

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 11th November 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 MBE
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:

p Mrs. Y.P. Holloway
p 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
p Miss G.E. Meaden
p R.F. Orton
p P.G. Pearce-Smith
p C.G. Ramsden
p A.W. Rice, TD
p Miss G.M. Rickus, CBE
p 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
p S.S. Wade
p G.H. Wales
p Mrs. D. Wilson
p Mrs. P.A. Wyeth

Apologies:

were received from Cllrs. J.J. Dawson and Mrs. Wilson.

Officers Attending:

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

35. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 29th July 1991, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

36. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

(a) New Forest Show

The Chairman thanked all those Members who gave their assistance at the New Forest Show earlier in the year.

(b) 1992 - Garden Party for New Forest Twinning Associations

The Chairman announced that all the Local Town Twinning Associations would be invited to his Garden Party on 4th July 1992 as part of the celebrations of the Hampshire Euro Festival.

(c) Cllr. Mrs. Holloway

The Chairman congratulated Cllr. Mrs. Yvonne Holloway on the Silver Medal that she won at the World Wheelchair Games at Stoke Mandeville in July.

(d) Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

The Chairman was delighted to announce that six local young people had gained the Gold Award in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, and was pleased to present two of them, Susan Harrison and Jeffery Marston, with framed certificates in recognition of their outstanding efforts.

(e) Annual Golf Tournament with Christchurch Borough Council

It was also with great pleasure that the Chairman announced that the Council had won the annual golf tournament with Christchurch Borough Council by a margin of five to nil. The trophy was displayed at the meeting.

(f) Whiskars

The Chairman was pleased to welcome Whiskas the clown to the meeting. Whiskas, also known as Sidney Wills, won the Gold Medal for character make-up (face and costume) at the World Clown Association Convention at Bognor Regis. This was the first time that this particular medal had been won outside America. The Chairman presented Whiskars with a plaque in recognition of his achievement.

(g) Local Government in Hampshire

The Chairman was deeply concerned at the press coverage following an interview with the Leader of Hampshire County Council which had promoted the concept of four new large unitary authorities in Hampshire, splitting the New Forest District. Members had received a copy of the press release

which was issued expressing this Council's concern, and the Chairman emphasised that any proposal which suggested a fragmentation of the present area controlled by New Forest District Council would be vigorously opposed.

The Chairman remarked that local communities, especially in Totton and along the Waterside, were proud to belong to the New Forest, and he assured them that the Council would not stand idly by and watch them fall victim to any suggestions that they should form part of a greater Southampton.

The Chairman considered that such premature speculation and proposals were little short of mischievous in that they could imprint the wrong picture in the public mind. The Council had stated clearly that they were willing and able to carry out all the responsibilities required for the future unitary authority for the New Forest Area, including Totton and the Waterside, and in particular for the New Forest National Park. He advised the representatives of the media to represent more than just the views of the County Council in this very sensitive issue.

(h) Cllr. Wales

The Chairman was pleased to welcome Cllr. Wales to his first meeting of the Council following his recent illness.

Cllr. Wales thanked the Chairman, fellow Members and Officers of the Council for their good wishes and support during his recent illness.

37. LICENSING COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Rice presented the minutes of the meetings held on 18th July, 1st August, 26th September, 8th October and 6th November 1991.

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

(a) Application for Public Entertainment Licence - Ossemsley, Bashley (Minute 30)

Cllr. Rice expressed the appreciation of the villagers at Bashley for the thorough and interesting manner in which this application had been dealt with. He paid tribute to Cllr. Burnett who had chaired the meeting with great sensitivity.

(b) Public Entertainment in the Open Air (Minute 32)

Cllr. McGeorge had visited the open air party at Dilton Farm, Boldre in the company of Cllr. Major Beeton. On this particular occasion the sound

system had arrived very late and the poor weather conditions had limited attendance. The event had not proved to be a problem. He was therefore concerned at proposals to adopt the provisions of paragraphs 3 and 4 of Schedule 1 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. These measures would bring many more events under licensing control in future. The additional cost imposed by the licence fee would add significantly to ticket prices and might disadvantage charity events which were currently uncontrolled. Cllr. McGeorge believed that these provisions were being adopted without proper thought and in order that the Committee might consider the matter further he moved that this minute be referred back. The amendment was seconded by Cllr. Harrison.

