

21 JULY 1997

**NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 21 July 1997.

- p Cllr J A G Hutchins JP - Chairman
- p Cllr Mrs A M Howe - 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 Miss S A Cooke
- 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
- p K W Drew
- p B C Earwicker
- p A S Emery
- p Mrs L K Errington
- e R K Goodridge
- p W J Greer
- p R C H Hale
- p L E Harris
- p D Harrison
- p F R Harrison

**Councillors:**

- p S A Hayes
- p J M Hoy
- p 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
- e R F Orton
- p P G Pearce-Smith
- p 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
- p Dr M N Whitehead
- p Mrs D Wilson
- p Mrs P A Wyeth

**Officers Attending:**

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

**9. MINUTES.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 1997, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**10. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.****(a) Hurst Spit Stabilisation Scheme**

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman accepted from Mr P Curran, Chairman of the Southern Association of the Institution of Civil Engineers, an Engineering Merit Award for the Hurst Spit stabilisation scheme. The Chairman congratulated representatives of the contractor and sub-contractor for the scheme and the Council's own engineering team for their involvement in the project. In addition, he announced that the scheme had been short-listed for a British Construction Industry Award, the outcome of which would be known later in the year.

**(b) HM Queen's Birthday Honours**

The Chairman advised members that the following honours had been awarded in the HM Queen's Birthday Honours -

Mr Ken Robinson, CBE  
Mr John Jacobs, OBE  
Mr Roger Richardson, OBE  
Mr Frank Mortimer, MBE

**(c) Media Golf Match**

The Chairman announced that the Council had lost the annual media golf match by three matches to one.

**(d) Mr N Gibbs**

The Chairman congratulated Mr N Gibbs, Director of Community Services, on being elected Chairman of the Chief Leisure Officers' Association.

**11. PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.**

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meetings held on 14 and 19 May, 11 June and 9 July 1997, subject to the decision in respect of Minute 51 being a recommendation for adoption.

On the motion that the minutes, as amended, be received -

**(a) Town Centre and Out of Centre Developments (Minute 261)**

In response to a question, the Chairman of the Committee gave an assurance that any proposals by the Government to relax the policy on out of town shopping would be carefully examined and appropriate action taken.

**(b) Ampress Works, Southampton Road, Lymington and Boldre (Minute 270)**

Cllr Vernon-Jackson disclosed a 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.

In the absence of the Chairman of the Committee, the Vice-Chairman promised that a letter would be sent to all members regarding the latest position on this site.

(c) **Anchorage Way/Priestlands Place/Belmore Lane, Lymington (Minute 282)**

A written reply was promised by the Chairman of the Committee following a question regarding progress on the adoption of Anchorage Way.

(d) **The Rectory Site - Old Milton (Minute 26)**

Concern was expressed that the occupiers had not been given advance notice of the Committee's site visit. The Chairman of the Committee informed members that the owners of the site should have informed the occupiers of the visit and had apologised for this omission.

(e) **Motorcycle Museum, Bashley Cross Road, New Milton (Minute 28)**

It was confirmed that temporary permissions could be extended at the discretion of the Committee, subject to the submission of the necessary planning applications.

(f) **Planning Applications for Committee Decision (Minute 29)**

Concern was expressed about officers' recommendations being changed at meetings. The Chairman of the Committee explained that extra information which had a bearing on the recommendation was sometimes received after the agenda had been dispatched. It would not always be appropriate to defer an item in such circumstances.

(g) **Parker Bath - Application at Gordleton Pitt, Sway Road, Pennington, Lymington (Minute 35(c))**

It was queried why only officers had met with Fay and Son and Parker Bath. In response, the Chairman of the Committee confirmed that it was normal practice for just officers to be involved in such discussions.

(h) **149 Southampton Road, Lymington - Construct Access Road to Serve Residential Development of Former Buckland School Site (Minute 38)**

When asked why members had not looked at the entrance to this site when they had visited it, the Chairman of the Committee answered that it was because no-one had asked them to do so.

(i) **Planning Applications for Committee Decision (Minute 49)**

The Chairman of the Committee was asked why no specific vote had been taken in respect of 29 Harold Close, Totton. She responded that this was not her recollection but undertook to have the notes of the meeting checked.

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes be received on the recommendations adopted.

**12. LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE.**

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meetings held on 19 May and 3 June 1997.

On the motion that the minutes be received, it was -

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes be received.

**13. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE.**

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meetings held on 19 May and 5 June 1997.

On the motion that the minutes be received -

(a) **Prohibited Street Trading - A31 and Central Lymington (Minute 8)**

Assurances were sought that there would be no problems in following the designation procedure again and that the onion seller in Lymington would be unaffected by the designations. Another member asked whether or not it had been decided to take legal action against the Council's agent for failing to arrange for the publication of the necessary advertisement. The Chairman of the Committee explained the procedure for designating prohibited trading streets and assured members that a similar mistake would not be made again. With reference to the onion seller, she confirmed that this situation would have to be checked. She also confirmed that the Legal Division was aware of members' annoyance with the advertising agent, who was no longer used by the Council, and was investigating as a matter of urgency the possibility of taking legal action for breach of contract. Action would be taken if there was a realistic prospect of success.

