

4TH JANUARY 1993

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 4th January 1993.

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 Lt. 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:

for absence were received from Cllrs. Mrs. Brooks, Miss Drake, Mrs McLean and Ramsden.

Officers Attending:

P.A.D. Hyde, N.J. Gibbs, D.A. Gurney, Mrs. M. Holmes, E.S. Johnson, J. Paterson, T.R. Simpson and Miss J. Debnam and for part of the morning session, R. Ainslie, Mrs. B. Bessant, Mrs. J. Chaplain, Mrs. K. Mounce, Mrs. E. Morey and K. Smith.

49. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That subject to the amendments set out below, the minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 1992, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

- (1) Minute 40(b) - Landscape Management Handbook for Totton's Open Space

Amend line 4 by the deletion of the words "production of ..." and their substitution with the words " ... implementation of the proposals ...".

- (2) Minute 41(a) - Lymington Museum/Lymington Tourist Information Centre

Amend fourth paragraph, fourth sentence to read 'An appeal for 80,000 had been launched for the purchase of reed beds in the Lymington River and he had suggested similar fundraising in respect of the museum'.

- (3) Minute 41(c) - Tourism Staff Review

Amend second paragraph, second sentence by the deletion of the words "not specifically". In addition amend fourth paragraph, second sentence to read "He pointed out that the District Council spending on Leisure Services was over 50% higher than in neighbouring authorities in 1991 and was increasing".

50. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

- (a) Greetings to HRH the Princess Royal

The Chairman was pleased to announce that formal greetings had been sent to Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal on the occasion of her marriage to Cmdr Timothy Laurence. A letter of thanks had subsequently been received from Buckingham Palace.

- (b) New Year's Honours

The Chairman congratulated John Pearson, Hampshire Chief Fire Officer and John Scotford the County Treasurer on their awards of the CBE in the New Year's Honours List.

- (c) Ben Buchanan

The Chairman was pleased to report that Ben Buchanan was continuing to improve following his

recent stroke. He also conveyed to Members the thanks of Ben and his fiance Joy for the messages of support, best wishes and gifts they had received.

(d) Long Case Clock from New Milton Town Council

The Chairman advised Members that the Grandfather Clock owned by New Milton Town Council would now be housed in the Chairman's office, following its recent restoration. Ownership remained with the Town Council.

(e) Africa in Crisis

The Chairman welcomed Jane Hancock, the Area Organiser of Save the Children, to the meeting. She was presented with a cheque for 4,062.42 which had been raised by staff and Members over the previous three months. She was also presented with a cheque for 200 from the New Forest Mummies. The organisers of the main fundraising events, Rob Ainslie, Barbara Bessant, Jennifer Chaplain, Edna Morey, Kate Mounce and Pam Neale were present at the meeting, together with Keith Smith, a Committee Administrator who was the main organiser. The Chairman presented Keith Smith with an engraved tankard in recognition of the fundraising achievement.

Jane Hancock on behalf of Save the Children, thanked the Council and staff for the donation, and reassured Members that it would be spent wisely. Save the Children were presently feeding 50,000 children in Somalia. The food was pre-mixed for the children before being transported in. None of their supplies had been stolen.

51. LICENSING COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Burnett presented the minutes of the meetings held on 5th November and 26th November 1992.

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received and the recommendation be adopted.

52. PLANNING COMMITTEE.

Cllr. G. Dawson presented the minutes of the meetings held on 11th November and 9th December 1992.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

(a) Publicity for Planning Applications (minute 131)

In answer to a question from Cllr. Mrs. Bannister, Cllr. G. Dawson undertook to write to the editor of the Southampton Advertiser to ask for some form of notice to be included to make it clear to the people in Totton that planning applications in their area were now included.

(b) Hampshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan
(minute 133)

Cllrs. Earwicker and Simmons asked that this minute be amended to reflect specific concerns they had raised at the meeting.

Cllr. Rice reported that the residents of Walkford strongly supported this Council's opposition to the extraction of minerals from Walkford Farm, Hinton (site 18).

Cllr. G. Dawson agreed that the minute would be amended to reflect the concerns raised at the meeting.

(NOTE: Cllr. Mrs. Wilson disclosed an interest in this matter, but there being no debate, did not leave the meeting).