Cllr. Rice reminded Members that the District Secretary would have discretion regarding fees to be charged to charitable organisations, which should provide adequate safeguard for them not to be disadvantaged. He urged Members to adopt these provisions. The event at Dilton Farm had not been a nuisance, but a future event might cause difficulties. The Council had been forced to engage in legal proceedings to oppose the event, and had proved unsuccessful. In addition, it would be of benefit to the organisers of such events for the Council to be able to decide quickly whether they might be held. The matter could be reviewed after twelve months. Cllr. Rice thanked Cllr. Major Beeton and Cllr. McGeorge for attending this event and bringing back valuable information to assist fellow Members.

With 27 Members voting in favour of the amendment, and 21 voting against, the amendment was declared carried.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received and the recommendation be adopted, subject to the reference back of minute 32 for further consideration.

38. HOUSING COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Mrs. Bannister presented the minutes of the meetings held on 22nd July and 17th September 1991.

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

(a) Information to Tenants (Minute 31)

Cllr. Mrs. Bannister commended the quality and style of the booklet which had been produced to advise tenants on management information. She

considered that the presentation and readability compared very favourably with the documents produced by other local authorities.

- (b) Capital Expenditure 1991/92
Development Programme 1992/93 to 1995/96
(Minute 30)

Cllr. Mrs. McLean advised Members that Crete Cottages lay within the Butts Ash ward.

- (c) Rural Housing Supplementary Credit Approvals
1991/92 (Minute 38)

Cllr. R.G. Vernon-Jackson hoped that there would be close co-operation between the Housing and Planning Committees to ensure that supplementary credit approval was used to provide badly needed housing in rural areas.

Cllr. Mrs. Bannister reminded Members that there was continuing close co-operation between the Committees and every attempt would be made to use this money in the current financial year. The difficulty arose from the limited timescale, and it was necessary to have schemes pre-planned for when money became available.

- (d) Housing Maintenance Policy (Minute 40)

Cllr. Mrs. Robinson suggested that this minute should be amended to refer to the revised Tenant's Handbook being submitted to a future meeting of the Tenants' Liaison Meeting for comment, rather than the next meeting;

- (e) Housing Allocations - Policy Review (Minute 43)

Cllr. Mrs. Bannister moved that the housing allocations policy relating to bedroom deficiency should be amended to read

"Bedroom Deficiency

Points shall be awarded for children of the opposite sex sharing a bedroom but the Officers shall also have discretion in appropriate circumstances to award points where children of the same sex are sharing a bedroom."

The amendment was seconded by Cllr.
Mrs.P.D.Baker.

The amendment was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received and the recommendations be adopted subject to the amendment of minute 40 to refer to the revised Tenant's Handbook being submitted

to a future meeting of the Tenant's Liaison Meeting for comment; and of minute 43 to read:

"Bedroom Deficiency

Points shall be awarded for children of the opposite sex sharing a bedroom but the Officers shall also have discretion in appropriate circumstances to award points where children of the same sex are sharing a bedroom."

39. ARMISTICE DAY.

At 11.00 a.m. all those present stood in silent memory to those who had died in wars and conflicts.

On behalf of the British Legion, Cllr. Wg. Cdr. Bennett thanked the Chairman, his fellow Councillors and Officers for their help during the Poppy Day Appeal. He highlighted the work undertaken by the British Legion and the need for funds to continue this work.

40. PLANNING COMMITTEE.

Cllr. G. Dawson presented the minutes of the meetings held on 14th August, 11th September, 9th October and 4th November 1991.

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

- (a) Planning Applications for Committee Decision (Minute 120(f))

Cllr. Mrs. Bannister noted that a planning application for storage and sale of timber and associated products on land of Little Testwood Farm, Salisbury Road, Totton had been deferred for further negotiations regarding acceptable uses on the site. She advised Members that a Sunday Market was now being advertised for the site and asked the Planning Committee to consider the past history of unsuitable uses before determining this application. She suggested that a site visit might be of value.

Cllr. G. Dawson advised Members that this application would be considered again at the December meeting of the Planning Committee and thanked Mrs. Bannister for this additional information.

- (b) Traffic Planning: Getting the Public Involved (Minute 122)

Cllr. Austin expressed his surprise that, in view of the importance of the Lyndhurst Bypass issue, no Members of the Planning Committee had attended this Conference.

