

**6 OCTOBER 2004**

**NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 6 October 2004.

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

**Councillors:**

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

**Councillors:**

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

**In Attendance:**

**Councillors:**

C Baker  
R C H Hale  
F R Harrison  
Mrs M Humber  
R J Neath  
Sqn Ldr B M F Pemberton

**Councillors:**

L R Puttock  
D N Scott  
S S Wade  
J G Ward  
P R Woods

**Also In Attendance:**

Mrs P White and Mrs A Murphy, Tenants' Representatives.

**Officers Attending:**

D Yates, N Gibbs, C Malyon, J Mascall, Ms J Bateman and Miss G O'Rourke and for part of the meeting J Bull, M Devine, S Trueick and J Ward.

**56. MINUTES.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2004, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**57. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

All Members present declared an interest in minute 62  
Cllr Kendal declared an interest in minute 63  
Cllr Heron declared an interest in minute 63

**58. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

**59. KEYHAVEN RIVER – PROPOSED SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2004/2005 (REPORT A).**

As part of the expenditure plan process, the Cabinet reviewed the proposed scale of fees and charges for Keyhaven River. Those fees and charges were effective from 1 January and therefore were considered outside of the normal expenditure plan process.

In view of this, the Chairman was mindful of the fact that the Keyhaven River Users Advisory Panel had been consulted well in advance and before the Council were fully aware of their funding needs. This year the Council were faced with a substantial increase in employer pension contributions and there was an increased threat of Council Tax capping. The Council would also be faced with a reduction in Government grant and therefore the main source of potential additional income was now fees and charges. The Chairman estimated that some fees and charges would need to increase by 8% to cover any shortfall.

The Chairman of the Keyhaven River Users Advisory Panel said that when considering fees and charges Keyhaven River should not be compared to Lymington River. Lymington River was accessible at all times of the tide and the infrastructure of the area was good. Keyhaven River was not accessible at low tide and the infrastructure of the area was limited.

The Finance and Support Portfolio Holder said that he felt the fees and charges at Keyhaven should be more commercial and reflect the market. The demand for moorings at Keyhaven always exceeded supply. He proposed that the fees and charges should be increased by 8%.

Members noted that Keyhaven River had a projected operational surplus of £31,000 in 2004/05. They acknowledged that the Users Advisory Panel were anxious to protect the environment of this special area and some fees had been set at a rate to discourage certain user groups ie: single launchings of large craft. Members agreed that the area provided a good environment for young children to sail and that special consideration should be given to the fees and charges for fishing boats that worked out of Keyhaven River.

In view of the short timescale the Cabinet recommended that the fees and charges be increased to give an overall 8% rise in gross income but that the detail of the individual charges be agreed in consultation with the Keyhaven River Users Advisory Panel and reported direct to the next Council meeting to be considered in conjunction with the Cabinet's recommendation.

**RECOMMENDED:**

*That, subject to a report on the detail of the individual charges to reflect a graded increase to protect the small boats and the fishermen using the area being made direct to the Council, the fees and charges for Keyhaven River be increased to give an overall 8% rise in gross income to be effective from 1 January 2005.*

**60. FINANCIAL REPORT – FORECAST FULL YEAR AND ACTUAL FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 2004 TO AUGUST 2004 (REPORT B).**

The Cabinet considered the forecast budget variations of all Portfolios and Committees from the approved original estimates for 2004/2005. Overall, members were pleased to note that the budget profiling was improving.

**RECOMMENDED:**

*That a supplementary estimate of £321,000 for ICT expenditure to be funded from external grant income be approved.*

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the changes to be reported to the Planning Development Control Committee be noted and the other items as set out in the revised General Fund budget in Appendix 1 to report B to the Cabinet be agreed;
- (b) That, subject to the approval of the above recommendation, the revised capital expenditure as set out in Appendix 2 to report B to the Cabinet be approved;
- (c) That the revised Housing Revenue Account as set out in Appendix 3 of report B to the Cabinet be approved;
- (d) That the financial position of Commercial Services as set out in Appendix 4 of report B to the Cabinet be noted; and
- (e) That the actual expenditure to profiled budget positions of the General Fund, Capital Programme and Housing Revenue Account as set out in Appendices 1 to 3 of report B to the Cabinet be noted.

**61. HOUNSDOWN SCHOOL COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE – MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS (REPORT C).**

The Cabinet considered a proposal to partner with Hampshire County Council in the management of Hounslow School Community Sports Centre. Members noted that this would be a valuable additional health resource for the community. Advance bookings were being taken and most weekday evenings were already fully booked.

The financial risk to the Council had been minimised in that any losses against budget would be a charge against the Asset Payment of £21,000 to the School. The detail of this was still to be confirmed in the management agreement but Members noted that this point was not negotiable.

