

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on 25th February 1991.

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

Councillors:

p Mrs. N.E. Alldridge
p A.E. Avery
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 P. Brown
p R.J. Burnett
p Miss M.A. Clarke
p J.E. Coles
p M.R. Cox
p Miss S.A. Cooke
p J.G. Craig
p B.A. Cullers
G. Dawson
p J.J. Dawson
p Miss P.A. Drake
p Major S.S. Elvery
p Mrs. L.K. Errington
M.G. Galpin
p L.P. Gibbs
p A.D. Goodall
p W.J. Greer
p A.J.C. Griffiths
p S.S. Hayes
p Group Capt. M. Hermiston, MBE
p R.C.H. Hale

Councillors:

p J.M. Hoy
A.A. Joyce
p J.D. Keating
D.W. Killen
Mrs. M.C. King
M.J. Knill
p A. Lee
p J. Lovering
p Mrs. P.J. Marlow
p J. Maynard
p R.F. Orton
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
Mrs. J.K. Vernon-Jackson, JP
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. Hutchins (Vice-Chairman), Mrs. Badland, Mrs. King, Podesta, Mrs. Vernon-Jackson, and Wade.

Officers Attending:

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

60. GULF CONFLICT.

The Chairman requested members to remember the troops engaged in the Gulf Conflict in their thoughts during the customary pause for reflection at the start of the meeting.

61. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 1991, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

62. CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS.

(a) Gulf Conflict

The Chairman announced that he had written to Lt.General Sir Peter de la Billiere to convey the Council's best wishes to the troops. The Chairman reminded Members that eighty soldiers from the Royal Hampshire Regiment were serving with the 1st Staffordshire Regiment in the Gulf, some of whom had written to the Chairman, expressing their thanks to the people of the New Forest for their good wishes.

(b) Yvonne Holloway, Sasha McKee and Neil Blackmore

The Chairman was pleased to present Yvonne Holloway, Sasha McKee and Neil Blackmore with awards in recognition of their achievements in athletics and ballroom dancing. Yvonne Holloway had an outstanding record competing in wheelchair marathons whilst Sasha and Neil had, among other awards, reached fourth place in the World Youth Championships for ballroom dancing held in December in Berlin.

The Chairman wished them every success for 1991.

(c) Tree Planting Ceremony, Marsh Lane, Lymington

The Chairman announced that a Tree Planting Ceremony had been arranged for Tuesday, 5th March at 11 am to mark a jointly funded tree planting scheme at Marsh Lane, Lymington. All members of the Council were invited to attend. The Chairman together with Lymington Town Mayor and a representative of "Men Of The Trees" would be planting a tree.

(d) Battle of Britain

The Chairman was delighted to announce that he had exceeded his target for the Battle of Britain Appeal by raising 6,300. He thanked all those involved for their contributions.

63. STRATEGIC GROWTH IN TOTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Mrs. Randall presented the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd January 1991.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

(a) Kerbing of Ringwood Road (Minute 28(c))

Cllr. Mrs Bannister considered that the lack of kerbing along this stretch of road was extremely dangerous in allowing unrestricted vehicle movements. Heavy goods vehicles were progressively eroding away the grass verge. This was of particular concern as a number of children needed to use this route. She requested that members should, at every opportunity, place pressure on the County

Surveyor to find the necessary funds for the kerbing.

Cllr. Mrs Randall supported these concerns and indicated she would also welcome any assistance in gaining extra road facilities for Totton. She stated that she had requested that the County Surveyor send a representative to all future meetings of the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

64. PLANNING COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Miss Drake presented the minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 1991.

On the motion that the minutes be received.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

65. CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Lee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 14th January 1991.

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

- (a) Capital and revenue estimates 1991/92 (minute 54)

Cllr. Cullers was not satisfied that the figures relating to collection costs were accurate. Cllr. Lee regretted that prior notice had not been given of this point.

Cllr. Wg. Cmdr. Bennett reminded members that the minutes were a correct record of the information given at the meeting. The accuracy of the figures was irrelevant at this stage.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received and the recommendations be adopted.

66. LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Orton presented the minutes of the meeting held on 15th January 1991. He gave notice of his intention to speak on minute 74.

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

- (a) Blackfield Library (Minute 70)

Cllr. Maynard thanked the Committee for their support in seeking a replacement for Blackfield Library, and in particular mentioned the contribution of Cllr. Rice. He was

pleased to report that the replacement was well in hand with the County Council actively seeking the means of overcoming difficulties imposed by controls on the spending of capital receipts.

(b) Arts Provision In the New Forest (Minute 74)

Cllr. Orton referred to the Arts Seminar, which had been well attended, which had concluded that an Arts Panel should be established to review the Council's policies and strategies for supporting the arts through grants. This accorded with a recent report by the Audit Commission on Local Authorities, Entertainments and the Arts, which had stressed the need for clear policies and strategies to assess grants. The Council had given grant aid in excess of 41,000 in the current financial year. He emphasised the Arts Panel would formulate policies for recommendation to the Leisure Services Committee, and would not be authorised to spend any money.

Cllrs. J.J. Dawson and Cullers supported the need for the Arts Panel as the best means of producing reasoned policies for the future. Cllr. Mrs Robinson concurred with this view, and emphasised the panel would have no mandate to commit further expenditure. In 1988/89 the Council had spent 25p per head on Arts, as opposed to 3.41 per head in comparable authorities, and she considered it was vital to have a clear picture of how these limited funds were being spent, to ensure maximum value.

Cllrs. Griffiths and Mrs Wilson did not accept that meetings of the Arts Panel could be held without incurring additional expenditure. In addition to the cost of meetings, this could be the first step in establishing a post of Arts Officer in the Leisure Department, which continued to expand. Cllr. Griffiths considered that the Leisure Services Committee should continue to review all grant applications directly, and moved that this matter be referred back for further consideration. The amendment was seconded by Cllr. Mrs Wilson who also considered that the Arts Panel would raise false expectations of increased grant aid in this field. She did not believe that such expenditure could be justified in a period of financial restraint.

Cllr. Maynard believed that the proposed review would be useful, and might lead to a cut in grants in some areas where help had been given historically, but was no longer strictly necessary.

Cllrs. Rice and Mrs Safe considered that the cultural life of the District was very important, and a review of expenditure would be useful. The cost of meetings should not be significant. Cllr. Mrs Safe considered that the Arts received little support compared with sports, and was saddened that there was only one professional theatre group in the District, leading to reliance on the Arts provisions in neighbouring authorities.

Cllrs. Mrs Randall, Mrs Errington and Keating considered that the present arrangements worked well, and gave good

value for money. The cost of additional meetings could not be justified, and they supported reference back. This view was supported by Cllr. Mrs Bannister who believed that the increasing cost of housing homeless people would force a stringent review of expenditure on non-statutory items such as the Arts. Cllr. Webb also believed that the panel was superfluous and referred to a joint panel which had been established by the County Council to include representatives of the County and District Councils, private sector and arts bodies.

Cllr. Craig considered that the terms of reference should be amended, so that it was clear that the function of the Arts Panel was purely advisory.

With twenty members voting in favour of the amendment and twenty three voting against, the amendment was declared lost.

(c) Calshot Activity Centre (Minute 76)

Cllr. Maynard was concerned that, having avoided immediate closure, the Calshot Activity Centre was threatened by a reduction in funding by the County Council.

(d) Ringwood Junior School (Minute 78)

In answer to a question from Cllr. Cullers, Cllr. Orton advised members that the management agreement between the School and the County Council should safeguard this Council's investment to improve community facilities at the School, should it be decided to change status by becoming grant maintained.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received and the recommendations be adopted.

67. ENVIROMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Group. Capt. Hermiston presented the minutes of the meetings held on 17th January and 28th January 1991.