(c) New Forest Heritage Area Boundary (Minute 113)

Cllr. Lovering advised Members that he had strongly supported the use of the River Avon to define the western boundary of the New Forest Heritage Area as opposed to the A.338. He considered that the river was a credible, historical boundary dating back for centuries; and that the use of the road produced an artificial division of identical ecological features in the river valley. In addition the people living in the Avon Valley wished to be included in the Heritage Area. He advised Members that there would be continuing public pressure for inclusion.

Cllr. Mrs. Errington reminded Members that the use of the River Avon to mark the boundary would exclude part of the existing Heritage Area.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received and the recommendation be adopted.

41. LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Hutchins presented the minutes of the meetings held on 3rd September 1991.

On the motion that the minutes be received;

(a) A Strategy for Hampshire's Coast (Minute 47)

Cllr. R.G. Vernon-Jackson welcomed the positive statement issued by the Committee on the Strategy for Hampshire's coast. He considered this would be of positive value bearing in mind recent speculation regarding proposals for further marina development at Lymington, which would lead to a loss of industrial land and a consequential loss of potential employment. He also welcomed any measures to control speeding craft in the area of the Lymington River, which were a danger to wildlife and caused damage to the banks.

Cllr. Rice reminded Members that there were existing byelaws limiting the speed of craft between Lymington and Calshot Spit. The difficulty lay in enforcing these byelaws.

Cllr. Hutchins confirmed that there were already byelaws to limit the speed of craft but that enforcement was a continuing problem. The Strategy would however promote a joint approach on enforcement by all the interested agencies.

(b) Hythe Marina (Minute 51)

Cllr. Mrs. Robinson reported that the problems at

Hythe Marina now appeared to have been resolved. She considered however that the minute should recognise that County, District and Parish Councillors had all played a part in the debate to resolve this issue and had attended a special joint meeting.

(c) Marchwood Sports and Social Club (Minute 59)

Cllr. Wade was concerned that further delay in negotiations might prejudice the future continuation of the sports and social club.

In reply Cllr. Hutchins advised Members that this matter would be on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Committee.

(Note: Cllr. Harrison disclosed an interest in respect of Minute 59 relating to the Marchwood Sports and Social Club and took no part in the debate).

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

42. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Mrs. Vernon-Jackson presented the minutes of the meeting held on 5th September 1991.

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

(a) Report of Advisory Steering Group - Review of Capital Expenditure 1991/92 and Development Programme 1992/93 to 1995/96 (Minute 32)

(i) Wellands Road, Lyndhurst ((a)(ii))

Cllr. Pearce-Smith considered that this car park should be restricted to short-stay to avoid the space being used by a local garage. Cllr. Mrs. Vernon-Jackson agreed that a time limit would be investigated.

(ii) Recycling ((a)(iv))

Cllr. Mrs. Smith welcomed increased support for recycling, and particularly noted the promotion of the proper use of resources.

(iii) Concessionary Transport Scheme ((b)(vi))

Cllr. Mrs. Vernon-Jackson advised Members that the present criteria for the Scheme specifically excluded people who received the mobility allowance. This benefit would however be discontinued in January 1992 and the Scheme would be reassessed at the next meeting to consider how to respond to this

change.

(iv) Fees and Charges (c)

Cllr. Mrs. Howe was not satisfied that elderly people should meet the full cost proposed for garden refuse sacks. She considered that there was merit in offering a discount to elderly people and moved that the matter be referred back for further consideration. The amendment was seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Robinson.

Cllr. Mrs. Vernon-Jackson reminded Members that the cost of the sacks was equivalent to the cost of the collection service. The service had to be self-supporting as the Direct Labour Organisation must be run as a commercial concern and it would be difficult to decide who should be given an advantage, especially as other users would have to pay more. Any scheme which offered a discount was open to exploitation.

With 38 Members voting in favour of the amendment, and a lesser number voting against, the amendment was declared carried.

Cllr. Griffiths was unhappy that there would be no grass collection service, particularly in Barton-on-Sea, where there was strong local feeling that the discarded grass cuttings were hazardous, and seriously detrimental in an area where people took a pride in their gardens. He had noted that a grass collection service for the District would cost 245,000, but he considered that there was merit in a pilot scheme at Barton-on-Sea, to establish the actual cost. He moved that the matter be referred back for further consideration.

