

26TH FEBRUARY 1990

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 26th February 1990.

p Cllr. D.S. Burdle - Chairman
p Cllr. J.A.G. Hutchins, JP - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

p Mrs. N.E. Alldridge
p A.E. Avery
p Mrs. O.A.M. Badland
p Mrs. M.J. Bannister
p Wg. Cdr. H.E. Bennett, MBE
p W.E.B. Boothby
p E.R. Bowring
P. Brown
R.J. Burnett
p Miss M.A. Clarke
p J.E. Coles
M.R. Cox
p J.G. Craig
p B.A. Cullers
p G. Dawson
p J.J. Dawson
p Miss P.A. Drake
p Major S.S. Elvery
p Mrs. L.K. Errington
p M.G. Galpin
p L.P. Gibbs
p A.D. Goodall
p A.J.C. Griffiths
p S.A. Hayes
p Group Capt. M. Hermiston, MBE
p J.M. Hoy

Councillors:

p A.A. Joyce
p J.D. Keating
p D.W. Killen
p Mrs. M.C. King
p M.J. Knill
p A. Lee
p J. Lovering
p Mrs. P.J. Marlow
p J. Maynard
p R.F. Orton
p Mrs. S. Paton
p R.A. Penny
R.E. Podesta
p Mrs. E.I. Pugh
p C.G. Ramsden
p Mrs. E.M.F. Randall
p A.W. Rice, TD
p M.H.G. Richards
p W.S. Rippon-Swaine
p Mrs. M.J. Robinson
p Mrs. J.C. Safe
p Mrs. J.K. Vernon-Jackson, JP
p S.S. Wade
p G.H. Wales
p J.C. Webb, DFC
p Mrs. D. Wilson
p Mrs. P.A. Wyeth

Apologies:

were received from Cllrs. Brown, Burnett and Podesta.

Officers Attending:

P.A.D. Hyde, R. Carver, N.J. Gibbs, D. Gurney, E.W. Hughes,
E.S. Johnson, I.B. Mackintosh, Mrs. M. Ollis, G. Miles, T. Simpson and
Miss J. Debnam.

64. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 1990, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

65. COUNCILLOR DR P K MANSELL.

It was with deep regret that the Chairman announced that Cllr Dr Mansell had died on Thursday 22nd February 1990. Cllr Dr Mansell had first been elected to the Council in 1983, representing the Fordingbridge Ward. At that time she had also served on Fordingbridge Parish Council. She would be particularly remembered for her fund raising efforts on behalf of the Lifeline Appeal, and also her passionate campaign for facilities for the disabled, including those at Appletree Court. CllrsMrsRandall and Mrs Alldridge spoke of her determination and commitment in all her Council work. Cllr Mrs Bannister recalled her work for the Medico Legal Union, where her expertise was highly regarded.

Members stood in silent tribute to her memory.

66. MEMBERSHIP.

The Returning Officer reported that, at the election on 18th January 1990, Patricia Ann Wyeth was elected to serve as the member for the Lyndhurst Ward, and had made the declaration of acceptance of office.

The Chairman extended a welcome to Cllr. Mrs. Wyeth and expressed the hope she would enjoy being a District Councillor.

67. CASUAL VACANCIES.

Members were informed that Cllrs A Weeks and C Bladen had recently resigned from the Council.

68. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

(a) Students of Brockenhurst College

The Chairman welcomed a party of students from Brockenhurst College to the meeting.

(b) New Forest Commemorative Franking

The Chairman announced that all Council franked mail would carry the words "New Forest" and that first day covers were being sold at 1 each. To date some 200 had been sold. The profits would be donated to the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund's Battle of Britain Appeal. The Royal Mail had indicated that other organisations in the district could also mark their mail "New Forest" and a number of industrialists and tourism enterprises had expressed an interest.

(c) Southampton Enterprise Agency

The Chairman was pleased to announce that, on behalf of the Council, he had been presented with a certificate in recognition of the Council's work as one of the sponsors of the Southampton Enterprise Agency. The presentation had taken place at the TVS Studios on Wednesday 21st February. It was estimated that 22% of all business of the Southampton Enterprise Agency originated within the New Forest.

(d) Community Charge

The Chairman reminded members that this would be an historic meeting of the Council, as this was the first time that they would

be setting the District's community charge.