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

(a) Capital and revenue estimates 1991/92 (Minute 82)

Cllr. Cullers questioned whether the proposed savings would be worthwhile, and highlighted the reduction in expenditure on anti-vandalism measures which might, in the long term, increase expenditure.

Cllr. Group. Capt. Hermiston assured members that the need for preventative measures was accepted and the situation would be kept under review. He hoped that the representatives of the press would draw the public's attention to the cost of vandalism.

(b) Rumbidge Car Park, Totton (Minute 54)

Cllr. Mrs Randall referred to local concerns at the construction of a new link road from Brokenford Lane and the consequent loss of car parking in the Rumbidge Street Car Park. She hoped that local members would be consulted at an early stage of any planning application to allow them to seek the views of their constituents.

Cllr. J.J. Dawson stated that there was strong local opposition to the construction of this road, and the loss of car parking. The car park had been full when he had made a recent inspection. Cllr. Mrs Bannister recalled that the three local members had attended this meeting of the Committee to speak against the proposals. Local people would oppose any measures which would increase the viability of the Brockenford Lane Industrial Estate. As the planning application for the replacement of the Industrial Estate had been refused and the area was zoned for housing in the draft local plan, Cllr. Boothby questioned the need for the link road. Cllr. Brown supported these concerns.

Cllr. Avery recalled that the Estate had been established before the imposition of planning controls and the new owner had increased the number of operating units on the site. The provision of the link road would increase the size of the lorries which might gain access. He also opposed the loss of car parking spaces, which he estimated would reduce the capacity of the site by 40%, when it was usually over 80% full.

Cllr. Miss Drake reminded members that, although the designation of the land had been changed to housing in the local plan by local demand, the industry was present on the site and would remain. The construction of the access road was a necessary pre-requisite for any redevelopment of the land, whether for industry or for housing.

Cllr. Cullers advised members that employees of contractors for the Esso Refinery were being required to park at Totton and were being transported to Fawley. This accounted for the present high level of use. He moved that this matter be referred back for further consideration. The amendment was seconded by Cllr. Maynard.

Cllr. Group Capt. Hermiston reminded members that the Environmental Services Committee were not required to discuss the planning issues, but had considered, as landlords of the car park, whether land could be released to allow the construction of this access road. The Committee had been satisfied that there was spare capacity in the car park and the necessary land could be released without causing undue inconvenience.

With nineteen members voting for the amendment and nineteen voting against, the motion was declared lost on the Chairman's casting vote.

(c) Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Minute 98)

Cllr. Mrs Safe was concerned that this Act would raise people's expectations for their environment and could result

in a large increase in expenditure to meet their demands. Local Authority Associations had advised Government that insufficient funds had been allowed to implement the proposals.

Cllr. Rice believed that the requirements for grading and zoning would be impossible to implement, and suggested that these concerns should be raised with local Members of Parliament.

Cllr. Lovering suggested that consideration should be given to the needs of dog owners in urban areas. He supported the role of the dog warden and the collection of strays, but as more places became unavailable for dog owners to exercise their pets, there might be merit in providing specific areas which were cleaned.

Cllr. Group Capt. Hermiston advised members that the mandatory measures contained in the Act had followed consultations between the Government and the 'Tidy Britain' Group. In view of the cost implications, this Authority would only meet the minimum requirements. Plans showing how the proposals would be implemented in this District would be made available through the Council's offices, and would be well publicised. He emphasised, however, the responsibility of each individual to avoid untidy streets by not dropping litter, or picking it up, provided it was not offensive. In answer to a question from Cllr. J.J. Dawson he undertook to advise Members, in writing, of the cost of the proposed publicity campaign.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received and the recommendation be adopted.

68. EMERGENCIES COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Coles presented the minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 1991.

On the motion that the minutes be received.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

69. HOUSING COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Mrs Bannister presented the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd January 1991. She advised members that Cllr. Mrs Marlow was now a member of the Committee and should have been included in the list of membership.