The amendment was seconded by Cllr. Greer who considered that a pilot scheme, based on one collection machine, would be worthwhile.

Cllr. Miss Cooke was concerned that removing grass cuttings would lead to a need for fertilizer to be applied in the future. She supported the policy of mulching. Grass cuttings had only been a problem this year because of the particularly luxuriant growth. This view was supported by Cllrs. Mrs. Alldridge and Mrs. Bannister who reminded Members that the Agency Area enjoyed higher grass cutting standards than the Waterside, where the profuse growth this year was obscuring road signs.

The higher standards already enjoyed by the Agency Area were emphasised by Cllrs.Lovering and Cullers. Cllr.Cullers referred to an annual subsidy of 300,000 for the Agency Area. He considered that additional funds should be spent to bring the rest of the District up to standard, before further increasing the service in Barton-on-Sea. Cllr.Burdle supported the pilot scheme and considered that grass cutting machines should also collect the cuttings. He suggested that the state of roadside verges was an important element in the environment in which people lived.

Cllr. Mrs. Vernon-Jackson agreed that this matter would be given further consideration by the Committee.

(b) Lorries in Hampshire (Minute 33)

Cllr. Mrs. Errington had noted support for the provision of toilets and bins etc. in laybys. She had previously campaigned to have toilets removed from laybys as they attracted undesirable practices. She suggested caution in this matter. Cllr. Mrs. Errington also considered that lorry parking sites, such as that provided jointly with the County Council at Ringwood, should have a good standard of services offered for which there should be a reasonable charge, in line with other Counties.

(c) The Transport of Live Animals to the Continent (Minute 44)

Cllr. Miss Cooke was delighted at the support for opposition to the live export of animals to the continent, which had achieved partial success. She asked that there should be continued pressure for the standards of welfare in Britain to be applied throughout the European Economic Community.

Cllr. Lovering was sceptical whether the "minimum value" restriction on horses and ponies ultimately provided adequate protection for these animals.

Cllr. Greer considered that the Minister had done well to achieve the approved standards which were to be applied. He advocated a system whereby animals were treated under British standards until they arrived at the destination which was specified in their export documents.

(d) Supply of Bio-Degradable Refuse Sacks -

Pricing Adjustment (Minute 55)

Cllr. Croydon considered that the printing on the sacks should show that they were recycled. It was agreed that this would be done provided there was no additional cost.

(e) Access to Blynkbonnie Car Park, Ringwood (Minute 61)

Cllr. P.A. Baker advised Members that following the decision to proceed with the Compulsory Purchase Order, the landowner had now indicated his willingness to sell the land at an acceptable market price. Cllr. Baker was not satisfied that the access arrangements were acceptable, or that Blynkbonnie was a proper site for a car park. He would prefer Blynkbonnie to be used for housing, with the Depot site being used for car parking.

Cllr. Mrs. Bannister assured Members that the Housing Committee would be very happy to put housing on the Blynkbonnie site, and foresaw no difficulty in finding a Housing Association to put in a bid for finance. The Committee would not, however, wish to give up the Depot site.

Cllr. Miss Drake did not agree with concerns at the use of this site for car parking, or the access arrangements, and considered that the scheme should be progressed urgently to meet local demand for car parking spaces. Cllr. Mrs. Errington also considered that there was a need for additional car parking in this area, which was close to the Library, and reminded Members that commuted payments had been taken for the provision of car parking.

Cllr. Mrs. Vernon-Jackson explained that the matter had now been resolved and a Compulsory Purchase Order would not have to be made.

(Note: Cllr. Croydon disclosed an interest in respect of Minute 36 relating to the proposed A.36 West Wellow Bypass but had a dispensation from the Department of Environment to speak on this matter).

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received and the recommendations be adopted, subject to the reference back of the parts of minute 32 relating to the charge

for garden refuse sacks and the grass collection service, for further consideration.

43. FIRE DRILL.

The meeting adjourned at 11.30 a.m. for a fire drill and resumed at 11.50 a.m.

Members were concerned that the fire bell was almost inaudible in the Council Chamber and also that the signposting to the Emergency Exit from the Council Chamber was not clear. It was agreed that these matters would be investigated.