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes be received.

**14. BUSINESS SERVICES CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.**

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meetings held on 19 May and 6 June 1997.

On the motion that the minutes be received -

(a) **Housing Management Contract Progress Report (Minute 8)**

The Chairman of the Committee undertook to send a written answer to the question about whether it had yet been decided for what purpose the surplus on the contract should be used.

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes be received.

**15. CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.**

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meetings held on 19 May and 17 June 1997.

On the motion that the minutes be received -

(a) **Controlling Carbon Dioxide Emissions (Minute 9)**

In response to a query regarding village halls, the Chairman of the Committee stated that the Council would assist them in reducing emissions.

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes be received.

**16. DIRECT SERVICES CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.**

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meetings held on 19 May and 24 June 1997 and drew attention to the fact that the words "the Council" at the end of the paragraph on 'Civic Catering' at Minute 8 needed to be amended to read "New Forest Country Caterers".

On the motion that the minutes to received -

(a) **New Forest Country Caterers - Assistant Director of Leisure Services' Report (Minute 8)**

The Chairman of the Committee undertook to send a written reply to the question as to whether New Forest Country Caterers had made a loss or broken even on the previous catering contract.

(b) **New Forest Contract Services - General Manager's Report (Minute 9)**

One member called for the Council to lobby the appropriate agencies to ensure that containers washed up on beaches were labelled. Members were informed that this had been done some years previously, but the matter would be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration.

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes be received.

**17. HOUSING COMMITTEE.**

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meetings held on 19 May and 30 June 1997.

On the motion that the minutes be received -

(a) **Asbestos in Buildings Controlled by Housing Committee (Minute 16)**

It was queried why a tenant with an asbestos garage had been told that the Council would not remove it. The Chairman of the Committee explained that this would have been because it was the tenant's own garage and not a Council building. However, an article would be included in the tenants' newsletter to draw attention to the dangers of asbestos buildings.

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes be received.

**18. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE.**

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meetings held on 19 May and 2 July 1997, subject to the insertion of the word "except" before the words "Policy and Resources Committee" in recommendation (b) of Minute 17.

On the motion that the minutes be received and the recommendations, as amended, be adopted -

**(a) Meeting - 19 May 1997**

Cllr Smith drew attention to the fact that she had been in attendance at the above meeting.

**(b) Financial Recommendations of Committees (Minute 9 (i))**

Although members had received additional information concerning the financial and other implications of closing the sports hall at Ringwood Recreation Centre, concern was expressed that this information had not been made available at the Leisure Services Committee meeting when it had been decided to close the Centre for the works to be carried out. In reply, the Chairman of Leisure Services Committee confirmed that the works had been necessary in the interests of health and safety so the provision of additional information in this case would not have made any difference to the decision.

**(c) Economic Development Sub-Committee - 20 June 1997 (Minute 12)**

The Chairman of the Committee was asked whether representations could be made to the Government to change the business rate system so that councils receive the income to fund their policies which were designed to improve local businesses. He was also asked whether the £50,000 which included provision for the post of an Economic Development Assistant could not be better spent elsewhere. Another member asked which towns had been selected for the Town Centre Management Initiative. The Chairman of the Committee stated that changes to the business rate system were expected in the next year or two but representations would be made in the meantime. In addition, he confirmed that the post of Economic Development Assistant was justified and that Hythe and Ringwood had been selected for the Town Centre Management Initiative.

**(d) Guidelines for the Review of Expenditure Plans 1998/99 to 2001/02 (Minute 14)**

When presenting the minutes, the Chairman of the Committee referred to the public consultation exercise which had been undertaken in the previous year on the Council's services. In reviewing their expenditure plans, committee Chairmen were asked to have regard to the findings of the survey as well as the expenditure plan guidelines. The high priority issues were community safety, poverty and deprivation, sustainability and economic development.

Attention was drawn to the fact that the reference to "Lymington Museum" should read "St Barbes Museum". The Chairman pointed out that this was a matter for Policy and Resources Committee itself.

(e) **New Forest Committee (Minute 16)**

A number of members did not see a future role for the New Forest Committee. Others expressed the view that it played an essential role in ensuring that all bodies concerned worked together to preserve the Forest. In addition, it had successfully attracted European Union funding. Attention was drawn to the fact that the majority of the members of Policy and Resources Committee supported the retention of the New Forest Committee. During the ensuing debate, in which various views for and against the continued existence of the Committee were expressed, clarification was sought as to what was meant by a "statutory co-ordinating body", and members were promised a written explanation.

