

9TH NOVEMBER 1992

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 9th November 1992.

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 W.E.B. Boothby
p E.R. Bowring
p Mrs. D.M. Brooks
p D.S. Burdle
p R.J. Burnett
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 B.C. Earwicker
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

Councillors:

p F.R. Harrison
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 N.D.M. McGeorge
p Mrs. M. McLean
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. Bowring, Miss Drake, Wade and Wales.

Officers Attending:

P.A.D. Hyde, N.J. Gibbs, Mrs. M. Holmes, E.S. Johnson,
I.B. Mackintosh, B. Buchanan, D. Hill, T.R. Simpson and
Mrs. R. Rutins.

Cllrs. Cullers and McGeorge proposed amendments to minute 25(f) and (i). These amendments were duly seconded and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the amendments set out below, the minutes of the meeting held on 27th July 1992, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record:-

Minute 25(f) - Red Meat Slaughtering Facilities in the New Forest

Amend third paragraph to read as follows:-

"The amendment was seconded by Cllr. Cullers, who questioned the right of the United Kingdom, which practised institutionalised and public cruelty by hunting with hounds, to impose detailed regulations on the operation of slaughterhouses. Other Members made mention of the fact that the Forest had a history of managing its affairs well and referred to the lack of firm information, even at ministerial level, on the operation of the new regulations".

Amend first sentence of fourth paragraph to read:-

"Cllr. McGeorge, in supporting the amendment, referred to a recent conversation between Cllr. Rice and a representative of the Commission which implied that individual Governments were responsible for agreeing to the new regulations".

Minute 25(i) - Recycling Plans

Amend last sentence of third paragraph to read as follows:-

"A target of 98% was being set in some European towns to be achieved from 1993".

36. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

(a) Ringwood Townswomen's Guild

The Chairman was pleased to welcome to the meeting a group from the Ringwood Townswomen's Guild. He hoped that members of the Guild would find the meeting interesting and that they would enjoy their visit to Appletree Court.

(b) Royal Visit

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal had visited the Fortune Centre of Riding Therapy at Avon Tyrell, Bransgore on 21st October 1992. As President of the Riding for the Disabled Association, the Princess took great interest in the way horses were used for educational and

rehabilitation purposes. The Princess's visit was a return one as she had opened the Centre 12 years ago. The visit had been very relaxed and informal and had been enjoyed by all.

(c) Golf Successes

The Chairman was delighted to report that New Forest District Council had once again beaten Christchurch Borough Council 5-0 at the Annual Golf Tournament and had brought the trophy back to Appletree Court for the next 12 months. The same team had also been successful in their friendly match against Bramshott Hill Golf Club at Dibden.

(d) Councillor Mrs. Yvonne Holloway

The Chairman was particularly pleased to announce two further sporting successes for Cllr. Mrs. Yvonne Holloway. She had won a Silver Medal as part of the British 4 x 440 metre relay team at the Paralympics in Barcelona in September. She had also won the Great South Run in Portsmouth in October, achieving a course record. All those present congratulated Cllr. Mrs. Holloway on her success.

(e) Wessex Heartbeat Appeal

The Chairman had been asked to promote this appeal within the Council. The aim was to raise 3m for the Wessex Cardiac Unit. Posters had been displayed in the offices.

(f) Africa In Crisis Appeal

The Chairman reported that Keith Smith, one of the Committee Administrators, had sought Peter Hyde's approval to organise a fund raising event within the Council to support the Africa in Crisis Appeal. He had been the inspiration and main co-ordinator of the appeal and the Chairman was delighted to announce that in approximately two months the fund raising efforts amongst the staff and members had resulted in over 3,000 being raised. This amount was sufficient to feed more than 150 children for one month or immunise over 1,000 children against the six major childhood diseases.

Many initiatives and events were taking place between now and Christmas and it was hoped that Members would give them their full support. The Chairman hoped to be able to present a cheque at the next Council meeting to Save the Children, one of the Africa in Crisis agencies.

(g) New Forest Twinners

The inaugural meeting of New Forest Twinners had taken place. New Forest Twinners was an association of the eleven Twinning Associations in the New Forest set up to discuss matters of mutual interest amongst the Twinning Associations. The Council was providing support to New Forest Twinners by way of accommodation for its meetings which were held twice a year.