44. STRATEGIC GROWTH IN TOTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Harrison presented the minutes of the meeting held on 24th September 1991, subject to the inclusion of Cllr. G. Dawson in the list of those who had submitted their apologies. Cllr. Harrison also expressed his pleasure at the quality of support which had been given by the Officers for this evening meeting at Totton.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

(a) Hollyhatch Road/Testbourne Road Link (Minute 19)

Cllr. Mrs. Bannister expressed her continuing dissatisfaction with the arrangements at this road link. She advised Members that only one, small give-way sign had been erected and no priority or keep clear signs were in place. In addition the vegetation had only been cleared on the approach from Hollyhatch, but not in the other direction. She felt that on balance the road link was less safe than before. She suggested that there should be a visit to this site, possibly before the next meeting of the Committee. Cllr. Harrison undertook to discuss this matter with the Officers to seek the most appropriate way to achieve a site visit.

(b) Totton Western Bypass- Inquiry into Compulsory Purchase Order (Minute 24)

Cllr. Greer regretted the continuing delay in the progress of the construction of the Totton Western Bypass and enquired whether there had been any further developments.

Cllr. Harrison advised Members that there was no further definitive information available.

Cllr. Burdle considered that the circumstances of the reconvened Public Inquiry were curious both in the delay and the way in which the arrangements for the resumed Inquiry had been made. The road was needed urgently and the County had both the money in their budget and

the necessary planning permission for the route.

Cllr. Burdle suggested that the Chairman should write to the local Members of Parliament to request them to ask a Question on this matter in the House of Commons. This was agreed.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received subject to the inclusion of Cllr. G. Dawson in the list of those who had submitted their apologies, and the deletion of Cllr. Miss Drake from those who had attended the meeting.

45. WORKS COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Miss Rickus presented the minutes of the meeting held on 1st October 1991.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

Reserve Account - New Forest Contract Services
(Minute 19)

Cllr. R.G. Vernon-Jackson highlighted that New Forest Contract Services were transferring a surplus of 49,000 to general reserves. He considered that the Director Labour Organisation (New Forest Services) should be congratulated on their success. Members concurred.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

46. CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Wade presented the minutes of the meeting held on 7th October 1991.

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

(a) Community Charge Update (Minute 19)

Cllr. Wade was pleased to report that on 30th June 1991 the Council had had the twelfth best collection record in the country, and for the half year ending 30th September 1991 were the sixth best authority. Cllr. Wade considered that this result reflected the hard work of the staff and the co-operation of community charge payers. He hoped that this excellent record would continue as it helped contain the costs to all charge payers.

(b) Council Tax - Implementation and Administration Costs (Minute 21)

Cllr. McGeorge was concerned at the impact of the new tax especially in this District where there would be a shift in the taxation burden. He considered it likely that all non-exempt people would be paying more towards the cost of local government. Cllr. Lovering considered that there was no pleasing way of collecting taxes. No tax was completely fair but he hoped that this tax would be better than its predecessors.

- (c) Public Relations Working Party - Terms of Reference (Minute 24)

Cllr. Griffiths was concerned at the possibility of a municipal newspaper being published. He considered that the local newspapers had an excellent record for their coverage of local issues and did not wish to see the production of a political newspaper in this District.

Cllr. Griffiths was reassured that there was no mention of a Council newspaper in the terms of reference of the Working Party.

(Note: Cllr. Mrs. Snashall disclosed an interest in Minute 23 insofar as it related to blackout blinds to the Council Chamber roof but there being no discussion did not leave the meeting).

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received and the recommendations be adopted.

47. EMERGENCIES COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Shand presented the minutes of the meeting held on 14th October 1991.

On the motion that the minutes be received.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

48. ADJOURNMENT AND RESUMPTION OF MEETING.

The meeting was adjourned for lunch at 1.40 p.m. and resumed at 2.15 p.m. with the following Members present:

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

Councillors:

p Mrs. Y.P. Holloway
p Mrs. A.M. Howe
p J.M. Hoy

p S. Bailey	p J.A.G. Hutchins, JP
P P.A. Baker	p J. Lovering
p Mrs. P.D. Baker	p J. Maynard
p Mrs. M.J. Bannister	p Mrs. M. McLean
p Major C. Beeton MBE	p N.D.M. McGeorge
p Wg. Cdr. H.E. Bennett, MBE	p J. Lovering
p W.E.B. Boothby	p Miss G.E. Meaden
p E.R. Bowring	p R.F. Orton
p D.S. Burdle	p P.G. Pearce-Smith
p R.J. Burnett	p C.G. Ramsden
p Mrs. D.M. Brooks	p A.W. Rice, TD
p Miss S.A. Cooke	p Miss G.M. Rickus, CBE
p D.E. Cracknell	p Mrs. M.J. Robinson
p J.G. Craig	p D.N. Scott
p W.F. Croydon	p Lieut. Col. M.J. Shand
p B.A. Cullers	p S.A. Shepherd
G. Dawson	p A.J. Simmons
J.J. Dawson	p Mrs. B. Smith
Miss P.A. Drake	p Mrs. L.P. Snashall
p Major S.S. Elvery	p G. Spikins
p Mrs. L.K. Errington	p R.G. Vernon-Jackson
p L.P. Gibbs	p S.S. Wade
p W.J. Greer	p G.H. Wales
p A.J.C. Griffiths	Mrs. D. Wilson
p R.C.H. Hale	p Mrs. P.A. Wyeth
p F.R. Harrison	

Apologies:

were received from Cllrs. J.J. Dawson, G. Dawson, Miss Drake and Mrs. Wilson.

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 and T.R. Simpson.

49. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Maynard presented the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd October 1991.

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

(a) Calshot Activities Centre (Minute 32)

The Chairman of the Council regretted the decision of the County Policy and Resources Committee to recommend the closure of the Calshot Activities Centre. The decision had been taken in the light of the Compass report, which he considered gave erroneous information.

It had been estimated that 2 million would be required for remedial work to the Centre, and the annual running costs would be 300,000. The Compass report had given figures of 4 million and 400,000 respectively. The Hampshire branch of the A.D.C. opposed the closure and the Association of Local Councils had recently voted 77 to nil for the Centre to

be kept open. Some top sporting people were joining the campaign to oppose closure.

Cllr. Mrs. Robinson welcomed the Chairman's statement and moved that.

"In the light of the recent support expressed by the Hampshire Association of Local Councils that this Council requests all Hampshire Parish Councils, particularly those in this District, to lobby their local County Councillors to oppose the recommendation to close Calshot and that this Council also writes in similar terms to each of the District's County Councillors".

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Mrs. McLean.

Cllr. Burdle also welcomed the Chairman's statement and expressed his disappointment with the content of the Compass Report which did not fulfill the promise of a more positive approach as might have been expected from the earlier Hollis report and the terms of reference for the Compass study. He agreed that there was a need for the Parish Councils to state clearly their wish for the Activities Centre to be retained, and thanked the local media for their support. He undertook to do all he could in his capacity as a County Councillor.

Cllr. Maynard also considered that the sums required by the Activities Centre had been exaggerated in the Compass Report and pledged his support to retain the Activities Centre for the use of young people.

Cllr. Lovering referred also to the historical importance of the site. Cllr. Cullers also valued these historical aspects and considered that this could be built upon to develop an "experience centre" on the site.

With Members indicating their wholehearted support, the motion was declared carried.

(Note: Cllr. Rice abstained from the debate and voting on this issue).

(b) Lyndhurst Traffic - Environmental Study
(Minute34)

Cllr. Mrs. Wyeth expressed her regret that, as she was not on this Committee, she had not been advised of a recent meeting on the Environmental Study. She advised members that route 5A, which was referred to in this minute, included the suggested "cut and cover" option to minimise the impact.

Cllr. Mrs. Errington advised Members that the reference in paragraph 3 to the inevitable

failure of arbitration was not a true reflection of the situation. The Verderers had agreed to accept the results of independent arbitration and local procedures would not therefore automatically have failed.

Cllr. R.G. Vernon-Jackson suggested that the Members of Parliament should be requested to support measures to cure the traffic problems in Lyndhurst.

(c) Applications for Grants (Minute 37)

Cllr. Burdle was not satisfied with only two of the three local rescue organisations being funded by the Solent Safety Organisation. He felt that this stance was illogical as the organisation they had refused to support was larger and better equipped than one of the others.

Cllr. Rice did not feel that it was proper to reduce the grant of the Solent Safety Organisation by 50% because of this issue, as the Organisation would have judged the various applications on their merits and were seeking to provide adequate safety cover in an area with a large number of boats, rivers and marinas. He moved that the matter be referred back for further consideration. The amendment was seconded by Cllr. Craig who suggested that due regard must be taken of the reasons why the Solent Safety Organisation had declined to support the Voluntary Rescue Service. This might have been on safety grounds.