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

- (a) Capital and Housing Account Estimates 1991/92 (Minutes 72)

Cllr. Mrs Bannister advised members that option 2, which involved an increase of 5.50 per week, had been proposed

and seconded, but ultimately rejected. She considered that it might be useful to include this information in the minutes.

(b) Domestic Smoke Alarms Bill (Minute 78)

Cllr. Mrs Bannister advised members that the Private Members Bill had foundered because of lengthy discussions on a preceding Bill. These measures had, however, received wide-spread support from County Chief Fire Officers and the National Housing and Planning Conference. She hoped that, in the absence of appropriate legislation, the measures would become widespread through the influence of these bodies.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received and the recommendations be adopted, subject to amendments set out above.

70. LICENSING COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Mrs Pugh presented the minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 1991. She advised members that the Hackney Carriage Inspector was recovering following his recent heart attack. Members asked that their best wishes should be conveyed to him for a complete and speedy recovery.

On the motion that the minutes be received.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

71. WORKS COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Lee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 29th January 1991.

On the motion that the minutes be received.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

72. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Webb presented the minutes of the meeting held on 6th February 1991, with the exception of minute 81 which would be dealt with under minute 73 below. Cllr. Webb advised that Cllr. Craig would speak in respect of minute 89.

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

- (a) General Fund Revenue Budget 1991/92
Housing Revenue Account Budget 1991/92 (Minute 81)

Cllr. Coles referred to the proposals contained in recommendation e(1)(i) for rents on all Council dwellings to be increased by 24%. He considered that this was a massive

increase to be imposed in one year, and might lead to an increase in arrears with consequent increases in evictions and homelessness. He considered that Council tenants normally had lower incomes. He also considered that it was ironic that seventy houses had been demolished at Heather Road and, because of capital controls, had not yet been replaced. The loss of income from their rent would be significant. He moved that the percentage increase should be amended to 18.6%, which was equivalent to an average of 5.50 per week per dwelling. The amendment was seconded by Cllr. Mrs Robinson.

Cllr. Mrs Randall stated that other District Councils were raising their rents by 54%, and the proposed increase was therefore relatively moderate. Cllr. Lovering considered that the level of increase would ultimately safeguard the tenant's interests by maintaining the standard of the housing stock. Cllr. Wg. Cmdr. Bennett suggested the full increase could be met readily by households where there were several wage earners. Low income families would be assisted through income support.

Cllr. Burnett spoke of the concerns of the Council tenants at the level of the increase. In the light of previous increases, Cllr. Cullers did not feel that the one now proposed was sustainable. Cllr. J.J. Dawson accepted the limitations imposed by the ring-fencing of the housing revenue account but did not support an increase in excess of 18.6%.

Cllr. Mrs Wilson advised members that the revised rents were still significantly lower than those for newly built properties from housing associations. Whilst sympathising with tenants she believed that a 24% increase was necessary to maintain the housing stock at a basic suitable level. This view was supported by Cllr. Griffiths who highlighted that the cost of a proper, planned maintenance programme, as advocated by the Audit Commission, was only 1.50 per property per week.

Cllr. Mrs Robinson felt that tenants would be given false hopes for improvements to their homes whereas only a small number of properties would benefit in any year.

Cllr. Mrs Bannister reminded members that the financial regulations had changed this year, and that capital works must now to be funded from housing revenue. The decision to increase the rents by 7.00 per week had not been taken lightly. She applauded the views expressed by the Tenants Associations at their pre-meeting with the Committee, when they had accepted the proposed increase, provided it was spent on homelessness and the construction of new properties in Heather Road. The planned maintenance programme was generally confined to works necessary to maintain the fabric of the building. Cosmetic work, such as replacement bathrooms or kitchens, was only carried out where the rooms were uninhabitable. The loss of income from properties at Heather Road was misleading, as new build schemes had been completed in advance. The demolition of these properties did not represent a decrease in numbers, merely a lack of increase. The demolition had been carried out in good faith, in the belief that re-building would be allowed.

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

(b) Future of Adult Continuing Education (Minute 84)

Cllr. Cullers regretted the loss of local education opportunities.