69. STRATEGIC GROWTH IN TOTTON COMMITTEE.

Cllr Mrs Paton presented the minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 1990.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

Cllr Burdle requested that his name should be included in the list of those who had submitted apologies for this meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received, subject to the inclusion of Cllr Burdle in the list of those who had submitted their apologies for absence.

70. PLANNING COMMITTEE.

Cllr Miss Drake presented the minutes of the meetings held on 10th January, 17th January and 14th February 1990.

Cllr Miss Drake advised members that there had been an error in the production of the schedules to the minutes of the meeting held on 14th February 1990. Planning applications 43338, 43470, 43507, 43645 and 43716 had inadvertently been transferred from Schedule 2 into Schedule 1.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

Residential Development of 600 dwellings - Hazel Farm, Area 8, West of Calmore Lane, Totton (Application 35526 Outline) (Minute 174)

Cllr Mrs Randall welcomed the deferral of this application and hoped that the Council would continue to seek a reduced density of development.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received, subject to the amendment of Schedules 1 and 2 of the meeting held on 14th February as outlined above.

71. LICENSING COMMITTEE.

Cllr Mrs Pugh presented the minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 1990.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

72. CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Cllr Lee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 15th January 1990, with the exception of minute 49(iv), which is dealt with in minute 79 below.

On the motion that the minutes be received and the recommendations adopted:-

(a) Local Presences (Minute 48)

Cllr Cullers moved that Resolution (b) should be amended by the deletion of the words "... and this form of operation should be considered if suitable opportunities arise ...", and the addition of the words "with the District Council paying the full cost" added at the end. The amendment was seconded by Cllr G Dawson.

Cllr Craig considered that the recommendation reflected the views expressed at the meeting. Cllr Mrs Errington also considered that this minute should not be amended.

Cllr Maynard was concerned that the cost of local presences should not be met by the Parish Councils, particularly as some would experience reduced income with the loss of the business rate.

Cllr Lee advised members that the wording had been framed to give the maximum flexibility in the provision of local presences, but that it had been his understanding that the District Council would be paying the full cost.

With 12 members voting for the amendment and a greater number voting against, the amendment was declared lost.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received and the recommendations adopted.

73. LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Cllr Hutchins presented the minutes of the meetings held on 16th January and 19th February 1990.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

Voluntary Early Retirement (Minute 97)

Cllr Griffiths advised members that he continued to have strong reservations on this matter.

(note: Cllr. Mrs. Robinson was not present for consideration of this item).

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

74. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Cllr Group Captain Hermiston presented the minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 1990.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

(a) Blynkbonnie, Ringwood (Minute 60)

Cllr Maynard considered that the demolition of Blynkbonnie for car parking was wrong. The house could provide welcome accommodation

for homeless families.

In answer to a question from Cllr Cullers, members were advised that a small area of land belonging to the Conservative Club might be needed to improve the access. It was, however, pointed out that this possibility was not known to Councillors prior to this meeting.

Cllr Mrs Vernon-Jackson was concerned at the loss of housing. She requested that she should be advised of the the cost of renovation works to Blynkbonnie, and the expected costs of works to bring the access up to standard. She considered that the local plan referred to the area of Blynkbonnie being used for car parking, and opposed the demolition of the house. Cllr Mrs Vernon-Jackson moved that this matter be referred back for further consideration.

The amendment was seconded by Cllr Cullers.

Cllr Mrs Bannister reminded members that the Housing Committee had not objected to the proposed demolition. The Housing Committee was exchanging Blynkbonnie for the Depot Site, where the design work on 39 wardened flats was well advanced. Blynkbonnie would require considerable renovation if it were to be retained for housing, and this had, with regret, been considered uneconomic. Cllr Mrs Bannister advised members that expenditure on Blynkbonnie had been funded through the Housing Revenue Account, and had not fallen on ratepayers.

Cllr Mrs Randall considered that Blynkbonnie had provided good value for money in the short term housing of homeless families, but was in favour of adhering to the Council's policy of car parking on the site.

Cllr Killen regretted the loss of Blynkbonnie, but was satisfied that the house had insufficient architectural merit to warrant its retention, and that the designation for car parking had received adequate public debate during the Inquiry into the Avon Valley Local Plan. The Town Council had supported car parking at that time. Cllr Killen regretted the misinformation that was being given to the public from some sources.