37. HOUSING COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Mrs. Bannister presented the minutes of the meetings held on 28th July, 8th September and 15th September 1992.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

(a) Heather Road, Fawley - Progress Report (Minute 50)

Cllr. Pearce-Smith deplored the fact that the Fawley/Hythe major hazard zone would reduce the total number of houses which could be built by about 50. He considered that double standards were being applied in that major schools were being allowed to remain within the hazard zone.

(b) Time of Meetings (Minute 59)

In response to a question by Cllr. Craig, Cllr. Mrs. Bannister regretted being unable to give reasons why the Committee had decided to change the time of its meetings to 10.00 a.m..

(c) Land at Woodlands - Disposal (Minute 62)

Cllr. Burdle regretted the fact that as Local Member he had not been involved in consultations for the disposal of land at Woodlands at an early stage. He stressed the importance of Local Member consultation in issues such as this.

(d) Gas Servicing Contract (Minute 63)

In reply to a question by Cllr. Miss Rickus, Cllr. Mrs. Bannister stated that it occasionally happened that contractors who had won contracts in competitive tender withdrew and it was necessary for the Council's Direct Labour Organisation, New Forest Contract Services, to take over the contract in order to save costs of re-tendering. Cllr. Miss Rickus drew attention to the value of New Forest Contract Services being available in such circumstances.

Cllr. Mrs. Bannister concurred in Cllr. Miss Rickus's view. She said that, particularly with regard to maintenance, tenants were very happy to have New Forest Contract Services undertaking work as they were able more easily to identify with Council employees rather than outside

contractors.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

38. LICENSING COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Burnett presented the minutes of the meetings held on 30th July and 24th September 1992.

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

(a) Policy Review - Gaming Machines (Minute 23)

Cllr. R.G. Vernon-Jackson enquired as to the Council's policy with regard to gaming machines.

Cllr. Burnett reported that it was Council's policy not to permit gaming machines in premises such as restaurants, cafes, snack bars, etc, where young children could have unsupervised access. Gaming machines in these premises would be phased out as licences became due for renewal.

(b) Taxi Ranks (Minute 29)

Cllr. Greer asked that consultation on issues such as proposed new taxi ranks take place with Local Members at an early stage.

(c) Taxi Ranks (Minute 39)

Cllr. R.G. Vernon-Jackson thanked the Chairman and the Licensing Committee for the wide consultation which had taken place in regard to a requested alteration to the taxi rank in Lymington.

Cllr. Burnett thanked Cllr. Vernon-Jackson for his remarks and stressed that consultation had taken place with all Local Members with regard to changes to ranks in their wards. Cllr. Greer said that he had been involved in the decision on the Brockenhurst rank only after he had taken up the matter with the Council's officers and only after the Police had made their recommendations.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received and the recommendation be adopted.

39. PLANNING COMMITTEE.

Cllr. G. Dawson presented the minutes of the meetings held on 12th August, 9th September and 14th October 1992.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

- (a) Implications of Extending Delegated Veto to Town and Parish Councils (Minute 67)

Cllr. Lovering expressed the view that the estimated cost of 12,000 for extending the delegated veto to Town and Parish Councils was low and queried whether officer time was included.

Cllr. G. Dawson confirmed that officer time had been taken into account and pointed out that the matter would be discussed in greater detail later during the meeting.

- (b) Ampress Works, Southampton Road, Lymington (Minute 98)

Cllr. R.G. Vernon-Jackson thanked Members of the Planning Committee for their support of Local Members on this issue.

- (c) Fordingbridge Town Scheme (Minute 114)

Cllr. P.A. Baker welcomed the Fordingbridge Town Scheme and was pleased to note that Fordingbridge would benefit from co-operation between English Heritage, Hampshire County Council and the District Council. Ringwood would also benefit from the Hampshire Towns' Scheme but assistance from that source would not be available for repair or restoration of the dilapidated buildings, one of which was listed, in the Market Place. He requested the Chairman of the Planning Committee to institute enquiries as to whether Ringwood could be included in the English Heritage Scheme and thus gain some funding for the restoration of buildings in the town centre.

Cllr. G. Dawson undertook to request the Officers to make the necessary enquiries.

- (d) Caird Avenue, New Milton (Minute 117)

Cllr. Rice was disappointed to note that the applicants were unwilling to negotiate on landscaping at this stage and enquired when landscaping details might become available.

