

24 OCTOBER 2005

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 24 October 2005

- 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:

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

In Attendance:

Councillors:

K F Ault
Ms L C Ford
Mrs M Humber
R J Neath
B M F Pemberton
L R Puttock
Mrs M J Robinson

Councillors:

D N Scott
Mrs S I Snowden
D B Tipp
C R Treleaven
Mrs B Vincent
P R Woods
Mrs P A Wyeth

Officers Attending:

D Yates, C Malyon, J Mascall, Mrs L Battersby, J Bull and Miss G O'Rourke.

57. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

No members declared an interest in agenda item.

58. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

The Cabinet was addressed by Mr D Brooks, on behalf of the Lyndhurst Chamber of Trade. He raised questions concerning the lack of parking facilities in Lyndhurst for residents, the above-inflation nature of the proposed parking clock increases, whether Council employees would continue to be entitled to free parking, whether concessions would be given to local residents, security of parking clocks when displayed in windscreens, what the revenue from sale of clocks would be spent on, and the impact of the proposals on visitors and small businesses.

59. PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO DISTRICT OF NEW FOREST (OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER – REPRESENTATIONS ON PROPOSALS FOR PARKING CLOCKS (REPORT A).

The Cabinet considered representations on advertised proposed amendments to the Off-Street Parking Places Order, as set out in the Appendices to the report.

The proposals were a step in the Council's long term strategy for car parking and transport generally. In line with Government policy, this aimed to encourage more effective traffic management, including encouraging travellers to consider alternative methods of transport than the car. The introduction of the District-wide clock in particular was part of this strategy. It was also important to encourage the use of town and village shops and amenities to keep town and village centres vibrant, while discouraging congestion in long stay car parks, hence the proposal to maintain a low cost short stay clock.

It was reported that Hampshire County Council had now consented to the proposals (the amendments to the parking clock scheme having been consented to for a period of two years from 1 January 2006).

On 13 September 2005 Council had also approved the Cabinet's recommendations that consultations be undertaken with Hythe Ferry owners and Hythe and Dibden Parish Council with a view to establishing special arrangements for Hythe Ferry users; and that consultations be undertaken with Community Centres where users are reliant on Council-owned off street car parks, with a view to establishing special arrangements to assist appropriate Community Centre users.

Consultations had taken place in respect of arrangements for Hythe Ferry users, and as a result it was proposed that a Hythe Ferry clock could be purchased at Hythe Pier by those who purchased 10-journey, monthly, three monthly or annual tickets for the ferry. The proposed cost of the Hythe Ferry clock was £8 a year. It would be valid for parking on the same terms as a shoppers' clock (ie for up to 3 hours in any town or village car park), but would also be valid for long-stay parking in the long-stay car parks in Hythe.

Neither Lyndhurst Community Centre nor Beaulieu Village Hall had their own parking and users relied on the Council car parks. Discussions had therefore taken place with both of them.

In Lyndhurst, it was proposed that Community Centre users would be able to purchase a Lyndhurst Community Centre clock from the Centre, for the same price as the shoppers' clock (£8). Like the Hythe Ferry clock, this would permit parking for up to 3 hours in any town or village car park. However, it would be valid for up to 5 hours parking in the Lyndhurst long stay car park.

In Beaulieu a similar arrangement was not practicable as the Village Hall did not have arrangements in place for selling clocks. Instead, it had been agreed that Hall users would be issued with a date-stamped voucher by the Hall. Display of the voucher, in conjunction with the standard shoppers' parking clock, would mean that the vehicle concerned would not incur an excess or penalty charge for the first 5 hours of its stay in the Beaulieu car park.

On the question of the public consultation generally, over 140 representations on the proposals had been received. It was worth noting that the level of representations received was equivalent to only %0.216 of the clocks issued this year. Many of the representations related to the proposed charges for the clocks, in particular the District-wide clock. However, Cabinet considered that the proposed cost of £80 a year (£44 a half year) represented very good value. It would permit unlimited use of all the Council's car parks (subject to existing restrictions applying in individual car parks) for just over £1.50 a week. This was much lower than the cost of long stay parking in neighbouring Council areas. Some representations referred to fears of displacement parking on streets, and the fact that purchase of a clock did not guarantee a parking space. When the Council took over management of all parking enforcement in January 2006 it would be better placed to address any problems caused by displacement parking, and to examine further measures to increase parking opportunities.

The issue of security of the District-wide clock when displayed in windscreens was also raised. Some Council car parks were covered by CCTV, and clocks would only need to be displayed during the day-time. However, the question of security would be examined in the light of experience and, if necessary, consideration would be given to whether security measures could be introduced without compromising the flexibility given by the proposed scheme, which allowed clocks to be transferred between vehicles.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) ***That, the representations on the advertised proposals having been considered, officers be authorised to amend the District of New Forest (Off Street Parking Places) Order with effect from 1 January 2006 to:***
- (i) ***reflect the proposals set out in Appendix 1 to Report A; and***
 - (ii) ***include further modifications to:***
 - (1) ***introduce a Hythe Ferry clock at a cost of £8 a year or part thereof, to allow parking on the same terms as a shoppers' parking clock, plus long-stay parking in the long stay car parks in Hythe; (this clock may be purchased only from Hythe Pier at the same time as a 10 journey, monthly, three monthly or annual ticket for the Hythe Ferry);***
 - (2) ***introduce a Lyndhurst Community Centre parking clock at a cost £8 a year or part thereof, to allow parking on the same terms as a shoppers' parking clock, including parking for up to 5 hours in the long stay car park in Lyndhurst; (this clock may be purchased only from Lyndhurst Community Centre by Centre users);***
 - (3) ***remove the provision that requires motorists with a shoppers' parking clock who wish to park for more than three hours to return to the car park at the end of three hours and buy a ticket from the ticket machine for the***

additional period (instead, a ticket for the balance of the period over 3 hours may be purchased from a ticket machine on arrival at the car park and displayed together with the clock);

- (b) That, in the Council's view, the modifications set out at recommendation (a)(ii) above are not substantial changes to the advertised proposals such as to require further advertisement and a further period of public representation;*
- (c) That users of the Beaulieu Village Hall not be subject to excess or penalty charges or required to purchase a parking ticket, where they display a valid shoppers' parking dock in conjunction with a date stamped voucher (relevant for the day in question) provided by the Council and issued by the Village Hall and the period of their stay in the Beaulieu car park does not exceed 5 hours; and*
- (d) That, in response to the representations received on the draft proposals, the consideration and proposed action set out in Appendices 2 and 3 to Report A to the Cabinet be endorsed.*

CHAIRMAN