(c) Supermarket Proposals on A326 (minute 136)

Cllr. Boothby referred to paragraph (a) relating to land south of Newmans Copse, Hounslow. He advised Members that, together with Cllr. Mrs. Snashall, he had sought the opinions of 150 people at Hounslow, all but one of whom had supported the supermarket application. He considered that this was an adequately researched reflection of local opinion.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received subject to the amendment of minute 133 by the following:-

Paragraph (c) Walkford Farm, Hinton (site 18) - amend to refer to "Countryside gaps between Highcliffe and New Milton"

Add (e) Walkford Farm, Hinton (site 18), Ashley Manor Farm, New Milton (site 19) and Downton Manor Farm, Downton (site 20).

There was some concern about the potential effects of extraction at these sites on the level of the

water table in the locality

Add (f) Downton Manor Farm, Downton (site 20).

A Member submitted a letter from the National Rivers Authority regarding their concerns about the potential adverse effect that extraction at this site might have on the SSSI downstream.

53. LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Cllr. J.J. Dawson presented the minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 1992.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

(a) Seasonal Review of Charges (minute 62)

Cllr. Wales regretted that the charge for an adult wishing to swim would not be standardised across all the Council's recreation centres. Users of Lymington Recreation Centre would be expected to pay a higher amount in 1993/94, although the community had made a significant contribution to the construction of the centre through local fundraising, and would be relatively high payers under the Council Tax.

(b) Boldre Foreshore - Future Management (minute 65)

In response to questions from Cllr. Scott, Cllr. J.J. Dawson advised Members that negotiations for the future management of Boldre Foreshore had made no distinction between the desire of the Crown Estates Commissioners to devolve responsibility for the shore onto a local authority, and the increasing problems caused by powercraft using the adjacent waterway. The need for management had always been understood. The offer from a number of local organisations to help with the policing of a speed control byelaw had not been pursued as the federal arrangements which had been proposed were not considered appropriate. Discussions had been held with the County Council with regard to the policing of a speed control byelaw for the waterway. The County were prepared to undertake this role, but there would be a cost to local chargepayers. Cllr. J.J. Dawson emphasised that agreement had now been reached with all the local landowners, local organisations and the parish council on the arrangements for the future management of Boldre Foreshore. This was the successful conclusion of protracted and detailed negotiations over a period of 7 years, and which followed the principles established under the auspices of Cllr. Hutchins, his

predecessor as Chairman of the Leisure Services Committee.

Cllr. Scott did not consider that certain options for the management of the foreshore, using voluntary organisations reporting to the County Council, had been adequately explored and he questioned some aspects of the replies given by Cllr. J.J. Dawson. He moved that this matter be referred back for further consideration.

The amendment was seconded by Cllr. Mjr. Beeton.

In answer to concerns raised by Cllr. Mrs. J.K. Vernon-Jackson, Cllr. J.J. Dawson advised Members that the proposed lease of the foreshore was for a five year period, and would be subject to annual review, which would ensure the adequacy of the arrangements would be maintained.

Cllr. J.J. Dawson re-emphasised that the proposed management arrangements attracted the support of all parties involved and were the result of prolonged, but amicable negotiations.

With 11 Members voting in favour and the majority voting against, the amendment was lost.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

54. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Hoy presented the minutes of the meeting held on 19th November 1992.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

(a) Prohibited Street Trading - Lymington (Minute 74)

In answer to a question from Cllr. Craig, members were advised that the word "provisions" should be added after the word 'street' in the sixth paragraph.

(b) Fluoridation of Water Supplies (Minute 75)

Cllr. Boothby expressed his strong opposition to the fluoridation of water. Cllr Greer remarked that fluoridation of water was supported by the British Dental Association and had been well received, without problems in other areas.

Members were reassured that this matter would be the subject of a full and balanced debate at the next meeting of the Environmental Services Committee.

- (c) Cryptosporidium in Public Water Supply
(Minute 76)

Cllr. Pearce-Smith noted that there had been a number of reports of digestive complaints in people on the Waterside following the reported incident of contamination of water supplies with Cryptosporidium. In view of the adverse response to the initial incident he wondered if there had been subsequent contamination but the water company were refraining from any comment.