Cllr. G. Dawson sympathised with Cllr. Rice's views but reported that it was not unusual for developers to omit landscaping details at the outline application stage. He appreciated that the site was a delicate one and landscape matters would be dealt with at detailed application stage.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

40. STRATEGIC GROWTH IN TOTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Harrison presented the minutes of the meeting held on 25th August 1992.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

- (a) Ringwood Road, Totton - Pelican Crossing
(Minute 23)

Cllr. Mrs. Bannister expressed concern at the relevance of the results of the County Council's survey of the need for a pelican crossing in Ringwood Road, Totton. She expressed the view that people were not crossing in the vicinity as it was too dangerous but that, if a facility was provided the crossing would be well used. She asked for an assurance from the Chairman of the Environmental Services Committee that that Committee would at the appropriate time support the Strategic Growth in Totton Advisory Committee's requests to the County Council for the crossing to be provided.

Cllr. Hoy was pleased to give this assurance.

- (b) Landscape Management Handbook for Totton's Open Space (Minute 29)

Cllr. Harrison reported that, following discussions with officers, it was apparent that there would be no financial implications for the District Council at this stage in the production of the Landscape Management Handbook and there had therefore been no need to hold the special meeting which had been envisaged. He apologised for the fact that a number of Members of the Committee had not received notice that the meeting had been cancelled. Steps were being taken to ensure that this did not happen again.

(Note: amended by Council 04/01/93 - minute 49)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

41. LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Cllr. J.J. Dawson presented the minutes of the meetings held on 1st September 1992.

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

- (a) Lymington Museum/Lymington Tourist Information Centre (Minute 36)

Cllr. Mrs. Howe referred to the apparent inconsistency between resolutions (b) and (c). Resolution (b) required the officers to investigate the merits of the two buildings identified in the report and produce proposals for the Committee meeting on the 17th November 1992 whilst resolution (c) made no provision in the expenditure plans in respect of the Lymington Museum. She moved that minute 36(c) be referred back to the Leisure Services Committee for further consideration in the light of the report to be submitted to that Committee on 17th November 1992 on the merits of the two buildings.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Vernon-Jackson who welcomed the opportunity for a museum in the area. She referred to the fact that a local group was working hard to raise funds for the museum and felt the group deserved the Council's support.

Cllrs. Orton, Mrs. Wilson, Lovering and Griffiths supported the principle of the establishment of a museum but considered that, in the current economic climate, the requested grant of 50,000 to the museum could not be justified. They pointed out that the Council had made a financial contribution of 5,000 to pump prime the project in the early stage and had also contributed funds for the storage of artefacts. Cllr. Orton reminded Members that the Leisure Services Committee had taken a decision, supported by the full Council, to support the establishment of the museum in principle provided there was no further injection of funds by the Council. There was concern that if this project was funded further, requests for funding of other local museums could be forthcoming. The view was expressed that in the current economic climate a further financial contribution would not be in the best interests of the chargepayer.

Cllr. Scott reported that the project had been an on-going one for some 25 years and that the total sum raised to date by the Friends of Lymington Museum was 3,000. He had examined the report produced by Consultants engaged to advise on the project and had found no clear objectives and no clear funding proposals. The organisation set up to progress the issue was a company limited by guarantee with trustees to fund raise. An appeal for 80,000 had been launched. He reported that the museum was intended to cover the area of the old Lymington Borough. Not all parishes in that area supported the proposal. He reported that accommodation in Lymington was required for other organisations such as the Red Cross. He shared the concerns previously expressed that if the Council made further financial contributions

towards this scheme a precedent would be set.

(Note: amended by Council 04/01/93 - minute 49)

Cllr. Austin was in favour of the museum but at the right time. He also considered that those responsible should strive to ensure that the museum did not become a theme park.

Cllr. Mjr. Beeton felt that the matter had become confused and therefore supported the motion for a reference back to the Committee.

Cllr. Rice reported that the project had wide support from other Parish Councils in the Lymington area and appealed to Councillors to reconsider the decision not to make a financial contribution. He referred to a number of smaller authorities such as Andover and Eastleigh which had contributed to similar projects in their areas. He stressed the educational benefits of museums and the opportunity for combining the museum with a tourist information centre.

Cllrs. McGeorge, Earwicker, Mrs. Holloway, R.G. Vernon-Jackson and Pearce-Smith expressed support for the amendment and hoped that the Leisure Services Committee would find it possible to make funds available for a contribution towards the museum. Cllr. McGeorge referred to developments which had taken place over the past few weeks with regard to the provision of accommodation for the tourist information centre which could be combined with the museum. Other Members expressed the view that there was a lack of cultural centres in the Coastal Towns Area and that it was important for the public and, in particular, children to have a facility where they could learn local history.