Cllr Rippon-Swaine also regretted the loss of the house but was satisfied that the site, including the house, had been zoned for car parking for 20 years. The sheltered accommodation on the Depot Site would be used to rehouse elderly persons presently in Council accommodation and would release family homes for use by the homeless.

Cllr Griffiths advised members that the Housing Committee had not reached its decision lightly, and had carefully considered all relevant facts.

Cllr J J Dawson considered that the timing of the proposed demolition, in a period of crisis in housing, was unfortunate.

Cllr Mrs Safe reminded members that adequate car parking was essential if Ringwood was to maintain its position as a local shopping centre in the face of competition from Bournemouth and Southampton.

Cllr Miss Drake reminded members that the Avon Valley Local Plan had only been adopted in 1988. Only one objection had been

received to this allocation at the Public Inquiry.

Cllr Group Capt Hermiston advised members that this matter had been considered at the request of Ringwood Town Council. Following considerable discussion, members had concluded that the provision of car parking was essential to maintain the viability of the town.

With 12 members voting in favour of the amendment, and the majority voting against, the amendment was declared lost.

(Cllr Killen advised members that he had dispensation to speak, but not to vote in respect of Blynkbonnie, Ringwood).

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

75. EMERGENCIES COMMITTEE.

Cllr Coles presented the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd January 1990.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

Canisters on Shoreline (Minute 20)

Cllr Maynard referred to a recent decision by Hampshire County Council to call upon the Government and the European Economic Community to press for improvements to the Maritime Dangerous Goods Act.

Cllr Coles supported the need for international controls on the carriage of dangerous substances at sea and agreed to take this matter back for further consideration.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received, subject to minute 20 being referred back to the Committee for further consideration.

76. HOUSING COMMITTEE.

Cllr Mrs Bannister presented the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 1990.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

Social Housing - Housing Needs and Review of Housing Allocations Policy (Minute 79)

In answer to a question from Cllr Mrs Vernon-Jackson, members were advised that persons presently in Band 5 of the Housing Waiting List would receive an explanatory letter regarding the deletion of this band.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

77. WORKS COMMITTEE.

Cllr Mrs Safe presented the minutes of the meetings held on 25th January and 13th February 1990.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

78. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE.

Cllr Webb presented the minutes of the meeting held on 7th February 1990, with the exception of minute 72 which is dealt with in minute 79 below.

On the motion that the minutes be received and the recommendation adopted:-

(a) New Forest Heritage Area (Minute 77)

Cllr Mrs Vernon-Jackson congratulated the Council on the setting up of the New Forest Heritage Area, but was concerned that the Heritage Area Committee would have insufficient power to be effective. She considered that National Park status should be sought.

Cllr J J Dawson also supported the formation of the Heritage Area Committee, and hoped that Totton would not be severed from the Heritage Area by the proposed bypass.

Cllr Mrs Errington considered that seeking status equivalent to a National Park at this stage might be fraught with problems. Existing legislation gave more protection than that afforded to other areas, and any change of status should evolve with experience. This view was supported by Cllr Lovering.

Cllr G Dawson moved that this Council should be represented by the Chairman of the Council and the Chief Planning Officer. He considered that representation by the Chairman would indicate greater commitment on the part of the Council.

The amendment was seconded by Cllr Cullers.

Cllr Mrs King reminded members that planning issues were fundamental to the Heritage Area Committee, and that future Chairmen of the Council may have no interest in this field. Representation by the Chairman of the Planning Committee would give continuity.

Cllr Burdle reminded members that the formation of the Heritage Area Committee was a recommendation of the New Forest Review Group. The announcement of the Minister's response to the Review Group Final Report was expected on 20th March. He also reminded members that the Council would lose its planning powers if the New Forest was designated a National Park.

A ballot was held, as a result of which the amendment was declared lost.

(b) Association of District Councils Annual Meeting and Conference 1990 (Minute 78)

Cllr Mrs Vernon-Jackson requested that the reasons given in support of the draft motion regarding access to police criminal records should include reference to the need for access to the applicant's driving record held at the DVLC.