In answer to a question from Cllr. Harrison, Cllr. Hoy agreed to write to the water company to establish whether the construction of the reservoir at Testwood Lakes would affect the likelihood of a recurrence of such an incident.

- (d) A337/Barton Court Avenue/Barton Court Road,
New Milton - Installation of Traffic Signals
(Minute 77)

Cllr. Griffiths congratulated the Committee on this decision.

- (e) Fordingbridge Hospital (Minute 81)

In answer to a question from Cllr. Lt. Col. Shand, Cllr. Hoy advised members that no reply had yet been received from the Salisbury Health Authority, but he would pursue the matter further through the Environmental Health Officers.

- (f) Highways Agency Area - The Hampshire (Cannon Street, Lymington) (One-way Traffic and Prohibition of Waiting) Order 1992 (Minute 83)

Cllr. Wales regretted the loss of car parking spaces in Cannon Street and considered that cars parked near to the entrance to the Council's Car Park acted as a traffic calming measure. He moved that this matter be referred back for further consideration.

This view was supported by Cllr. Mrs. Bannister, who seconded the amendment.

Cllr. Mrs. J.K. Vernon-Jackson considered that the order should be progressed. Traffic flows in Cannon Street were complicated by the large number of entrances onto the road. Should a one-way system be imposed, these spaces could be reviewed.

Cllr. Hoy reminded Members that this matter had been the subject of considerable debate by the Committee. This Council was merely a consultee

on this matter, the final decision on the Order being taken by the County Council. The views expressed, were, he believed, the most workable compromise in the light of the overall scheme for the area.

With 23 Members voting in favour and 22 voting against, the amendment was carried.

- (g) Southern Electric Customer Care Standards
(Minute 91)

Cllr. R.G. Vernon-Jackson enquired whether OFFER had responded to representations regarding the quality of the street lighting service. He deplored the present standards, particularly with respect to the connection of street lights. This view was supported by several other Councillors, who cited examples of poor performance by Southern Electricity. It was noted that the County Council let two contracts for street lighting, one for maintenance and one for the supply of electricity. The electricity Company had a monopoly on the supply contract and this was the element which was causing the greatest delay.

In reply to questions, Cllr. Hoy advised Members that OFFER had not yet replied to the Council's representations on this matter. The contract for the electricity supply had no compensation or penalty clause where the specified standards were not met. It presently took three to four weeks to rectify cable faults.

- (h) Hampshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan
(Minute 92)

Cllrs. Simmons and Earwicker reiterated concerns they had expressed when this matter was discussed at minute 133 of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 11th November 1992.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received subject to:-

- (1) The amendment of minute 74 - Prohibited Street Trading - Lyminster, by the addition of the word "provisions" after the word "street" in the sixth paragraph;
- (2) Minute 83 - Highways Agency Area - The Hampshire (Cannon Street, Lyminster) (One-way Traffic and Prohibition of Waiting) Order 1992, being referred back for further consideration; and
- (3) Minute 92 - Hampshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan, being amended by the addition of the following paragraph before the resolution

"With regard to Walkford Farm (site 18), Ashley Manor Farm, New Milton (site 19) and Downton Manor Farm, Downton (site 20), concern was expressed at the potential effects of extraction on the level of the water table in the locality. Reference was made to a letter from the National Rivers Authority regarding their concerns at their potential adverse effect that extraction might have at the site of Downton Manor Farm, Downton (site 20) on the SSSI via Danestream."

55. HOUSING COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Mrs. Bannister presented the minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 1992.

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

- (a) Rural Housing Special Programme 1992/93
(Minute 76)

Cllr. Miss Rickus asked that details of the scheme at Hinton Admiral be forwarded to her in due course. Cllr. Mrs. Bannister advised Members that this would be done and also that this particular scheme was a continuation of work already in progress and involved properties which were already being constructed in the private sector.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received and the recommendations be adopted.

56. CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Wade presented the minutes of the meeting held on 30th November 1992.

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

- (a) The Meeting House Centre, Ringwood (Minute 51)

Cllr. Mrs. Errington expressed her concern at the proposed disposal of the Council's freehold interest in the Meeting House Centre, Ringwood. This interest presently provided an avenue through which to ensure the maintenance of the privately owned pedestrian access between the car park and the High Street.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received and the recommendations

be adopted.