Cllr. R.G. Vernon-Jackson reported that the Lymington and Pennington Town Council had agreed to make a grant to the museum.

In reply to the debate, Cllr. J.J. Dawson confirmed that the District Council had contributed 75,000 towards the cost of the New Forest Museum in Lyndhurst but that this could have been regarded as a grant towards a central New Forest Museum. He wished members and the public to be in no doubt that the District Council supported the principle of a museum at Lymington and a grant of 5,000 had been made. Funding for the storage of artefacts had also been provided. Hampshire County Council and not New Forest District Council was the authority responsible for museum provision. The District Council's responsibilities in the field of leisure were directed towards the provision of sports facilities. Any provisions for the arts, of which the museum could be seen as a part, were

not taken into account in the District Council's standard spending assessment. The District Council did support the arts within the limits of funds available but with the need to reduce spending, it was necessary for harsh decisions to be taken on funding requests. He was, however, prepared to accept the reference back to the Committee for further consideration, without providing any guarantees that the Committee's position would change.

With a clear majority voting in favour, the amendment was carried.

(b) Arts Panel (Minute 37)

Cllr. J.J. Dawson reported that steps were being taken to find a system of supporting arts venues out of the District whilst directing the greater part of available funds to venues within the District Council's area. He proposed as an amendment that minute 37(d) be referred back to the Committee. The amendment was duly seconded.

Cllrs. Mrs. Smith, R.G. Vernon-Jackson and Craig supported the amendment and hoped that the Leisure Services Committee would be able to make funds available to venues outside the district.

Cllr. Burdle was not happy with the fact that the preamble to the recommendation and resolutions did not refer to the policy being recommended. He considered that the proposed policy was of great importance and its effects should have been emphasised.

In replying to the debate, Cllr. J.J. Dawson stressed that funding for venues outside the district had not been withdrawn.

With a clear majority voting in favour the amendment was carried.

(c) Tourism Staff Review (Minute 38)

Cllr. Mrs. Wilson enquired whether the four new posts for the tourism service would be self-financing and whether a return on their financing would be seen.

In reply, Cllr. J.J. Dawson stated that four new posts were required to balance an overloaded service. The posts would not specifically be self-financing but would result in additional income to the district as a whole. He gave details of the ratios of staff to visitors in other comparable districts. These illustrated that New Forest District Council's Tourism

Service was greatly understaffed in comparison to other similar districts.

(Note: amended by Council 04/01/93 - minute 49)

In response to a further question by Cllr. Mrs. Wilson, Cllr. J.J. Dawson reported that the costs of the posts should be offset by increased income of approximately 50,000. The posts should therefore be almost self-funding. There was office accommodation available for the new staff.

Cllr. Scott asked that the additional income generated be closely monitored. He pointed out that the District Council's spending on Leisure Services was 50% higher than in neighbouring authorities.

Cllr. Earwicker welcomed the proposal for the establishment of the new posts.

- (d) Marchwood Junior School Management Committee
(Minute 41)

Cllr. Mrs. Alldridge confirmed that the proposed District Council representative was in respect of the community use part of the Management Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received and the recommendation be adopted, subject to the reference back of minutes 36 and 37(d).

42. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Hoy presented the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September 1992.

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

- (a) New Milton Traffic Study (Minute 50)

With regard to minute 50(iii), Cllr. Griffiths drew attention to the fact that two serious accidents had recently occurred at the A337/Barton Court Road junction. Because of the urgency of the situation, the New Milton Town Council had agreed to contribute 10,000 towards the cost of installation of traffic lights at the junction. The Environmental Services Committee would at its next meeting be asked to consider providing 15,000 on the understanding that Hampshire County Council would fund the balance of the cost. He requested the Environmental Services Committee to give favourable consideration to the proposal.

Cllr. Griffiths' remarks were supported by Cllrs. Rice and Austin.

Cllr. Hoy confirmed that the matter would be considered by the Environmental Services Committee. He pointed out that the provision of traffic lights was the responsibility of Hampshire County Council and not the District Council.

