

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on 29th July 1991.

p Cllr. J.E. Coles - Chairman
p Cllr. Mrs. J.K. Vernon-Jackson, MBE JP - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

p Mrs. N.E. Alldridge
p K.E Austin
p Mrs. O.A.M. Badland
p S. Bailey
p P.A. Baker
p Mrs. P.D. Baker
p Mrs. M.J. Bannister
p Major C. Beeton
p Wg. Cdr. H.E. Bennett MBE
p W.E.B. Boothby
p E.R. Bowring
p D.S. Burdle
p R.J. Burnett
p Mrs. D.M. Brooks
p Miss S.A. Cooke
p D.E. Cracknell
p J.G. Craig
p W.F. Croydon
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 L.P. Gibbs
p W.J. Greer
p A.J.C. Griffiths
p R.C.H. Hale
p F.R. Harrison

Councillors:

Mrs. Y.P. Holloway
Mrs. A.M. Howe
p J.M. Hoy
p J.A.G. Hutchins JP
p J. Lovering
p J. Maynard
p Mrs. M. McLean
p N.D.M. McGeorge
p J. Lovering
Miss G.E. Meaden
p R.F. Orton
p P.G. Pearce-Smith
p C.G. Ramsden
A.W. Rice TD
p Miss G.M. Rickus CBE
Mrs. M.J. Robinson
p D.N. Scott
p Lieut. Col. M.J. Shand
p S.A. Shepherd
p A.J. Simmons
p Mrs. B. Smith
p Mrs. L.P. Snashall
p G. Spikins
p R.G. Vernon-Jackson
S.S. Wade
p G.H. Wales
p Mrs. D. Wilson
p Mrs. P.A. Wyeth

Apologies:

were received from Cllrs. Mrs. Holloway, Mrs Howe, Miss Meaden, Rice, Mrs Robinson and Wade.

Officers Attending:

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

18. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 1991, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

19. CLLR MRS Y P HOLLOWAY.

Members were advised that Cllr Mrs Y P Holloway was representing Great Britain at the World Disabled Games. Members wished her every success.

20. OBITUARIES.

The Chairman reported, with regret, the deaths of Malcolm Richards, Alfred Lightning, Arthur Miall and Colonel Fletcher all of whom had served as Councillors with this or a predecessor authority, and gave details of their public service.

All those present stood in silent tribute to their memory.

21. QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS.

The Chairman was pleased to announce that the Vice-Chairman, CllrMrsJK Vernon-Jackson, had been awarded an MBE in recognition of her services to the local community. Professor Gerald Smart, presently Chairman of Milford-on-Sea Parish Council, had received the CBE for his work in planning. Rear Admiral Douglas Dow had been made a Companion of the Order of the Bath in recognition of his services to the Royal Navy.

22. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

(a) Disabled Access

The Chairman drew Members' attention to the ramp which had been installed at the main entrance to Appletree Court to help disabled persons gain access.

(b) National Status For The New Forest

The Chairman announced that David Trippier, MP, Minister for the Environment and Countryside, had been forced to cancel a planned visit to Appletree Court on 17th July 1991. It had been proposed to discuss the proposal in the report of the National Parks Review Panel that the New Forest should be formally recognised as a National Park with a tailor-made constitution. The Minister had, however, held personal discussions with Maldwin Drummond, Chairman of the New Forest Committee and had shown himself to be extremely interested in all the local initiatives which were being pursued. The Minister was sending his senior advisor to the Forest, so that strategies and options could be worked up in greater detail. This would be a prelude to the Minister visiting the area later in the year, at which time he would make a statement about the future of the Forest.

(c) Superintendant Stuart Matcham

The Chairman congratulated Stuart Matcham, the former Police Superintendent of the New Forest East Police Sub-Division at Lyndhurst, on his retirement. Superintendent Stuart Matcham had been very supportive of the New Forest Crime Prevention Working Party and had been active in ensuring good working relations with the public and this Council.

It was agreed that the Chairman would write to Stuart Matcham congratulating him on his recent successes in sailing and wishing him a happy retirement.

(d) Stan Lemon

The Chairman presented Stan Lemon with a wooden shield as a memento of his long working relationship with this Council as a reporter on the Western Gazette.

In thanking the Chairman for his gift, Stan Lemon welcomed the good relations which existed between this Council and the local media, and hoped that they would continue.

Cllr Mrs Errington recalled that Stan Lemon had joined the Western Gazette as a cub reporter in the year that she was first elected to the former Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District Council. She spoke of his fair reporting and courteous manner, and also his good sense of humour.

23. CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Cllr Wales presented the minutes of the meetings held on 20th May and 1st July 1991.

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received and the recommendations be adopted.

24. EMERGENCIES COMMITTEE.

Cllr Lt Col Shand presented the minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 1991.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received

25. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Cllr Mrs Alldridge presented the minutes of the meetings held on 20th May and 6th June 1991.

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

- (a) Biodegradable Refuse Sacks (minute 16)

Cllr Hale recalled that he had asked for the word "Biodegradable" to be printed on the refuse sacks, together with a brief explanation of what it meant. He thought that this suggestion had been adopted.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received and the recommendation be adopted.

26. HOUSING COMMITTEE.

Cllr Mrs Bannister presented the minutes of the meetings held on 20th May and 25th June 1991.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

- (a) Mortgage Rescue Scheme (minute 11)

Cllr Mrs Smith considered that it should be made very clear that the Mortgage Rescue Scheme was designed to prevent families from becoming homeless rather than aiding those who were already homeless. At the suggestion of the Chairman of the Committee it was agreed that the minute should be amended by the substitution of the word "have" with the word "might" in the second line of the first paragraph.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received, subject to the amendment of minute 11 as outlined above.

(Note: Cllrs Pearce-Smith and R G Vernon-Jackson disclosed an interest in respect of minute 19, relating to cost of leasing private sector dwellings, but there being no discussion did not leave the meeting).

27. LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Cllr Hutchins presented the minutes of the meetings held on 20th May and 18th June 1991.

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

- (a) Revenue Estimates 1990/91 - Probable Outturn (minute 18)

Cllr Mrs Wilson referred to discussions on the reduction of funding to leisure centres which she did not consider was properly reflected in the minute. At the suggestion of Cllr Hutchins, it

was agreed that the wording should be amended by the addition of the following words in the fifth concern that the overspend had not been identified earlier, that officers ought to have anticipated the effects of the recession and hoped that earlier action would be taken in future. The Director of Leisure Services reported that new

- (b) Boldre Foreshore (minute 22)

Cllr Scott suggested that the assistance of other bodies should be sought for the enforcement of a byelaw limiting the speed of boats adjacent to Boldre foreshore.

- (c) Joint Provision Scheme at the Burgate School, Fordingbridge (minute 26)

Cllr Cullers requested an assurance that this investment in community facilities would not be lost should the Burgate School opt out of local education authority control.

Cllr Lovering reminded Members that the grant had been made to benefit the people of the town, not specifically the school itself.

In reply, Cllr Hutchins advised Members that the joint provision scheme would be safeguarded by an Agreement which would ensure the retention of the public use.

- (e) Dibden Golf Course Extension and Driving Range - Progress (minute 28)

Cllr J J Dawson was pleased that the golf course extension had been opened on schedule and was being very well received by the public. He congratulated the green keeping staff on the results of their hard work.

The Chairman remarked that the course extension had been well used when he had visited it on the previous Saturday.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received and the recommendations be adopted, subject to the amendment of minute 18 as outlined above.

28. LICENSING COMMITTEE.

Cllr Burnett presented the minutes of the meetings held on 20th May, 30th May and 11th June 1991.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

29. PLANNING COMMITTEE.

Cllr G Dawson presented the minutes of the meetings held on 20th May, 12th June and 10th July 1991.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

(a) Hampshire County Structure Plan (minute 40)

Cllr Scott referred to section 12 on transport and mobility. He was concerned that the roads through Lyndhurst were not seen as strategic routes for the direction of funding. He considered that the Council's weight should be put behind the need for improvements to the traffic system around Lyndhurst in order to satisfy the public.

(b) Planning Applications For Committee Decision (minute 50)

Cllr Miss Cooke advised that she had not disclosed a non-pecuniary interest in respect of planning application 47598, as had been stated in the minutes.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received subject to the amendment of minute 50 by the deletion of Cllr Miss Cooke from those disclosing an interest.

30. STRATEGIC GROWTH IN TOTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Cllr Harrison presented the minutes of the meetings held on 20th May and 3rd July 1991.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

(a) Car Parking Survey In Myrtle Avenue And Long Beech Avenue (minute 7)

Cllr Mrs Bannister did not agree with the findings of the officers that parking in the waiting bay at the pinch point was further slowing traffic speeds. She considered that the only solution was to close the link to all but access for emergency vehicles. Cllr Lovering did not consider that such access arrangements would be sufficient during an actual emergency.