(c) Economic Strategy Statement (Minute 89)

Cllr. Craig reported the views expressed at the National Non-Domestic Ratepayers meeting which had been postponed from the previous week as a result of the bad weather. In particular they asked that, in view of the present economic climate, there should be flexibility to allow major employers to relocate to the District. In addition the Tourism Association had stated that the Council's planning policies were mitigating against the stated aim of retaining a viable and prosperous tourism industry.

Cllr. Miss Drake advised members that these policies supported local businesses and sought to retain local employment sites. Any relaxation would leave sites, such as junction 2 of the M27 and Dibden Bay, very vulnerable to development. It was essential to preserve the New Forest, which was under increasing pressure from expansion in Bournemouth and Southampton. Major employers coming into the District would not find appropriately skilled labour and would import these people, further increasing pressures on the Forest. She advocated caution against flexibility in the policies of restraint. In addition tourism was the District's main industry and necessary to its economic well being, but must of necessity be managed, to avoid additional attractions bringing yet more people into the Forest.

Cllr. Mrs Pugh spoke of the confusion of small hoteliers who wished to improve the facilities offered by their businesses, but were finding their proposals were in conflict with planning policies. Many of these hotels were attempting to improve their businesses during the spring and autumn periods.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received and the recommendations be adopted.

73. COMMUNITY CHARGE (REPORT A).

Cllr. Lee moved that the recommendations set out in paragraphs 7.2 to the report be adopted.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Hayes.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the following statutory classes where no standard charge will be payable be noted.

- Class A Unoccupied property which needs structural repair. No charge is payable until 6 months after the repairs have been completed.
- Class B Property under construction or undergoing structural repair. No charge is payable until 6 months after the works have been completed .
- Class C Unoccupied property. A zero multiplier for 6 months.
- Class D Property held by people exempt from the personal charge e.g. prisoners, hospital patients, patients in homes.
- Class E Properties in the possession of those people who are administering a deceased person's estate which includes a house or flat which is proving difficult to sell. A zero multiplier is proposed for 6 months after the grant of probate or letters of administration.
- Class F Where the occupation of the property is forbidden by law, or because of action taken by the Crown or public authority.
- Class G Official residences of Ministers of religion.
- Class H Properties held by people who moved to receive care, but wish to keep their own home.
- Class I Properties held by people who move to provide care for a friend or relative.
- Class J Properties owned by students who are living away while they are studying.
- Class K Properties which are empty awaiting sale following repossession by a mortgage lender (on which the borrower is currently subject to the standard charge).
- Class L Self-contained accommodation (such as a "granny flat") within a home which would be difficult to let.

(b) That the following statutory classes where a Standard Charge equal to one-half of the Personal Charge will be payable be approved:-

- Class M Unoccupied property restricting occupation to agricultural workers.
- Class N Unoccupied property attracting the standard charge because the owner has job-related accommodation (e.g. publicans,

caretakers, agricultural workers, some service personnel, etc.)

- (c) That the following statutory classes where a Standard Charge equal to one personal charge will be payable be approved:-

Class O Caravans on protected sites. This applies after an initial free period.

Class P Property which may not be occupied throughout the year because of planning conditions. This applies for the whole period of non-occupation.

Class Q Unoccupied domestic property which forms a self contained part of business premises and for security or other reasons, it would be difficult for the owner to let.

Class R Unoccupied domestic property which forms a self contained part of business premises and similar accommodation which cannot be lived in because of a restriction in a tenancy agreement entered into before 31 January 1991.

N.B. The precise definition of each Class is very complicated, only simplified outline descriptions are shown above. Full descriptions of the classes are given in the Community Charges (Administration and Enforcement)(Amendment)(No.3) Regulations 1990.

- (d) That the following local class where a Standard Charge equal to one Personal Charge will be payable be approved:-

Class S Accommodation which is subject to a restrictive covenant or to a condition in a planning permission the effect of which is to limit the occupation to one person.