(b) Helicopter Noise (Minute 52)

Cllr. Hoy reported that a response to the representations had been received from the Department of Transport. It had been decided not to proceed with a recommendation of the Noise Review Working Party to implement a licensing system to regulate the use of sites by helicopters. However, the possibility of amending the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to include helicopters taking off from or landing at temporary sites within the statutory nuisance provisions had not been ruled out. A decision would be taken later in the Autumn.

(c) Red Meat Slaughtering Facilities in the New Forest (Minute 53)

Cllr. Hoy reported that despite the derogation granted, the proprietor of the slaughterhouse at Hordle had decided to cease operations at the end of the year. In view of the importance of slaughtering facilities in the New Forest a recommendation was being made to the next Environmental Services Committee that the Council continue to support efforts to provide an alternative facility.

(d) A35/A326 Junction - Survey of Right Turn Movements for Southbound Traffic Travelling to Lyndhurst (Minute 67)

Cllr. Harrison reported that his calculations showed that the inability of southbound traffic to turn right onto the A35 was costing approximately 70,000 per annum. He stressed the importance of the provision of the right turn facility.

Cllrs. Mrs. Bannister, Boothby, Burdle, J.J. Dawson, Mrs. Wyeth and Miss Cooke supported the need for the right turn movement. Cllr. Mrs. Bannister expressed doubt as to the reliability of the survey results as her observation had shown that the "rat runs" were not being adequately observed when the survey was being undertaken.

Cllr. Miss Cooke urged that Hampshire County

Council be requested to ensure that the results of the survey of the "rat runs" in Ashurst were integrated with those of the A35/A326 right turn manoeuvres.

Cllr. Burdle pointed out that the contract for Stage III of the Totton Western Bypass had been awarded without the question of the right turn loop being resolved. He was most concerned that the County Council had consistently failed to heed the District Council's requests in this regard. A number of members shared this view. It was pointed out that the provision of the right turn manoeuvre had not been included in the County Council's Capital Programme.

Cllr. Hoy reported that a response had been received from the County Surveyor, indicating that it was not yet known what form the report to the relevant County Council Committee on the survey results would take. The District Council was assured that "should it be necessary the views of the District Council would be sought". The County Surveyor's response would be considered at the next Environmental Services Committee meeting on 19th November.

Members were disturbed at the lack of consultation and liaison with the District Council on this matter. It was suggested that the Chairman of the Environmental Services Committee should pursue the matter with the Chairman of Hampshire County Council's Planning and Transportation Committee, perhaps extending an invitation to the Chairman of the Planning and Transportation Committee to view the situation firsthand.

Cllr. Hoy agreed that these views would be considered by the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received and the recommendation be adopted.

43. CONTRACT SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Miss Rickus presented the minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 1992.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

44. CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Cllr. J.J. Dawson presented the minutes of the meeting of the Central Services Committee held on 5th October 1992.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

45. EMERGENCIES COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Lt. Col. Shand presented the minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 1992.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

- (a) Oil Spills Resulting from Damage to 132 KV Submarine Cables Between Lepe and The Isle of Wight (Minute 13)

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that the minute be amended to correct the spelling of "Gunard" to "Gurnard".

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received subject to the amendment of minute 13 by the substitution for the word "Gunard" of the word "Gurnard" where it appears in the minute.

46. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Maynard presented the minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 1992.

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

- (a) Term Contract for Housing Maintenance 1992/93 (Minute 34)

Cllr. Griffiths thanked the Chief Executive for his comprehensive report to the Policy and Resources Committee. He supported the Committee's recommendations which he felt would in the future avoid the situation which had arisen in this instance.

- (b) Role of the Office of Chairman of the Council (Minute 36)

In reply to Cllr. Mrs. Wyeth who expressed concern at the possible costs involved in the establishment of an office of Leader of the Council, the Chairman of the Council said that it was not possible to give an exact indication of additional costs. He gave the assurance that costs would be kept to a minimum.

Cllr. Austin spoke of the successful separation of the role of the office of Mayor and Leader of the Council in other towns and cities.

Cllr. Miss Rickus reported that she had been concerned at possible costs but felt that there was a need for the roles of Chairman of the Council and Political Leader to be separate. She pointed out the difficulty of one individual carrying out the role of political leader whilst acting as independent abiter as Chairman of the Council. She had been given the assurance that there was no intention at this stage of providing additional professional or secretarial support to the Leader of the Council. If workloads became too onerous for existing staff the position would have to be reviewed.

