

24 FEBRUARY 1997

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 24 February 1997.

p Cllr Miss S A Cooke - Chairman  
p Cllr J A G Hutchins JP - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

p K E Austin  
p Mrs O A M Badland  
p S Bailey  
p P A Baker  
p Mrs P D Baker  
p Major C Beeton MBE  
p Mrs C A Bianchi  
p E R Bowring  
p D S Burdle  
p J E Coles  
p M R Cox  
p D E Cracknell  
p W F Croydon  
p B D Dash  
p G Dawson  
p J J Dawson  
p Miss P A Drake  
e K W Drew  
p B C Earwicker  
p A S Emery  
p Mrs L K Errington  
p R K Goodridge  
p W J Greer  
p R C H Hale  
p L E Harris  
p D Harrison  
p F R Harrison  
p S A Hayes

Councillors:

p Mrs A M Howe  
e J M Hoy  
M R Jones  
p M J Kendal  
p G N D Locock  
p Mrs B M Maynard  
p N D M McGeorge  
p Mrs M McLean  
p S M Noel  
p R F Orton  
p P G Pearce-Smith  
C G Ramsden  
p A W Rice TD  
p B Rickman  
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 Mrs B Smith  
p Mrs L P Snashall  
p G Spikins  
p Mrs J K Vernon-Jackson MBE JP  
p M S Wade  
p S S Wade  
e Dr M N Whitehead  
p Mrs D Wilson  
p Mrs P A Wyeth

Officers Attending:

I B Mackintosh, N J Gibbs, D A Gurney, E S Johnson, Ms E Malcolm, Mrs A Allport, Mrs J Livesey and T R Simpson.

54. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 January 1997, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

55. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

(a) Councillor J J Dawson

The Chairman welcomed back Cllr J J Dawson following his recent stay in hospital.

(b) South West Trains

The Chairman informed members that she was concerned about the sudden cutting of services by South West Trains and that, with the support of the Liberal Democrat group, she would be writing to the Regulator to request that the action be reviewed and appropriate sanctions utilised. She asked that the Leaders of the Conservative and Independent groups confirm after the meeting whether they wished to support the representations.

(c) ISO 9002 Certificate

The Chairman congratulated Mr D Adams, Ms T Cowley and Mr S Littlecott on the award of an ISO 9002 Certificate for the management of engineering works contracts and congratulated the team on their achievement.

(d) Empty Homes Strategy

The Chairman was pleased to announce that, at the National Empty Homes conference held on 17 February 1997, the Chairman of Housing Committee had been presented with the award for the most successful rural empty homes strategy for the Council's success in filling 200 properties in 18 months and its general contribution towards the empty homes campaign.

(e) Investors in People Award

The Chairman was also delighted to announce that it was with extreme pride that she had accepted the Investors in People Award from Richard Hastilow, the Managing Director of the Hampshire Training and Enterprise Council. She congratulated employees, managers, directors and her fellow members for their part in achieving this accolade. A standing ovation followed.

(f) Mr E S Johnson

The Chairman reported that this was the last meeting of the Council at which Mr E S Johnson, the Director of Planning, would be present. On behalf of members, she formally thanked him for everything he had done for the District and wished him all the very best for the future.

(g) Bad Weather

The Chairman announced that the Southampton Weather Centre was forecasting 80mph winds that evening, with the New Forest area being badly affected. Without wishing to prevent debate, she encouraged members to be brief and to avoid

repetition so as not to prolong the meeting unduly.

56. PETITION.

The Chairman stated that she proposed to accept a petition from Ms J Woods. Although Standing Orders provided for a petition to stand referred to the committee within whose terms of reference it fell, the Chairman believed that it was in the Council's best interests to consider the petition now as a matter of urgency and called upon Ms Woods to come forward.

Ms Woods indicated that the petition related to the reply given to Ms Ann at Policy and Resources Committee's public participation period on 5 February 1997 and concerned the Council's response to remarks made by Cllr Rice. She petitioned the Council formally to censure Cllr Rice for his homophobic remarks and for the censure to be recorded in the Council minutes. In the reply to Ms Ann's question, Cllr Coles had stated that the Liberal Democrat members totally disassociated themselves from Cllr Rice's remarks and Cllr Greer, the Leader of the Conservative Group, and Cllr Rice had apologised for any hurt caused. However, there had been no official statement by the Council as a whole. Ms Woods, therefore, called upon the Council to fulfil the promises made in its equal opportunities policy document and to take the action requested.

In reply, the Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee indicated that, while he may not have used the word "censure" in his response to Ms Ann, he believed he was quite explicit when he had said that the Liberal Democrat group totally disassociated itself with the comments made by Cllr Rice. He was sorry if Ms Woods was unhappy that the Council had not formally censured Cllr Rice by using the words she would like. However, he believed that the Council's policy and views were well known and documented. On being proposed by Cllr Coles and seconded by Cllr Greer, it was:-

RESOLVED:

That the response made by the Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee at the meeting on 5 February 1997 be endorsed and that all members be urged to avoid the use of hurtful and unacceptable language in Committee and Council meetings in the future.

57. LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 1997.

On the motion that the minutes be received -

(a) Development at Vaggs Lane, Hordle (Minute 55)

Cllr Bowring moved that this matter be referred back for further consideration on the grounds that 28,000 had already been allocated from developers'

contributions and there was already a pavilion on the recreation ground. Allowing this to proceed would mean that there would not be anything left for the Community Association. The majority of members indicated their support for this course of action.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received, subject to minute 55 relating to development at Vaggs Lane, Hordle, being referred back for further consideration.

58. PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meetings held on 8 January and 12 February 1997.

On the motion that the minutes be received -

(a) Minutes (Minute 178)

Cllr Burdle drew attention to the fact that the omission which he had raised at the last Council meeting had not been picked up when the minutes had been approved as correct records. The Chairman of the Committee confirmed that the point raised by Cllr Burdle had been included in the minutes so an amendment had not been required.

b) Ampress Works, Southampton Road, Lymington and Boldre (Minute 185)

Cllr Vernon-Jackson disclosed a non-pecuniary interest in this minute but, as there was no discussion or voting thereon, she remained present.

(c) Royal Naval Armaments Depot Site, Marchwood (Minute 204)

In response to a query, the Chairman of the Committee undertook to let Cllr Kendal know in writing when the further report would be presented.

(d) Ampress Works, Southampton Road, Lymington and Boldre (Minute 206)

Cllr Vernon-Jackson disclosed a non-pecuniary interest in this item and, having left the meeting, took no part in the discussion thereon.

Cllr Robinson disclosed a pecuniary interest in this item but indicated that she had a dispensation to speak on the matter.

A number of members asked what would be done about the provision of a hospital for Lymington. It was reported that a meeting of interested parties was due to take place on 28 February 1997.

(e) Adjournment and Resumption of Meeting (Minute 208)

Both Cllrs Hayes and Scott drew attention to the fact that they had been in attendance at the afternoon session.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

59. CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 1997.

On the motion that the minutes be received -

(a) Capital and Revenue Estimates 1997/98 (Minute 48)

Cllr Kendal drew attention to the fact that the estimates included 3,000 for the storage of hazardous waste at Milford and asked whether the Parish Council had been consulted on the proposal and whether it would be a permanent arrangement. In reply, the Chairman of the Committee gave an assurance that a written response would be sent to Cllr Kendal.

(b) Compulsory Competitive Tendering - Construction and Property Services (Minute 51)

Attention was drawn to the fact that the de minimis threshold had been lowered and not raised. However, the accuracy of the minute was a matter for Central Services Committee itself.

In response to a query, the Chairman of the Committee confirmed that the Council complied with the compulsory competitive tendering legislation. Another member questioned the use of the term de minimis and called for the use of plain English. It was explained that this was a Government term but an explanation could be given in brackets when it was used in the future.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

60. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 1997 and drew attention to a minor error in Minute 64, namely that the reference to "Southampton and District Health Authority" in (d) of the resolution should read "Southampton and South West Hampshire Health Authority".

On the motion that the minutes be received -

(a) Cemeteries - Review of Fees and Charges (Minute 62)

One member queried why the cost of preparing

and backfilling graves had increased when the new grounds maintenance contract represented a saving to the Council. It was explained that the contract was cheaper in overall terms but that this element of it was more expensive.

- (b) Environment - A Key Area for Health of the Nation? (Minute 64)

The request for the inclusion of transport as a topic area for the Government's Health of the Nation Strategy was queried. The Chairman of the Committee confirmed that transport was seen to be an air quality issue, which had a bearing on health matters.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

61. HOUSING COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 1997.

On the motion that the minutes be received -

- (a) Capital and Housing Revenue Account Estimates 1997/98 (Minute 46)

In response to a question, the Chairman of the Committee confirmed that the Housing Revenue Account working balance would not be reduced to less than 0.75 million.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

62. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 1997.

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

- (a) General Fund Revenue Budget 1997/98 (Minute 81)

Cllr Kendal moved and Cllr Greer seconded an amendment for the substitution of "14.090 million" for "15.480 million" in recommendation (a) and for recommendation (b) to read:

- "(b) That the General Fund revenue budget for 1997/98 be approved, giving a District council tax of 81.84."

When it was queried whether the proposed amendment to recommendation (a) was correct since that related to 1996/97, Cllr Kendal withdrew that part of his

amendment. A motion to suspend Standing Order 14(4) to permit Cllr Kendal to speak for five minutes was carried.

In support of his proposed amendment, Cllr Kendal drew attention to the saving of 1.5% on gross expenditure, which he believed could be achieved in spite of the reduced level of Government grant and without cutting services.

During the ensuing debate, it was argued that the Council's expenditure had only risen by 0.5% in real terms and that the proposed amendment represented a 4.2% cut on net expenditure, which would have to result in redundancies. At this point, Cllr Smith disclosed a pecuniary interest in this item and, having left the meeting, took no further part in the discussion or voting thereon.