57. CONTRACT SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Miss Rickus presented the minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 1992.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

58. STRATEGIC GROWTH IN TOTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Harrison presented the minutes of the meeting held on 15th December 1992.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

- (a) Landscape Management Handbook for Totton's Open Space (Minute 35)

Cllr. Burdle was appalled at the projected cost of maintaining the green route in forthcoming years. He did not believe that the Town Council should be expected to pay and there would be cost implications for this authority. The income from money invested to fund such works would not be adequate. Cllr. Mrs. Bannister shared these concerns.

Cllr. J.J. Dawson was concerned at the projected expenditure and the ability of the Town Council to meet it. He was mindful, however, that the green route was a significant area of

landscaping, which on completion would be three miles long. He believed that the Consultant's report had set unrealistic standards for its maintenance and more acceptable figures could be achieved. Further information was needed on this matter.

Cllr. Rice shared these concerns and moved that the matter be referred back for further consideration. The amendment was seconded by Cllr. Griffiths.

In reply, Cllr. Harrison referred to the support the green route must have had in its early stages and advocated an investigation to establish how the present position had been reached. He reminded Members that this was an advisory committee and the terms of the resolution allowed for adequate investigation and for the exploration of viable alternatives based on the Consultant's report. The green route was not merely a footpath, but a linear park and could be expected to have significant maintenance costs. He referred to minute 68 of

the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee which dealt with some of the financial aspects.

With 21 Members voting in favour and 30 voting against, the amendment was lost.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

59. ADJOURNMENT AND RESUMPTION OF MEETING.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.50 p.m. and resumed at 1.30 p.m. with the following members present:-

Cllr. J.E. Coles - Chairman

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

Councillors:

Mrs. N.E. Alldridge
K.E. Austin
Mrs. O.A.M. Badland
S. Bailey
P.A. Baker
Mrs. P.D. Baker
Mrs. M.J. Bannister
Major C. Beeton, MBE
W.E.B. Boothby
D.S. Burdle
R.J. Burnett
Miss S.A. Cooke
D.E. Cracknell
W.F. Croydon
B.A. Cullers
G. Dawson
J.J. Dawson
B.C. Earwicker
Major S.S. Elvery
Mrs. L.K. Errington
L.P. Gibbs
W.J. Greer
R.C.H. Hale

Councillors:

F.R. Harrison
Mrs. Y.P. Holloway
Mrs. A.M. Howe
J.A.G. Hutchins, JP
J. Lovering
J. Maynard
N.D.M. McGeorge
Miss G.E. Meaden
R.F. Orton
P.G. Pearce-Smith
A.W. Rice, TD
Miss G.M. Rickus, CBE
J.G. Craig
D.N. Scott
Lt. Col. M.J. Shand
S.A. Shepherd
Mrs. B. Smith
Mrs. L.P. Snashall
G. Spikins
R.G. Vernon-Jackson
S.S. Wade
G.H. Wales
Mrs. P.A. Wyeth

Officers Attending:

P.A. Hyde, N.J. Gibbs, D.A. Gurney, Mrs. M. Holmes, E.S. Johnson, J. Paterson, T.R. Simpson and Miss J. Debnam

60. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Maynard presented the minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 1992.

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

- (a) A337/Barton Court Avenue/Barton Court Road,
New Milton - Installation of Traffic Signals
(Minute 67)

Cllr. Griffiths recalled that this junction had been the source of concern to the local community and their Councillors over a number of years. There was a poor accident record, with the characteristics of the crossing of two main through routes, high traffic speeds and the position of the infants school all contributing factors. The County Council had undertaken a study of measures to alleviate problems in the Town Centre, but this junction was outside the remit of the remedial works arising from that study. There were no funds for this junction in the County Programme. The Town Council had agreed to contribute 10,000 to the cost. If this Council paid half of the remainder of the estimated cost, the County Council had indicated informally that they would be able to find the rest. The Environmental Services Committee had therefore requested a supplementary capital estimate of 15,000. He considered the full amount was vital to achieve the necessary works. The 5,000 contribution recommended by the Policy and Resources Committee would result in no action being taken. He therefore moved as an amendment that a supplementary capital estimate of up to 15,000 be approved. The amendment was seconded by Cllr. Rice.