**RESOLVED:**

That the proposal to partner with Hampshire County Council in the management of Hounslow Community Sports Centre on the basis outlined in report C to the Cabinet be approved and the Director of Community Services be authorised in consultation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to enter into a Management Agreement with Hampshire County Council on the basis as set out.

**62. PARISH PLANS AND MARKET TOWN HEALTH CHECKS (REPORT D).**

All members present, who were also members of a Town or Parish Council, declared a personal interest as such. No member considered their interest to be prejudicial and they remained at the meeting, took part in the discussion and voted as appropriate.

The Government White Paper “Our Countryside: The Future” set out the concept of Parish Plans and Market Town Healthchecks. Both of these initiatives aimed to establish a community led plan for the future of the town or parish, with identified actions and projects.

The Economy and Planning Portfolio Holder was pleased with the level of response, with 24 parishes now expressing an interest in the process. Some concern was expressed that Totton and Eling Town Council did not fit the criteria for either a parish plan or a market town healthcheck. However it was noted that the appointment of a dedicated liaison officer would allow the flexibility to liaise on a local basis and offer advice.

The New Forest Association of Local Councils were supportive of the proposal.

**RESOLVED:**

That, of the total sum of £60,000 of planning delivery grant allocated for Parish Plans and Market Town Health checks, the majority be used to fund the appointment of a dedicated liaison officer, employed for an initial 2 year period to assist towns and parishes with the preparation of their plans and health checks; and that the remainder of the allocation to be given to towns and parishes to cover costs associated with printing of documents and leaflets

**63. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT DISTRICT OF NEW FOREST (OFF-STREET PARKING AMENDMENT ORDER 2004 – RINGWOOD FURLONG LONG STAY CAR PARK AND LORRY PARK (REPORT E).**

Cllr Kendal declared an interest as a member of Hampshire County Council as another County Councillor who had been a consultee on the proposals had now commented on behalf of Hampshire County Council. He did not consider his interest to be prejudicial. He remained at the meeting, took part in the discussion and voted.

Cllr Heron declared an interest as a member of the Ringwood Chamber of Trade. He did not consider his interest to be prejudicial. He remained at the meeting took part in the discussion and voted.

In July an amendment to the Off-Street Parking Places Order was advertised, the effect of which would have been to allow lorries to park between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. only in the existing lorry parking area of Ringwood Car Park and to reduce the waiting restriction in the long stay Furlong Car Park to 9 hours from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

From the representations received and particularly the views of the Town Council, the Cabinet noted that there was insufficient support to change the waiting restrictions in the Long Stay car park given the large number of people this would effect.

Limited representations were received concerning re-marking the lorry park and restricting the lorry parking times. However, overall it was felt that to make these changes would help alleviate congestion.

In addition the Cabinet agreed that further consideration should be given to the provision of charged reserved spaces being made available to local businesses and their employees.

Members noted that an overall review of traffic management arrangements would be undertaken and would include the effects of any amendments to the Order.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the District of New Forest (Off Street Parking Places) Order 1984 be amended to the effect that lorries can only park in the existing lorry park area of the Furlong Car Park, Ringwood between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.;
- (b) That no alteration be made to the waiting restrictions in the long stay section of Ringwood car park; and
- (c) That the possibility of providing charged reserved parking spaces for local businesses and their employees continue to be pursued.

**64. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ECONOMY & PLANNING REVIEW PANEL (REPORT F).**

The Cabinet considered comments from the Economy and Planning Review Panel relating to the provision of the administrative function of development control under the National Park, and the need for the appointment of a Business Development Officer post.

**RESOLVED:**

That the recommendations of the Economy and Planning Review Panel in relation to (i) the provision of an administrative function of development control under the National Park and (ii) the appointment to the post of Business Development Officer be noted.

**65. CABINET MEETINGS 2005/06 MUNICIPAL YEAR.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Cabinet meet on the following dates during 2005/2006 with meetings starting at 10:00 a.m.:

- 4 May 2005
- 1 June 2005
- 4 July 2005 (Monday – to accommodate the Annual LGA Conference week)
- 3 August 2005
- 7 September 2005
- 5 October 2005
- 2 November 2005
- 7 December 2005
- 4 January 2006
- 1 February 2006
- 1 March 2006
- 5 April 2006
- 3 May 2006

**66. LYMINGTON HEALTH AND LEISURE CENTRE.**

**RESOLVED:**

That Councillors Ault and Tom Russell be appointed as this Council's representatives on the Lymington Health and Leisure Centre Joint Management Board.

CHAIRMAN

(DEMOCRAT/CB061004/MINUTES.DOC)