(c) Appointments to Outside Bodies (Minute 80)

Cllr Galpin regretted that a local member had not been appointed to serve on the Totton Recreation Centre Consultative Committee.

Cllr Mrs Errington reminded members that it was their practice to appoint members from other parts of the District in order to obtain a wider perspective.

Cllr Boothby expressed his support for Cllr Mrs Badland in her appointment to the Consultative Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received and the recommendations adopted.

79. COMMUNITY CHARGE (REPORT A).

Members considered the amended report on the Community Charge, as distributed with a letter dated 22 February 1990.

Cllr Lee moved that minute 49(iv) of the meeting of the Central Services Committee held on 15th January 1990 be received and that the recommendation contained therein, as set out in paragraph 17.1 of Paper A be adopted.

The motion was seconded by Cllr Hayes.

In answer to a question from Cllr Mrs Vernon-Jackson, members were advised that where a property became vacant there was a statutory period of three months during which no community charge was payable. After this period the Authority had the discretion to apply a multiplier between 0 and 2 times the standard community charge. This Council, in accordance with previous practice regarding rates, had decided to apply the maximum multiplier. Once the multipliers had been fixed by the Authority, the officers would have no discretion to allow for personal circumstances.

Members were concerned that, with the present difficulties in the housing market, three months was insufficient to allow the sale of a property, and that people who had to move might suffer hardship paying community charge on two properties.

Cllr Griffiths moved that an additional local class be added, applying a multiplier of zero to properties which remained vacant between 3 and 6 months. The amendment was seconded by Cllr Rice.

With the majority of members voting in favour, the amendment was declared carried.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the following statutory classes where no standard charge is payable be noted:

- (1) Class A - uninhabitable property requiring structural repair and for 6 months from the date of substantial completion of repair work.
 - (2) Class B - property under construction or undergoing structural alteration, and for 6 months from the date of substantial completion of the work.
 - (3) Class C - substantially unfurnished property for 3 months from the date of last occupation.
 - (4) Class D - where a person otherwise subject to the standard charge is exempt from personal charge by being resident in a hospital or residential care home, but only for up to 12 months after last occupation ceased.
 - (5) Class E - where a person otherwise subject to a standard charge is a personal representative and no grant of probate or letters of administration have been made, and for 3 months after that grant.
 - (6) Class F - where occupation is prohibited by law or the property is kept unoccupied by action of the Crown or public authority.
 - (7) Class FA - unoccupied property held available for occupation by a minister of religion as residence from which to perform the duties of his office.
 - (8) Classes FB and FC - unoccupied properties where less than 12 months have elapsed since the day they were last occupied and certain criteria are met.
- (b) That the following statutory classes where a standard charge equal to one personal charge is payable be approved:
- (1) Class G - caravans on protected sites after 3 months of last occupation.
 - (2) Class H - property which may not be occupied because of planning conditions imposed.
- (c) That the following local class where no standard charge is payable be approved:
- Class HA - where a person otherwise subject to a standard charge is exempt from a personal charge by being detained in prison.
- Class M - substantially unfurnished property for 3 to 6 months from the date of last occupation.
- (d) That the following local classes where a standard charge equal to one personal charge is payable be approved:
- (1) Class I - where a person otherwise subject to a standard charge who is exempt by being resident in a hospital or residential care, after 12 months.
 - (2) Class J - where a person otherwise subject to a

standard charge is a personal representative and no grant of probate or letters of administration have been made - for the period 3 to 6 months after grant.

- (3) Class JA - property which is not occupied because the person is required to live elsewhere for the majority of the year as a result of his or her employment.
- (e) That the following local classes where a standard charge equal to two personal charges is payable be approved (i.e. classes based on former legislation replicated):
- (1) Classes K (& L) - As Class E but after 6 months.
 - (2) Class P - All other property.

(Cllr Wade disclosed an interest in the charges applicable to vacant property. He remained in the meeting, but did not participate in the debate or vote).

(Cllr Craig disclosed an interest in Class P. He remained in the meeting, but did not participate in the debate or vote).

Cllr Webb moved that Minute 72 of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 7th February 1990 be received and that the recommendations as set out in paragraph 17.2 of Paper A be adopted.