The amendment was strongly supported by Cllrs. Major Elvery, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Bannister, Burdle, Austin, Craig, Greer, Scott and Rice. They were aware that the provision of traffic lights was a County responsibility, but believed that the precedent had already been set for similar contributions by this Council in respect of the pedestrian crossing near the library at Totton. New Milton was the second largest settlement in the District, and the resulting high levels of traffic led to greater intensity of such problems. They believed that urgent action was necessary.

Cllrs. Miss Cooke, Miss Rickus, Cullers, Mrs. Robinson, Earwicker, Harrison and Shepherd recognised that there was a need for traffic signals at this junction but considered their provision was a county function for which the County Council had the power to raise the necessary finance. This Council could only contribute on an individual contingency basis. If such contributions were to be made there should be a proper evaluation of all such requirements throughout the District and a priority list drawn up. The contribution suggested by the Policy and Resources Committee was the best compromise.

Cllr. Maynard agreed with the need for urgent works at this junction, but was mindful that the Council was responsible for the entire District. He deplored the County Council's decision to spend less than the Standard Spending Assessment. The inadequate level of service to districts might force district councils to carry out such functions, transferring the burden of cost to them. This Council should draw up a priority list for the District and establish a considered policy.

Cllr. Rice requested that this matter be determined by a recorded vote, and in accordance with Standing Order Number 19 more than 15 other Members stood in their places to signify their support. The vote was taken as follows:-

For	Against	Abstain
Mrs N E Alldridge	P A Baker	Mrs Y P Holloway
K E Austin	Mrs P D Baker	
Mrs. O A M Badland	W E B Boothby	
S Bailey	R J Burnett	
Mrs M J Bannister	J E Coles	
Maj C Beeton, MBE	Miss S A Cooke	
E R Bowring	D E Cracknell	
D S Burdle	W F Croydon	
J G Craig	B A Cullers	
Maj S S Elvery	G Dawson	
Mrs L K Errington	J J Dawson	
W J Greer	B C Earwicker	
A J C Griffiths	L P Gibbs	
J M Hoy	R C H Hale	
J A G Hutchins, JP	F R Harrison	
J Lovering	Mrs A M Howe	
Miss G M Meaden	J Maynard	
R F Orton	N D M McGeorge	
A W Rice, TD	P G Pearce-Smith	
D N Scott	Miss G M Rickus, CBE	
A J Simmons	Mrs M J Robinson	
G Spikins	Lt Col M J Shand	
G H Wales	S A Shepherd	
Mrs D Wilson	Mrs B Smith	
Mrs P A Wyeth	Mrs L P Snashall	
	Mrs J K Vernon-Jackson MBE, JP	
	R G Vernon-Jackson	
	S S Wade	

With 25 Members voting in favour of the amendment, 28 voting against and one abstention the amendment was lost. The recommendation was thereupon put as the substantive motion and with the majority voting in favour was carried.

(b) West Totton Open Space - Maintenance Costs

(Minute 68)

Further to the debate in respect of this topic under minute 35 of the Strategic Growth in Totton Advisory Committee, Cllr. Burdle moved that this matter be referred back for further consideration. He believed it essential that there was a full investigation, involving Members, into how the present situation had arisen, with reports being submitted to relevant committees. He also wished a report to be submitted on the use of developers' contributions, and the balance remaining to fund open spaces in West Totton.

The amendment was seconded by Cllr Mrs Bannister. She wanted the report to establish whether it could have been foreseen during the early design and consultation process that the green route would become so expensive; how the design of the stretches still to be built could be modified to reduce costs; and the lessons to be learnt to avoid similar situations in the future. She was also concerned that the path was not perceived to be safe to use after dark.

Cllr. Maynard agreed that a written reply would be sent to Cllr. Scott on his questions regarding the cost of urgent works to the green route and the contribution it made to the requirement for public open space in West Totton.

Cllr. Harrison reminded Members that the Consultant's report started from the premise that the green route was a high quality amenity area. The cost of maintenance was not equivalent to that of an ordinary park, such as at Bartley. He welcomed a full investigation and report.