Cllr. Lovering supported the separation of the roles.

In reply to the debate, Cllr. Maynard stressed that the workload involved in carrying out both roles of Chairman and political leader was onerous. He assured Members that whilst there would be an inevitable small additional cost in the establishment of the position of Leader of the Council, costs would be kept to a minimum.

- (c) Royal Hampshire Regiment - Affiliation to New Forest District (Minute 39)

Cllr. Burdle expressed regret at the Com4ittee's recommendation not to affiliate with the newly established Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. New Forest District had been affiliated to the Royal Hampshire Regiment since 1982 and had maintained close ties with the Regiment. The District Council had strongly opposed the merger with the Queen's Regiment. He considered that taking no action at this stage and retaining the affiliation to the Royal Hampshire Regiment would not adequately reflect these close ties or sufficiently honour the Regiment. He moved as an amendment that the Council affiliate with the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. The motion was duly seconded.

Cllr. Burnett said that he would support a reference back to the Committee so consideration could be given to possible affiliation with the Royal Corps of Transport at Marchwood.

The Chief Executive explained the following options considered by the Policy and Resources Committee for dealing with the affiliation following the amalgamation of the Royal Hampshires and the Queen's Regiment. These were:-

- (i) Take no action - this would retain the

affiliation in the name of the Royal
Hampshire Regiment;

(ii) Transfer the affiliation to the new Regiment

Cllrs. Rice and Major Elvery were in favour of the affiliation being transferred to the new Regiment.

Cllr. Mrs. Errington supported the Committee's recommendation as the affiliation with the Royal Hampshires would then remain. As the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment was to be based in Kent, she felt that consideration should be given to possible affiliation with a Regiment with closer connections to the District.

Cllr. Mrs. Alldridge pointed out that the only Regiment based in New Forest District was the Royal Corps of Transport in Marchwood. She considered their situation different in that it was the only Military Port serving the United Kingdom. As such the soldiers based at the port were transient and few had firm links with the district.

Cllr. Cullers expressed sadness that the Royal Hampshires would no longer exist, but said affiliation to the new Regiment which would no longer have special connections with the District was not warranted.

Cllr. Lt. Col. Shand stressed that the honour previously accorded to the Royal Hampshires would be maintained if the Committee's recommendation was adopted.

In reply to the debate, Cllr. Burdle pointed out that the Royal Hampshire Regiment had not been disbanded but had merged and therefore the camaraderie which existed with the Royal Hampshires should continue with affiliation with the new Regiment. Possible affiliation with the Royal Corps of Transport at Marchwood could be considered at a later date.

With 20 Members voting in favour and 24 against, the amendment was lost.

(b) The New Forest - The Government's Proposals
(Minute 50)

Cllr. Maynard reported that Ministers had launched the consultation exercise on 24th September 1992. They had indicated that a fundamental aspect of Government thinking had been to leave current functions with the existing agencies. This was absolutely critical as far as this Council was concerned in terms of the Council's stewardship for the planning processes

for the major part of the Heritage Area which lay within the District.

The Council's whole-hearted endorsement of the approach had been relayed back to the Government.

Cllr. McGeorge supported the Committee's resolution but drew attention to the fact that the Director of Rural Affairs of the Department of the Environment and Ministers were supportive of the Friends of the Earth's approach that national and global environmental concerns should be taken into account at every opportunity. He proposed that resolution (i) be amended by the addition of the words "but there should also be a commitment to national and global environmental concerns as an integral part of the management of the New Forest". The amendment was duly seconded.

Cllr. R.G. Vernon-Jackson drew attention to the large number of Government or semi-government appointments to the proposed New Forest Committee and was pleased to note that the Policy and Resources Committee's suggested membership attempted to redress this balance. He was in particular pleased that the Committee had suggested that at least one of the Verderer appointments should be a Commoner. He expressed the hope that the Government would support the Council's proposal.

Cllr. Mrs. Bannister reiterated previous concerns expressed regarding the new status to be applied to the New Forest. Once the new arrangements were in place, there was a danger of the ground rules changing. She was concerned that the proposed new status could lead to control of the Forest being handed to other agencies.

Cllr. Mrs. Alldridge reiterated that the Commoners were concerned that their needs might be overlooked. She was also concerned that acceptance of funding from other sources could bring with it restrictions and curbs which might prove fractious.