In his reply, the Chairman of the Committee set out the case for having a budget at capping level and gave examples of the cuts which would have to follow if the amendment was accepted. He also gave an assurance that all opportunities for making further savings would be reviewed in a planned way, with implications for services being properly assessed and Policy and Resources Committee taking a corporate overview. At this point, Cllr M S Wade disclosed a pecuniary interest in the item and, having left the meeting, took no part in the voting thereon.

The amendment was lost.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received and the recommendations adopted.

#### 63. COUNCIL TAX 1997/98 (REPORT A).

RESOLVED:

(a) That it be noted that, at its meeting on 6 January 1997, the Council calculated the following amounts for the year 1997/98 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

(i) 66,563.14 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its council tax base for the year.

(ii) LOCAL COUNCIL AREA

ASHURST & COLBURY	903.66
BEAULIEU	462.61
BOLDRE	1,005.96

BRAMSHAW	323.13
BRANSGORE	1,824.03
BREAMORE	183.08
BROCKENHURST	1,707.85
BURLEY	755.95
COPYTHORNE	1,160.58
DAMERHAM	231.81
DENNY LODGE	153.43
EAST BOLDRE	388.16
ELLINGHAM HARBRIDGE & IBSLEY	575.22
EXBURY & LEPE	93.60
FAWLEY	4,652.65
FORDINGBRIDGE	2,251.03
HALE	252.28
HORDLE	2,165.15
HYDE	485.96
HYPHE & DIBDEN	7,069.97
LYMINGTON & PENNINGTON	6,429.72
LYNDHURST	1,338.38
MARCHWOOD	1,745.39
MARTIN	184.82
MILFORD-ON-SEA	2,480.26
MINSTEAD	356.50
NETLEY MARSH	802.34
NEW MILTON	9,848.07
RINGWOOD	5,089.74
ROCKBOURNE	162.85
SANDLEHEATH	247.87
SOPLEY	290.31
SWAY	1,575.11
TOTTON & ELING	9,022.84
WHITSBURY	95.04
WOODGREEN	247.79
	66,563.14

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its council tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(b) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 1997/98 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992:-

- (i) 68,723,815 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act.
- (ii) 51,163,024 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act.
- (iii) 17,560,791 being the amount by which the aggregate at (b)(i) above exceeds the aggregate at (b)(ii)



above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year.

- (iv) 9,462,120 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its general fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates and revenue support grant, increased by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its collection fund to its general fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (Council Tax Surplus), and increased by the amount of any sum which the Council estimates will be transferred from its collection fund to its general fund pursuant to the Collection Fund (Community Charges) directions under Section 98(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 made on 15 January 1997 (Community Charge Surplus).
- (v) 121.66 being the amount at (b)(iii) above less the amount at (b)(iv) above, all divided by the amount at (a)(i) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year.
- (vi) 2,002,545 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- (vii) 91.58 being the amount at (b)(v) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (b)(vi) above by the amount at (a)(i) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.

(viii)  
LOCAL COUNCIL AREA

ASHURST & COLBURY	105.41
BEAULIEU	98.06
BOLDRE	104.27
BRAMSHAW	102.41
BRANSGORE	100.52
BREAMORE	98.13

BROCKENHURST	102.12
BURLEY	95.55
COPYTHORNE	98.39
DAMERHAM	97.62
DENNY LODGE	96.14
EAST BOLDRE	100.60
ELLINGHAM HARBRIDGE & IBSLEY	99.23
EXBURY & LEPE	96.92
FAWLEY	149.99
FORDINGBRIDGE	132.58
HALE	100.50
HORDLE	107.29
HYDE	97.75
HYPHE & DIBDEN	131.94
LYMINGTON & PENNINGTON	129.82
LYNDHURST	99.05
MARCHWOOD	144.32
MARTIN	105.11
MILFORD-ON-SEA	105.05
MINSTEAD	101.40
NETLEY MARSH	99.19
NEW MILTON	122.48
RINGWOOD	115.55
ROCKBOURNE	95.26
SANDLEHEATH	101.67
SOPLEY	100.19
SWAY	109.99
TOTTON & ELING	132.41
WHITSBURY	96.84
WOODGREEN	99.65

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (b)(vii) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at (a)(ii) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(ix) PART OF THE COUNCIL'S AREA

These are the District plus Town/Parish Council elements only. See pages 11-12 for the full amounts of Council Tax.

[SEE HARD COPY FOR COUNCIL TAX AMOUNTS]

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (b)(vii) and (b)(viii) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- (c) That it be noted that, for the year 1997/98, the Hampshire County Council and the Hampshire Police Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

PRECEPTING AUTHORITY

[SEE HARD COPY FOR FIGURES]

- (d) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (b)(ix) and (c) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of council tax for the year 1997/98 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

PART OF THE COUNCIL'S AREA

[SEE HARD COPY FOR FIGURES]

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