Cllr. Mrs. Alldridge reminded Members that the green route had been planned carefully. She suggested that many of the problems arose from inadequate and slow arrangements to hand the path over to the Town Council for maintenance as the sections were completed.

In the ensuing debate, Members established that they did not wish even urgent pruning works, as authorised by this resolution, to be carried out in advance of a full investigation of the issues, and of the options for future maintenance of the green route. The view was also expressed that Members should be fully involved in the investigations. It was suggested that the Policy and Resources Committee could set up a small working group of

Members to look at this matter in detail and also that Members should undertake a site visit to familiarise themselves with the characteristics of the green route. In addition, the investigation should establish the effect that use of developers' contributions on the green route at this stage would have on the sums generated in future as interest payments.

Cllr. Maynard indicated his support for this matter being referred back to allow further investigation, but was concerned that urgent maintenance works would not be carried out.

With the majority voting in favour, and three Members voting against, the amendment was carried.

(c) Capital Expenditure Programme 1993/94 (Minute 70)

Cllr. Rice considered that the additional savings offered by the Leisure Services Committee, in the sum of 2,000, were minimal and could be made up through increased income. He moved as an amendment that this sum be reinstated. The amendment was seconded by Cllr Bailey.

Cllr. Lovering regretted that reduction in the Environmental Services Committee budget would be achieved by the deletion of the construction of new public conveniences at Marchwood. He was reassured by Cllr. Mrs. Alldridge that the difficulties in finding an acceptable site, together with the views of the local community being divided, meant that the cancellation of this project was not a cause for concern.

Cllr. R.G. Vernon-Jackson regretted the deletion of the funds set aside the provision of new car parking in Lymington.

Cllr. J.J. Dawson reminded Members that the Leisure Services Committee had previously put forward savings of 28,000. The present saving had been identified at the request of the Council.

With 2 Members voting in favour and the majority voting against, the amendment for reinstatement of 2,000 in Leisure Services Committee budget was lost.

(d) Council Tax (Minute 71)

Cllr. Maynard reported that the ADC now advised that the Council tax could be determined by the Policy and Resources Committee without a formal resolution of the Council. It was his belief, however, that all members of the Council would

wish to be involved in this decision and it was not proposed to change the present recommendation.

(e) Grants to Voluntary Organisations (Minute 73)

Cllr. Mrs. Wilson questioned the payment of a grant to the Southampton Racial Equality Council and asked how many cases in this District had been helped by the organisation in the last year. Cllr. Austin reported that the New Milton Citizens' Advice Bureau had advised him that they were not aware of any racially motivated incidents in the Forest in the last year.

Cllr. Miss Cooke referred to a press report of a successful prosecution which involved racial harassment. She also drew Member's attention to a report by the Commission for Racial Equality which highlighted that a racial minority could feel intimidated even when they were present in the community in small numbers and there was no patent problem.

Cllr. Mrs. Bannister moved that the grant be accepted and the majority of members concurred with this view.

(f) Standing Orders as to Meetings and Proceedings - Amendments (Minute 75)

Cllr. Maynard advised members that there had been an omission from the new wording proposed for Standing Order No. 36(3). He therefore moved as an amendment that the following be added:-

(e) That, with effect on and from 24th May 1993, Standing Order 36(3) be revised as follows:-

(3) The Chairman, or Vice-Chairman of the Council may not be the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee.

Cllr. Baker advised members that he believed the Chairmen of Programme Committees should only be appointed by the full Council when the Committee itself was unable to reach a decision at its first meeting.

Cllr. Lovering, having been reassured that the intention of the amendment was to separate the role of leader of the Council and that of the Chairman moved that the wording should be further amended by the inclusion of the Vice-Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee. The further amendment was seconded by Cllr. Rice.

The amendments were unanimously agreed.

- (g) Local Authority Associations - Future of the Associations in England and Wales (Minute 80)

Cllr. Mrs. Robinson considered that the minute did not fully reflect the views expressed by the Policy and Resources Committee. They had welcomed the eventual merging of the Local Authority Associations but had been sceptical of the timing. She moved as an amendment that the words "This is felt to be particularly important in the light of the current Local Government Review" be added at the end of the resolution.

