

6 SEPTEMBER 2006
NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 6 September 2006.

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

In Attendance:

Councillors:

C J Harrison
R J Neath
B M F Pemberton
Mrs S I Snowden

Councillors:

J G Ward
A Weeks
P R Woods

Also In Attendance:

Mrs P White, Tenants' Representatives.

Officers Attending:

D Yates, C Malyon, J Mascal, Ms J Bateman, D Brown and Miss G O'Rourke and for part of the meeting M Devine and N Hunt.

38. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 August 2006, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr Kendal declared interests in Minute Nos 41 & 42.
Cllr Weeks declared interests in Minute Nos 41 & 43.

40. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

41. AGREEMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT WORKS ON HIGHWAY LAND PURSUANT TO SECTION 278 OF THE HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 (REPORT A).

Cllr Kendal declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this matter as Executive Member for Environment at Hampshire County Council. He left the meeting during discussion of this item.

Cllr Weeks declared a personal interest as a member of Hampshire County Council. He did not consider his interest to be prejudicial. He remained at the meeting. He did not have a vote.

Cllr Rickman, Vice-Chairman took the Chair for this item.

The Cabinet considered a report detailing arrangements that would enable the District Council to execute environmental enhancement works on the public highway, at its own expense, with the necessary consent from HCC.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the principle of the New Forest District Council undertaking environmental enhancement works, linked to the improvement of car parks etc. in their own right on HCC's land be approved together with the use of the Section 278 Agreement shown in Appendix 1 to Report A to the Cabinet (subject to any future amendments being agreed by the New Forest District Council's Head of Legal & Democratic Services) to enable the District Council to execute its own improvement schemes on the public highway;
- (b) That New Forest District Council's Portfolio Holders approve future individual works for inclusion in specific Section 278 Agreements (subject to Financial Regulations);
- (c) That the entering into Section 278 Agreements for the schemes listed at paragraph 1.3 of Report A to the Cabinet be approved;
- (d) That authority be delegated to New Forest District Council's Chief Executive, Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Democratic Services Manager to enter into Section 278 Agreements, provided that the improvement works have been authorised by the relevant New Forest District Council Portfolio Holder; and
- (e) That authority be delegated to New Forest District Council's Principal Engineers to enter into alternative arrangements with Hampshire County Council for minor improvement works where HCC does not require a Section 278 Agreement, provided that the arrangements are to the satisfaction of the District Council's Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

42. PARKING CLOCK CHARGES 2007/08 (REPORT B).

Cllr Kendal declared a personal interest in this matter as Executive Member for Environment at Hampshire County Council. He did not consider his interest to be prejudicial. He remained present at the meeting, took part in the discussion and voted.

The Cabinet considered arrangements for parking clock charges for the coming year. The parking clocks expired on 31 December 2006 and, in order to give the public reasonable time to purchase clocks for 2007, the fees for the period needed to be agreed in good time. The County Council, as Highway Authority, had given consent for the current clock scheme to run until 31 December 2007.

Members noted that if the clock fee remained at 2006 levels that would result in a reduction of £17,800 in income against the assumed level in the Council's Financial Strategy. However, the fee charged in 2006 was above the level of inflation and therefore additional income had been generated that year.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) *That the fees for clocks to cover the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007 remain at the 2006 levels as set out in section 2.1 of report B to the Cabinet and that provision for this be made in the 2007/8 expenditure plan; and***
- (b) *That no changes be made to the administration of the clock scheme for the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007.***

43. ELING TIDE MILL : THE NEXT STEPS (REPORT C).

Cllr Weeks declared a personal interest as a Trustee of Eling Tide Mill and as a member of Totton and Eling Town Council. He did not consider his interest to be prejudicial. He remained at the meeting. He did not have a vote.

The Cabinet considered the financial position with respect to completing phase one of works to Eling Tide Mill together with proposals for the future for the Mill and the surrounding area. Additional information relating to the receipt of tenders was tabled.

Eling Tide Mill was the only tide mill in the UK regularly producing flour. It was unique and represented a strong connection to the working past of the area. Members agreed that the Mill was of great historical significance to the New Forest. The Leisure Portfolio Holder had been leading local discussions on the future of the Mill and the surrounding area and there was a consistent view from local organizations that a partnership arrangement with the Town Council and other interested parties would have many benefits.

In considering the financing of the works required to replace the Sea Gates the Cabinet recommended that the total amount of additional money required should be funded by means of a supplementary estimate rather than by virement from any other budget area.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) *That a partnership approach with Totton and Eling Town Council and other interested groups, as detailed in Report C to the Cabinet, be pursued with a view to the development of a general 'Eling Experience' concept in the area;*
- (b) *That a supplementary estimate of £102,100 be agreed to enable the replacement of the Sea Gates at Eling Tide Mill subject to a satisfactory detailed assessment of the lowest tender; and*
- (c) *That Totton and Eling Town Council be informed of the Council's proposed course of action.*

44. PROPOSED FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY PORTFOLIO (REPORT D).

The Cabinet considered a proposal to establish a new Finance and Efficiency Portfolio and consequent changes to the current Policy and Resources Portfolio.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) *That a new Finance & Efficiency Portfolio be established, with the specific service responsibilities set out in Appendix 1 to Report D to the Cabinet;*
- (b) *That the revised specific service responsibilities of the Policy & Resources Portfolio, set out in Appendix 2 to Report D to the Cabinet, be approved; and*
- (c) *That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make the necessary consequential amendments to the Constitution arising from recommendations in (a) and (b) above.*

CHAIRMAN