- (e) That the following local class where a Standard Charge equal to two Personal Charges will be payable be approved:-

Class T All property where a standard charge is applicable not covered by classes A-S.

Cllr. Webb moved that the recommendations contained in 7.3 of the report, as agreed under minute 81 of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 6th February 1991 be adopted.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Craig

Cllr. J.J. Dawson expressed his concern that Town and Parish Councils were asked to set their precept before Christmas for the following financial year, when only estimated figures were available on the number of community charge payers. This had been

of some significance in Totton and Eling where some 1,200 fewer people would be paying the community charge in 1991/92 than had been originally estimated for 1990.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for 1991/92 in accordance with Section 95 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988:-
- (i) Aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 95(2)(a) to (e) thereof 48,281,110
 - (ii) Aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimate for the items set out in Section 95(3)(a) to (c) thereof 37,595,280
 - (iii) Calculation under Section 95(4), being the amount by which the aggregate at a(i) above exceeds the aggregate at a(ii) above 10,685,830
- (b) That having taken into account, and, where appropriate, having calculated the following items:-
- (i) the precepts issued to the Council for 1991/92 including any precept or portion of a precept applicable to a part only of the Council's area;
 - (ii) the Council's estimate of the aggregate of the payments to be met from its Collection Fund in 1991/92 under Section 90(2)(b) to (g) of the said Act;
 - (iii) the amount calculated above by the Council for 1991/92 in accordance with Section 95(4) of the said Act; and
 - (iv) the Council's estimate of the amount to be transferred from its Collection Fund in 1991/92 under Section 98(4) of the said Act, the Council, in accordance with Section 32 and 33 of the said Act hereby sets for the chargeable financial year beginning with 1 April 1991 as the personal community charge for each part of its area mentioned below the respective amounts set out below:-

Parish	Community Charge
Ashurst & Colbury	332.52
Beaulieu	330.00

Boldre	329.99
Bramshaw	333.54
Bransgore	330.17
Breamore	329.93
Brockenhurst	332.08
Burley	330.29
Copythorne	330.16
Damerham	330.31
Denny Lodge	329.51
East Boldre	332.01
Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley	330.16
Exbury & Lepe	328.84
Fawley	350.41
Fordingbridge	342.38
Hale	339.63
Hordle	332.82
Hyde	330.01
Hythe & Dibden	337.62
Lymington & Pennington	342.96
Lyndhurst	330.04
Marchwood	340.85
Martin	331.90
Milford-on-Sea	335.85
Minstead	330.70
Netley Marsh	328.73
New Milton	341.24
Ringwood	337.40
Rockbourne	328.95
Sandleheath	329.09
Sopley	329.74
Sway	330.28
Totton & Eling	343.45
Whitsbury	327.34
Woodgreen	331.38

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

(v) 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

(vi) 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.

74. QUESTION UNDER STANDING ORDER 9.

Cllr. Coles asked Cllr. Orton, as Vice-Chairman of the Leisure Services Committee for an explanation as to why the Dibden Golf Course had been closed on a number of occasions this Winter. This was in spite of the fact that a large investment had been made in the drainage of the course and the winter was less wet than in previous years.

Cllr. Orton advised members that the investment in drainage had

led to significant localised improvements and these areas had not been the cause of the closure. The Head Green Keeper only decided to close the course when he believed it to be unplayable, or vulnerable to damage.

Insufficient notice had been given of this question to allow a more detailed answer, but a written reply would be sent to members within ten working days, in accordance with Standing Order no.9(5)(c).

75. MOTIONS.

RESOLVED:

That the motion submitted by Cllr. Maynard, and seconded by Cllr. J.J. Dawson, relating to the practice of deer hunting by hounds within the Forest be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration in accordance with Standing Order no.7(4).

76. CHAIRMAN'S THANKS.

The Chairman thanked members for their support during the last four years, and in particular during his two year period of office. He gave particular thanks to Cllrs. Grp Capt. Hermiston, Webb, Mrs Pugh and Lee, all of whom would not be seeking re-election.

CHAIRMAN