The amendment was unanimously agreed.

- (h) New Forest 2000 - 1992/93 Action Programme (Minute 81)

Cllr. Burdle welcomed the continuing programme under New Forest 2000 but was concerned that concentration on these matters should not cause important local issues, on which the Council had a tradition of campaigning on behalf of its residents, to be overlooked. As examples he referred to the closure of magistrates courts to leave only the Lyndhurst court to serve the entire District; the privatisation of Lymington post office; and the loss of the agency arrangements to operate two local landfill sites.

These sentiments received widespread support from members, particularly in respect of the closure of the magistrates courts. Lyndhurst was particularly unsuitable as the sole operating court. Public transport to many parts of the District was poor or non-existent; and the car park at the courts was woefully inadequate to meet even the present demand. The new arrangements would be inefficient, inconvenient and more expensive.

Members supported the Chairman's suggestion that he should write to the Lord Chancellor to express the Council's strong dissatisfaction with the proposed arrangements.

- (i) Outside Bodies (Minute 82)

Cllr. Scott wished to make it clear that he had withdrawn in favour of Cllr. Mjr. Beeton as a candidate for Lymington Harbour Commissioner as he had considered Cllr. Mjr. Beeton to be the best qualified candidate.

(j) Land and Property at Lymington (Minute 87)

Cllr. Mjr. Beeton was concerned that reports setting out details of the property being considered for acquisition and the expected terms had appeared in the local newspaper. He believed that the acquisition should not be progressed until the need for community rooms in Lymington had been established and other options explored. In addition the full cost, including refurbishment, had not been established. If acquisition did proceed, demolition of one of the buildings on the site should not be done until potential uses had been examined. He moved that this matter be referred back for further consideration. The amendment was seconded by Cllr. Wales who drew attention to potential users of the building that it was proposed to demolish.

Cllr. Scott questioned which budget head the expenditure would fall within and supported the proposed review. He did not feel that the scheme should progress until a written report had been submitted. Cllr. Simmons also expressed his support for this view.

Cllrs. R.G. Vernon-Jackson, Cullers, Rice, J.J. Dawson, Greer and Mrs. Wilson recognised the need to respond to this unexpected opportunity to purchase the site for the use of the community. If prompt action was not taken the opportunity would be lost. Opinion was divided as to whether one of the buildings should be demolished to provide car parking in accordance with the Coastal Towns Local Plan, or should be retained pending a review of potential community uses.

Members were reminded that this matter had been the subject of a detailed report to the Leisure Services Committee who had made their recommendations to the Policy and Resources Committee. The matter would be considered at a forthcoming meeting of the Leisure Services Committee and that would be the most appropriate forum through which to explore these concerns.

Cllr. Maynard considered that the opportunity to purchase this site should be seized. The premises would be used for the community but the exact uses could be determined at a later date.

With a majority voting against, the amendment was lost.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received and the

recommendations be adopted subject to:-

- (1) Minute 68 - West Totton Open Space - Maintenance Costs, being referred back for further consideration.
- (2) The amendment of minute 76 - Standing Orders as to Meetings and Proceedings - Amendments, by the addition of the following:-
 - (e) That, with effect on and from 24th May 1993, Standing Order 36(3) be revised as follows:-
 - (3) The Chairman, or Vice-Chairman of the Council, may not be the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee
- (3) The amendment of minute 80 - Local Authority Associations - Future of the Associations in England and Wales, by the addition of the sentence "This is felt to be particularly important in the light of the current Local Government Review" to the end of the resolution.

61. MONITORING OFFICER AND DELEGATION OF POWERS (REPORT A).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That, in the absence through illness of the Chief Solicitor, the Chief Executive be appointed Monitoring Officer, responsible for performing the duties imposed by Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989; and
- (b) That with immediate effect, and until 26th July 1993, the functions and powers delegated to the Chief Solicitor be also delegated to the Principal Solicitors.

62. COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR TAX SETTING (REPORT B).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the criteria for the calculation of the Council's tax base, as set out in the report, for the year 1993/94 be approved; and
- (b) That pursuant to the report, and in accordance with the Local Authority's (Calculation of Tax-Base) Regulations 1992, the amount calculated by the New Forest District Council as its Council's tax base for the year 1993/94 shall be as follows and as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 to these minutes.