The amendment was agreed.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received and the recommendations be adopted subject to the addition to minute 50(i) of the following:-

"but there should also be a commitment to national and global environmental concerns as an integral part of the management of the New Forest".

Cllr. G. Dawson moved the recommendation of the Planning Committee appearing in Report A. The motion was duly seconded.

Cllr. G. Dawson stressed that the Planning Committee's recommendation for the extension of the veto on use of the Director of Planning's delegated powers be extended to the Town and Parish Councils was for a trial period of twelve months. He reported that further responses received indicated that of the 36 towns and parishes in the District, 21 supported the principle of having a veto, 7 did not support the principle and 8 had not replied.

Cllr. Lovering felt that the sum of 12,336 indicated as being the likely additional cost of dealing with applications through the Planning Committee was likely to be exceeded.

Cllr. Burdle spoke against the recommendation. He stressed that the District Council was the Planning Authority tasked with the determination of planning applications. He considered that it would be a retrograde step to allow the Parish and Town Councils a veto on the use of delegated powers. He felt there should be confidence in the ability of Members and Officers to determine applications and considered the District's role as decision makers would be abdicated if the veto was extended. He considered that every opportunity was afforded to Town and Parish Councils to make their views known on applications. If there was an application on which they felt particularly strongly they could approach the local District Councillors or any other Councillor with a request for the matter to be submitted to the Planning Committee. Cllr. Burdle was concerned at the additional costs involved in extending the veto and increasing the numbers of applications having to be dealt with by the full Committee.

Councillors Major Elvery, Mrs. Errington, Craig, Mrs. Bannister, Rice, Scott, Mrs. Alldridge, Mrs. Wilson and Griffiths were opposed to the extension of the veto. They voiced concerns at the additional costs involved and the increased length of time which would be required to determine planning applications which could lead to the District Council not determining planning applications within the prescribed time. The delay to applicants was also of concern. It was considered that the current arrangements were satisfactory and that relationships between Local District Councillors and Parish and Town Councils were good. Any request the Parish or Town Council might make to the Local Member to request the application to be determined by the Planning Committee was likely to be heeded. Support for the Parish and Town Councils' efforts in the detailed consideration of planning applications and an appreciation of the wealth of local knowledge were expressed but it was felt that extending the veto to Parishes and Towns was not warranted.

Cllr. Craig proposed as an amendment that the veto be extended for a trial period of six months. The amendment was duly seconded.

The Chairman of the Council reminded Members that in its bid for Unitary Authority Status the Council would have to present a case to the Commissioners on the strong links which existed between the District Council and Parishes and Towns.

Cllrs. R.G. Vernon-Jackson, Mrs. Smith, Earwicker, Harrison, Mrs. Robinson and Pearce-Smith supported the Planning Committee's recommendation. They considered it important to take advice from Town and Parish Councils who often had a greater knowledge of sites and likely implications of developments. The Planning Committee would not be losing the power of determining applications. If relationships between Parishes and Local Members were good and Local Members on behalf of Parishes exercised a veto on the use of delegated powers, there would be no increase in the numbers of applications coming before the Planning Committee. It was, however, considered important to assess whether the views of the Parishes and Towns were being made known.

Cllr. Scott gave notice of a further amendment that the Parish and Town Councils bear the costs of exercising a veto on the use of officers delegated powers. The proposal was seconded.

In reply to the debate, Cllr. G. Dawson reiterated that the District Council was not abdicating responsibility for determining planning applications. The only change proposed was for applications where the Parish or Town Council's views differed from those of the Planning Officer to be submitted to the Planning Committee for consideration. He concurred in the view that Parishes and Towns were in many cases well served by Local Members but investigations had shown that approximately 32 applications per month would be referred to the Planning Committee, if the veto was extended. He informed Members that the matter had come before the Planning Committee at the request of Parishes and Towns who felt that their needs could be better served through an alternative system. The survey had indicated that most Parishes and Towns wished the system changed.

The amendment moved by Cllr. Craig was carried.

The further amendment proposed by Cllr. Scott was lost.

On being put to the vote as a substantive motion, it was:-

RESOLVED:

- (a) That, for a trial period of six months commencing on 1st December 1992, the Director of Planning's delegated powers for determining planning applications be modified so that a delegated decision may not be taken which conflicts with a view expressed in writing by a Town or Parish Council within the specified consultation period;
- (b) That Town and Parish Councils be notified accordingly; and
- (c) That the procedure be reviewed in six months.

48. 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