Following debate, it was agreed that the matter would be referred back for further consideration and representatives of the Solent Safety Organisation invited to the meeting to explain the reasons for their present funding policy.

(d) Members Allowances (Minute 38)

Cllr. Wg. Cdr. Bennett was pleased that the attendance allowance had been increased to 7 per half-day but believed that ordinary councillors were still disadvantaged compared with the old allowance scheme. He moved that the basic allowance should be increased by 60 to 522. The amendment was seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Bannister who reminded members that councillors needed to be suitably rewarded for their work in order to attract good quality candidates at the next election.

Cllr. Griffiths did not feel that, in times of financial restraint, an increase above the rate of inflation could be justified. This view was supported by Cllrs. Craig and Scott.

Cllr. Maynard reminded members that he had used his casting vote to oppose an increase in the lump sum payable, although he supported an increase in the attendance allowance.

Cllr. Griffiths moved that the amendment should be determined by a recorded vote, and with more than 15 Members standing to signify their support, the Chairman asked each Member present for their vote on the amendment. Each Member signified as follows:-

Votes For	Votes Against	Abstentions
Councillors:	Councillors:	Councillors:
Mrs. Alldridge	P.A. Baker	Austin
Mrs. Badland	Mrs. P.D. Baker	Mjr. Beeton
Bailey	Boothby	
Mrs. Bannister	Bowring	
Wg. Cdr. Bennett	Burnett	
Burdle	Mrs. Brooks	
Hoy	Coles	
Lovering	Miss Cooke	
Ramsden	Cracknell	
Rice	Craig	
	Croydon	
	Cullers	
	G. Dawson	
	Miss Drake	
	Mjr Elvery	
	Mrs. Errington	
	Gibbs	
	Greer	
	Griffiths	
	Hale	
	Harrison	
	Mrs. Holloway	
	Mrs. Howe	
	Hutchins	
	Maynard	
	Mrs. McLean	
	McGeorge	
	Miss Meaden	
	Orton	
	Pearce-Smith	
	Miss Rickus	
	Mrs. Robinson	
	Scott	
	Lt. Col. Shand	
	Shepherd	
	Simmons	
	Mrs. Smith	
	Mrs. Snashall	
	Spikins	
	Mrs. J.K. Vernon-Jackson	
	R.G. Vernon-Jackson	
	Wade	
	Wales	
	Mrs. Wyeth	

With 10 Members voting in favour and 44 voting against, the amendment was declared lost.

Cllr. Craig moved that the matter should be referred back for a scheme to be devised based on an inflationary increase only. The motion was seconded by Cllr. Griffiths.

Cllr. Maynard reminded members that some meetings which were convened by the District Secretary attracted travelling allowance, but not an attendance allowance. Cllr. Maynard also reminded Members that they could claim income tax relief in certain circumstances.

With 13 Members voting in favour of the amendment and the majority voting against, the amendment was declared lost.

Cllr. Griffiths considered that the scheme should be given further consideration and moved that it be referred back. The amendment was seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Alldridge.

With 22 Members voting in favour of the amendment and 28 voting against the amendment was declared lost.

- (e) Development Programme 1992/93 to 1995/96 and Budget Strategy 1992/93 (Minute 41)

Cllr. R.G. Vernon-Jackson asked for clarification as to why the Works Committee were transferring 49,000 from their account to general reserves, whereas only 43,000 showed in the budget of the Policy and Resources Committee. He also asked that consideration should be given to using this money to fund mini recycling centres, with the logo of the New Forest Contract Services being displayed as sponsor.

Cllr. R.G. Vernon-Jackson was advised that 43,000 of the transferred sum would be used to reduce expenditure, while 6,000 would be left in the reserve fund to be taken into consideration at a later date.

- (f) Participative Democracy (Minute 47)

Cllr. Burdle was opposed to proposals to allow the public to participate at meetings, which he considered some people might use as a platform to promote their own ends. Whilst accepting that participative democracy was successful in Parish Councils he did not feel that it was appropriate in a District Council, nor did he feel that this would represent true democracy. The business at meetings should be conducted by the democratically elected Members. He moved

that the recommendation be not adopted. The amendment was seconded by Cllr. Greer.