Cllr Harrison undertook to discuss this matter further with the officers.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

31. WORKS COMMITTEE.

Cllr Miss Rickus presented the minutes of the meetings

held on 20th May and 2nd July 1991.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

32. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE.

Cllr Maynard presented the minutes of the meetings held on 20th May and 9th July 1991, subject to the amendment of minute 23 (Annexe 1) by the substitution of Cllr.Mrs. J.K. Vernon-Jackson MBE JP for Cllr. Hoy on the Hampshire Council of Community Service.

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

(a) District Strategy - Annual Review (minute 8)

At the request of Cllr Bowring it was noted that CllrMissGEMeaden would be replaced by Cllr Mrs M J Bannister as a member of the District Strategy Advisory Steering Group, and reported to the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.

(b) Trunk Road A31 - Stoney Cross Junction (minute 17)

Cllr Mrs Errington reported that the Court of Verderers had formally withdrawn their support for the construction of this junction and would no longer permit the necessary land to be taken from the Forest.

(c) Wightlink - Proposed New Ferries (Lymington - Yarmouth) (minute 18)

Cllr R G Vernon-Jackson referred to a recent report in the local newspaper which stated that independent surveyors had concluded that the River would need to be straightened by dredging in order to accommodate the larger ferries.

(d) Representation On Outside Bodies (minute 23)

Cllr Burdle questioned the arrangements which had been followed for the nomination of members to serve as the Council's representatives on the Southern Tourist Association and pointed out that, in the past, the nomination of representative had been dealt with solely by the Policy and Resources Committee. He was not aware of any Committee decision authorising a change in procedure and moved an amendment that the matter be referred back to the Committee for further consideration. The amendment was seconded by Cllr. Scott.

Cllr Miss Drake was concerned that Cllr Mrs Errington, a founder member of the New Forest Consultative Panel, had not been put forward as

this Council's representative. She considered that her depth of knowledge on forest affairs would be particularly useful at the present time when the constitution of the Panel had been expanded to include bodies with little experience.

The Council was not represented by an officer as well as a member at these meetings. CllrMiss Drake suggested that continuity in the representation would help especially in the light of the debate on National Park status. She moved that Cllr Mrs Errington should be this Council's representative. The amendment was seconded by Cllr Greer.

Cllr R G Vernon-Jackson considered that it was inevitable there should be some dissatisfaction with some of the appointments put forward. The list was, however, the considered view of the Policy and Resources Committee and did not reflect pure party political preferences. As such the list should be accepted in its entirety.

Cllr Craig noted that the list was largely unaltered from that put forward by the re-elected members of the Policy & Resources Committee from their meeting on 20th May. This had proved the value of the old system, which should not be changed lightly. He regretted the delay which had ensued, holding up the production of the Council's Year Book.

Cllr Lovering considered that Cllr Mrs Errington was best qualified to represent the Council on the New Forest Consultative Panel.

Cllr J J Dawson welcomed the continuity of view between the previous Council and that now in office. He did, however, consider there had been a good deal of mutual understanding about the amendments now before the Council and supported the recommended nomination of Cllr Mrs Smith.

Cllrs Cullers and Pearce-Smith supported the nomination of Cllr Mrs Smith. They considered that she would bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm to the Panel.

Cllr Mrs Bannister moved and it was duly seconded that the question be now put. The Chairman of the Council accepted the motion and said that a ballot would now be held.

(e) Deer Hunting (minute 24)

Further to the Committee's decision for this matter to be raised at the Annual Liaison meeting with local Members of Parliament, Cllr P A Baker enquired what their response had been.

Cllr Maynard replied that the Members of Parliament had not supported this Council's

request for the prohibition of deer hunting in the Forest.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received as amended in regard to the Hampshire Council of Community Service and the recommendations adopted subject to:-

(a) the reference back of the nomination of representatives to serve on the Southern Tourist Association (minute 23); and

(b) the representative on the New Forest Consultative Panel being Cllr. Mrs. Errington (minute 23).

33. VENTURE SCOUTS VISIT TO VANCOUVER.

The Chairman reported that Cllr Pearce-Smith had accompanied a group of Venture Scouts on a visit to Vancouver. The Mayor had sent a letter of good wishes together with a book on the 1st Century of Vancouver which would be placed, for reference, in the Chairman's Room.

Cllr R G Vernon-Jackson welcomed the close ties between Canada and this country.

34. 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