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PARISH/TOWN	TAX BASE
Beaulieu	480.75
Boldre	1,012.23
Bramshaw	310.89
Brockenhurst	1,599.71
Copythorne	1,108.01
Denny Lodge	162.50
Hythe and Dibden	6,649.65
East Boldre	374.66
Totton and Eling	8,623.89
Exbury and Lepe	110.19
Fawley	4,246.91
Lyndhurst	1,370.63
Marchwood	1,574.03
Minstead	334.40
Netley Marsh	750.37
Sway	1,517.45
Ashurst and Colbury	840.13
Breamore	173.67
Burley	730.56
Bransgore	1,732.77
Damerham	226.42
Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley	546.04
Fordingbridge	2,189.61
Hale	235.94
Martin	178.54
Ringwood	4,765.49
Rockbourne	157.88
Sopley	289.30
Whitsbury	95.16
Woodgreen	239.94
Hyde	458.86
Sandleheath	231.64
Lymington and Pennington	6,331.20
Milford on Sea	2,631.10
Hordle	2,064.69
New Milton	9,402.29
Whole District	63,747.50

63. QUESTION UNDERSTANDING ORDER 9.

In accordance with Standing Order 9, Cllr. Scott asked the Chairman of the Leisure Services Committee the following questions:-

- (1) What action has been taken by New Forest District Council to secure arrangements with Hampshire County Council for their staff to police a speed limit byelaw on Boldre Foreshore at no additional cost to chargepayers (with the objective of preventing noisy jet skiing and waterskiing behind power craft and the like which local residents and the ecology suffer at present)?

(2) Why have the Hampshire County Council (HCC) not been asked to take the lease of Boldre Foreshore from the Crown Estates Commissioners and to manage the foreshore when the following benefits would ensue:-

- HCC have the equipment and the skilled staff and a full time contact point by telephone;
- HCC will continue to provide the secretariat to support and aid the local consultative and management processes;
- HCC have qualified local employees with the experience to police the area on behalf of all the residents and visitors, not just a sectional interest;
- HCC, I am confident would have the support of the local Parish, concerned residents and all associations willing to assist;
- HCC would be more acceptable to the Crown Estates Commissioners and English Nature (who would be asked to approve a Local Nature Reserve status for Boldre Foreshore);
- HCC would be more acceptable to the Home Office (who would be asked to approve a waterborne speed limit byelaw and its policing?)

3. What further action is to be taken by New Forest District Council to secure the policing of a waterborne speed limit byelaw on Boldre Foreshore that is policed by public officials at no additional cost to chargepayers?

In reply Cllr. J.J. Dawson, Chairman of the Leisure Services Committee advised Members of the following:-

1. The Council, during these long negotiations, have ascertained from the County Council that they would be prepared to undertake the wardening function required at Boldre Foreshore. Their initial estimate for the service was 4,000 per annum.
2. The possibility of Hampshire County Council taking the lease directly was discussed with the County Council as being a sensible option to pursue should the County Council warden the area. It was not pursued because the Leisure Services Committee was carrying out the Council's Policy to take the Head Lease.

It has been the Council's Policy since the

subject was first mooted in 1985, to take the Head Lease and thereby secure the local interest. It would have been inappropriate to go against the policy without another mandate from the Council.

The use of the County Council as managers may have advantages, but it does have disadvantages as was said in the previous discussions in the Leisure Services Committee. The Committee endorsed the Council's policy. That decision was not entirely based on finance but also reflected the views expressed and confirmed by the Parish Council and many local organisations and landowners over a number of years.

It is pertinent that throughout the entire discussion of this issue the County Council has never itself, formally or informally, offered or even broached the subject of their wardening of the area. This is despite the close contact with them and this issue being discussed regularly over the years in the forum they service - namely the Lymington Coastal Area Advisory Panel.

3. The Leisure Services Committee following the Policy of the Council, has agreed to secure management of Boldre Foreshore through the voluntary sector. Therefore there is no mandate to pursue the policing of the future byelaw solely by public officials.

64. 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 decisions made at this meeting.

CHAIRMAN

APPENDICES 1 AND 2 - PLEASE SEE HARD COPIES