Cllrs. Lovering and Mrs. Alldridge opposed public participation. The correct and established route for members of the public to express their views was through their elected Members. They were concerned that a small minority of people would promote a very destructive viewpoint and considered there was a danger of public disorder if there was not sufficiently clear and firm direction from the Chairman.

A number of Members referred to the success of public participation sessions in their respective Parish Councils. The public had been well behaved even on sensitive issues and had made a positive contribution.

Cllr. Miss Rickus advised that public participation could provide a valuable safety valve and prevent public disorder arising through frustration.

Cllr. R.G. Vernon-Jackson spoke of his previous experience with a Social Services Committee where customers had made valuable suggestions, expanding the local knowledge already enjoyed by their Councillors.

Cllr. Hoy was concerned that District Councillors would be disadvantaged compared to the public, who would not have to declare an interest and leave the meeting.

Cllr. Mrs. Bannister supported the experiment proposed for the Strategic Growth in Totton Advisory Committee and the Environmental Services Committee provided the sessions were carefully structured and controlled. She cautioned strongly, however, against the extension of the scheme to the Planning Committee.

Cllr. Mrs. J.K. Vernon-Jackson advised Members that a paper would be going to the next meeting of the Environmental Services Committee which addressed many of these issues.

Following a full debate of the issues, Cllr. Maynard reminded Members that at present a pilot scheme only was proposed. He considered that the public were entitled to put forward their views. Other District Councils allowed public participation, and none had abandoned the process.

With 21 Members voting in favour of the amendment and 26 voting against, the amendment was declared lost.

(g) Smoking - Policy Review (Minute 49)

Cllr. Lovering suggested that the wording of the policy would be clearer if it was stated that smoking was banned in all areas except the specified smoking areas. He also asked that the policy should not be implemented until the smoking areas were provided.

(h) Outside Bodies

Lymington Harbour Commissioners (Minute 51)(2)

Cllr. R.G. Vernon-Jackson was concerned that four of the five representatives of this Council on the Lymington Harbour Commissioners were no longer District Councillors. In answer to his question Members were advised that the present representatives had been asked whether they would be prepared to resign if requested to do so, but had indicated that they wished to continue. The recommendation now before Members would prevent this situation arising in the future.

(i) Controls on Lending Surplus Council Money - Review (Minute 54)

Cllr. Simmons was concerned that the Council used the top eighteen building societies for short term investments, while the Fund Managers recommended the use of the top ten. This implied a lower standard of safety than was recommended. He considered that this issue needed careful thought in the light of recent banking failures.

Cllr. Maynard expressed his gratitude to the Fund Managers who had a good record to date.

(Note: Cllr. Pearce-Smith disclosed an interest in respect of the grant to the Solent Safety Organisation, and having left the meeting took no part in the consideration and voting).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the minutes be received and the recommendations be adopted subject to the grant for the Solent Safety Organisation, as set out in Minute 37, being referred back for further consideration.
- (b) That in the light of the recent support expressed by the Hampshire Association of Local Councils that this Council requests all Hampshire Parish Councils, particularly those in this District, to lobby their local County Councillors to oppose

the recommendation to close Calshot and that this Council also writes in similar terms to each of the District's County Councillors.

50. ROYAL HAMPSHIRE REGIMENT (REPORT A).

Members were advised of action taken by the Chairman to preserve the name of the Royal Hampshire Regiment and its association with this Council. The Chairman reported orally that he had spoken to Lt. Col. Milner on the 8th November who has reported that the Colonels of the two Regiments had met on the previous Monday and he was now more confident that the name of the Regiment would be retained in some form.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the sentiments expressed by the Chairman of the Council be formally supported; and
- (b) That the Secretary of State for Defence be
 - (i) urged to take note of the strong and longstanding community of interest between New Forest District and the Royal Hampshire Regiment;
 - (ii) advised that the Council receive with great sadness the decision to amalgamate the Royal Hampshire Regiment with the Queen's Regiment;
 - (iii) requested to review the decision with a view to retaining the Royal Hampshire Regiment in its present form; but
 - (iv) in the event of an amalgamation being necessary, to personally ensure that the commitment given to amalgamate by "merging and mixing with no one part submerged in another" be adhered to so that the name of the County of Hampshire appears in the title of the new regiment and its emblems are retained in the new cap badge.

51. 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

(WPMIN/36)