The motion was seconded by Cllr Craig.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the General Fund estimates, as submitted, be approved;
- (b) That the District Council precept on the Community Charge Collection Fund for 1990/91 be 9,823,450;
- (c) That the revenue estimates for 1990/91 for the Housing Revenue Account and housing expenditure falling on the General Fund be approved on the basis:-
 - (1) That rents be increased from 2nd April 1990 as follows:-
 - (i) All Council dwellings by 23%, equivalent to an average of 5.50 per dwelling per week;
 - (ii) No change in rents for Housing Revenue Account garages;
 - (2) That in respect of sheltered housing schemes, service charges be increased by an average of 15% as reported to Housing Committee on 23rd January 1990 with effect from 2nd April 1990;
 - (3) The site licence fees at Poulner Mobile Home Park, Ringwood be increased by 1.43 per week with effect from 2nd April 1990;
 - (4) That site licence fees at Crystal Hollow Caravan Site, Fordingbridge be increased by an average of 30p per week with effect from 2nd April 1990.

(5) That the service of the appropriate notices be authorised;

(d) That 1 million be transferred from the Housing Revenue Account to the Capital Fund in 1989/90.

The Chairman (Cllr Burdle) advised members that the District Secretary had confirmed that he had received the County Council's precept. The Financial Services Manager had assured him that he had received all the necessary precepts from Town and Parish Councils in the District. This meant that the Council had received the last precept capable of being issued to it, and therefore was in a position to set the personal community charge.

Cllr Webb moved that the recommendation as set out in paragraph 17.3 of Paper A be adopted.

The motion was seconded by Cllr Craig.

RESOLVED:

(1) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for 1990/91 in accordance with Section 95 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988:-

(a) Aggregate of the amounts of which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 95(2)(a) to (e) thereof 44,749,860

(b) Aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 95(3)(a) to (c) thereof 34,926,410

(c) Calculation under Section 95(4), being the amount by which the aggregate at 1(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 1(b) above 9,823,450

(2) That having taken into account, and, where appropriate, having calculated the following items:-

(a) the precepts issued to the Council for 1990/91, including any precept or portion of a precept applicable to a part only of the Council's area;

(b) the Council's estimate of the aggregate of the payments to be met from its Collection Fund in 1990/91 under Section 90(2)(b) to (g) of the said Act;

(c) the amount calculated above by the Council for 1990/91 in accordance with Section 95(4) of the said Act; and

- (d) the Council's estimate of the amount to be transferred from its Collection Fund in 1990/91 under Section 98(4) of the said Act, the Council, in accordance with Sections 32 and 33 of the said Act hereby sets for the chargeable financial year beginning with 1st April 1990 as the personal community charge for each part of its area mentioned below the respective amounts set out below:-

Parish	Community Charge
Ashurst & Colbury	321.98
Beaulieu	319.82
Boldre	320.87
Bramshaw	320.42
Bransgore	320.12
Breamore	319.96
Brockenhurst	321.51
Burley	319.69
Copythorne	320.40
Damerham	319.88
Denny Lodge	320.80
East Boldre	321.81
Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley	320.65
Exbury & Lepe	318.17
Fawley	336.69
Fordingbridge	326.63
Hale	320.43
Hyde	319.52
Hythe & Dibden	326.37

Parish	Community Charge
Hordle	322.35
Lymington & Pennington	333.22
Lyndhurst	321.37
Marchwood	329.67
Martin	321.04
Milford-on-Sea	324.30
Minstead	320.24
Netley Marsh	321.34
New Milton	329.99
Ringwood	328.03
Rockbourne	318.87
Sandleheath	321.47
Sopley	319.75
Sway	320.34
Totton & Eling	332.11
Whitsbury	317.62
Woodgreen	324.57

being satisfied that, to the extent that they are not to be provided for by other means,

- (a) the total amount yielded by its community charges for the said chargeable financial year will be sufficient (so far as practicable) to provide for the items mentioned at (a) to (d)

above; and

- (b) those amounts which relate to a part only of its area will secure (so far as practicable) that the precept or portion of a precept relating to such part will be provided for only by the amounts yielded by such of its community charges as relate to that part

80. SEALING OF DOCUMENTS.

RESOLVED:

That the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to any Orders, Deeds or Documents necessary to give effect to any decision made at this meeting.

CHAIRMAN