meetings of the Panel in the absence of the Council's appointed representative.

CHAIRMAN