(f) **Environment Services Management Structure (Minute 22)**

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

A review of how members were informed of redundancy proposals was requested. The Chairman of the Committee gave an undertaking that the procedure would be examined.

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes be received and the recommendations, as amended, adopted.

**19. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES.**

**RESOLVED:**

That Cllr Cooke be appointed to Business Services Contracts Committee and that Cllr Robinson be appointed to Leisure Services Committee in place of Cllr Cracknell, until the normal day of retirement of councillors in 1999.

**20. COUNCILLOR D E CRACKNELL.**

The Chairman allowed consideration of this item as a matter of urgency because the next meeting was not until November 1997 and the Independent Group wished Cllr Cracknell to start representing them before then.

**RESOLVED:**

That Cllr Cracknell be appointed to Policy and Resources Committee in place of Cllr Bowring, until the normal day of retirement of councillors in 1999.

**21. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 9.**

Cllr Robinson disclosed a pecuniary interest in the questions asked by Cllr Scott but indicated that she had a dispensation to speak on the matter.

In accordance with Standing Order 9, Cllr Cooke asked the Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee the following question:

“Has the Leader of the Council written to the new Government confirming this Council’s opposition to the hunting of mammals with hounds in order to refute the claim that it is only ill informed urban dwellers who are opposed to this barbaric practice, and further expressing our deep disquiet that the pro-hunting lobby is trying to hide the truth of the grossly cruel and unnecessary suffering they cause by falsely claiming it is essential to the ecological well being of the countryside and to rural employment?”

The Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee replied as follows:

“Representations were made to the former Government in October 1994 at the time of Somerset County Council’s High Court action. However, no reply was received and I will now write to the new Government.”

As a supplementary question, Cllr Cooke asked whether the Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee would call on the District’s new Members of Parliament to reflect the view that 70% of residents in this District were against the hunting of mammals with hounds. In reply, the Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee confirmed that he would do so.

Cllr Scott asked the Chairman of Planning and Transportation Committee the following questions:

- “1. When were each of the Section 106, 227 and 278 legal agreements signed? Alternatively, when are they expected to be signed?
2. When are each of the 8, 2 and 2 requirements, respectively listed in Annex 1 of the Planning and Transportation Committee minutes of 14 May 1997, in the Section 106, 227 and 278 legal agreements expected to be completed?
3. When, as resolved at the above meeting, were each of the other conditions deemed appropriate by the Director of Environment Services formally agreed/expected to be agreed by the applicants?
4. When are each of the latter conditions expected to be met?
5. When will sites for new factories be available?
6. What sites, if any, have been offered to prospective enterprises that meet their design specifications within the short term, ie start on site dates of 6 months or less from 14 May 1997?”

The Chairman of Planning and Transportation Committee replied as follows:

- “1. The legal agreements have not been completed. The principles have been agreed but the details are yet to be completed. It is not possible to predict a timescale for their completion.
2. These matters will be determined in the legal agreements which have not yet been completed.
3. Draft conditions are being discussed with the applicants in parallel with negotiations on the legal agreements referred to previously. A final decision on the conditions to be imposed will be taken in conjunction with the completion of the legal agreements.



4. Until they are agreed, this cannot be answered.
5. The commercial property agents for the site are engaged on a marketing campaign to attract tenants to the existing buildings and are “actually talking to a number of companies that are seeking new purpose built factories on green field locations and wish to commence building new facilities in the next six months”.
6. The commercial agents for the site are promoting sites for new build on the basis that access to the site for development can be achieved within 6 months or less from May this year.”

As a supplementary question, Cllr Scott asked whether the new purpose built factories were likely to be available in the next six months. The Chairman of Planning and Transportation Committee replied that the commercial property agents for the site had said that they would be, and she had no evidence to dispute that fact.

## 22. NOTICE OF MOTION.

In accordance with Standing Order 7, Cllr McGeorge moved, and Cllr Coles seconded, the following motion:

“This Council

- (a) urges the Government to accept the recommendation of the Morgan Report “Safer Communities: The Local Delivery of Crime Prevention through the Partnership Approach” for local authorities, working in conjunction with the police, to have a clear statutory responsibility for a multi-agency approach to community safety work,
- (b) welcomes the setting-up of the New Forest Domestic Violence Forum under the auspices of the New Forest Crime Prevention Working Party and will seek to ensure that the Forum has the necessary resources for it to be effective and successful in reducing violence within the home, and
- (c) welcomes the New Forest Crime Prevention Working Party’s current programme of activity for long-term crime prevention among young people and asks the Working Party to present a report to the Council by the end of October 1997 on its proposed future programme and resource needs.”

In accordance with Standing Order 7, this motion was referred to Environmental Services and Licensing Committee for debate and for a report to be brought back to the next meeting of the Council.

CHAIRMAN