

5 JANUARY 1998

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 5 January 1998.

- p Cllr J A G Hutchins JP - Chairman
- p Cllr Mrs A M Howe - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

- p K E Austin
- e Mrs O A M Badland
- p S Bailey
- p P A Baker
- p Mrs P D Baker
- e 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
- e G Dawson
- p J J Dawson
- e Miss P A Drake
- p K W Drew
- p B C Earwicker
- e 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

Councillors:

- p S A Hayes
- p J M Hoy
- e M R Jones
- p M J Kendal
- e G N D Locock
- e 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
- 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 DL
- p M S Wade
- p S S Wade
- p Dr M N Whitehead
- e 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.

36. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 1997, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

37. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

(a) **Councillor G Dawson**

The Chairman informed members that Cllr G Dawson had been ill and had suffered a heart attack following his discharge from hospital. Members wished Cllr Dawson a speedy recovery.

(b) **New Year's Honours List**

The Chairman advised members that the following Honours had been awarded in the New Year's Honours List:

Mr Philip Baxendale OBE
Mr Harold Gulliver OBE
Deputy Captain Derek Martens MBE
Deputy Chief Fire Officer Alan House - Queen's Fire Service Medal

(c) **Diana, Princess of Wales**

The Chairman informed members that the Books of Remembrance had now been bound into ten volumes and were on view in the Council Chamber that evening. The Books would be dispatched to Kensington Palace on 9 January 1998.

(d) **Emergencies**

The Chairman advised members of the action which had been taken to deal with the recent inclement weather and other emergency problems. On behalf of the Council, he thanked all the employees involved and especially thanked Mr C Michalski for the work he had undertaken over the previous weekend.

(e) **Textile Recycling**

The Chairman was pleased to announce that the Salvation Army had chosen to award the Council a Certificate of Achievement for the success of its textile recycling scheme and proceeded to present the award to Mrs M Rainbow, the Council's Recycling Officer.

(f) **Councillor B C Earwicker**

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Earwicker to his first Council meeting following his recent stay in hospital.

38. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 1997.

On the motion that the minutes be received -

(a) **Western Solent and Southampton Water Shoreline Management Plan (Minute 48)**

It was queried whether the seminar on the Shoreline Management Plan should be held for members earlier than as soon as possible after the next District elections in 1999. The Chairman of the Committee responded that this would not be in the interest of economy.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

39. LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 1997.

On the motion that the minutes be received -

(a) **Sunbeds in Recreation Centres (Minute 60)**

In the light of recent concerns regarding the use of sunbeds, it was queried why their use was only to be discontinued over a period of four years and not immediately. Another member queried the financial consequences of adopting this policy. The Chairman of the Committee confirmed that expert opinion on the issue was divided. He believed that the Committee had taken a responsible line based upon the evidence available. The income lost as a result of discontinuing the use of sunbeds would be expected to be made up from the recreation centres' other sources of income.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

40. PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meetings held on 12 November and 10 December 1997.

On the motion that the minutes be received -

(a) **"Our Future Together" - A Tourism and Visitor Management Strategy for the New Forest (Minute 125)**

Attention was drawn to a recent press article which had stated that New Forest Committee was consulting on its proposals for the special protection of the New Forest Heritage Area. Members expressed concern that this Authority had not been consulted on the proposals. It was reported that the matter was due to be considered by Policy and Resources Committee on 4 February 1998. An undertaking was given that all members would be sent a copy of the report and invited to the meeting.

(b) **Hampshire County Structure Plan Review (Minute 127)**

Several members stated that the report to Southampton City Council's Strategy and Resources Committee was biased in that it had given scant regard to New Forest and the fact that Dibden Bay was in this Council's District. It was understood that Southampton City Council was proposing to request the Secretary of State for the Environment for an early decision on the Dibden Bay aspect of the Hampshire County Structure Plan Review. Members supported a suggestion that the Secretary of State should be informed that a lot more research needed to be carried out before the development of Dibden Bay could be given proper consideration. There was also a need to counteract the publicity of Associated British Ports in relation to Dibden Bay. The need for the continued 'Gap' designations of the open areas between the Waterside settlements was strongly supported. In reply, the Chairman of the Committee confirmed that this Council's public relations machinery would be fully utilised to give the public all the facts once an actual application in respect of Dibden Bay had been received.

(c) **Excelsior Coach Station, 23-25 Belmore Lane and Land rear of 19-22 St Thomas Street, Lymington (Minute 133)**

In response to a request, the Chairman of the Committee undertook to let Cllr Noel have a progress report on this application.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the minutes be received;
- (b) That the Secretary of State for the Environment be requested to refuse the request for an early decision on the Dibden Bay part of the Hampshire County Structure Plan Review on the basis that more research needed to be undertaken.

41. HOUSING COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 1997.

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

42. DIRECT SERVICES CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 1997.

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

43. CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 1997.

On the motion that the minutes be received -

(a) Impact of Year 2000 Date Change on Information Systems (Minute 47)

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

(b) Time of Meetings (Minute 53)

Cllr Coles proposed an amendment to the recommendation for it to read:

“That, at the next annual meeting of the Council, the arrangements for evening committee meetings be reviewed so that, for the 1998/99 municipal year, consideration can be given to meetings of Central Services Committee commencing at 10.00 a.m.”

Concern was expressed that this was contrary to the wishes of a majority of members of Central Services Committee. However, attention was drawn to the fact that it was Council policy for two committees to meet in the evening. On a vote being taken, the amendment was carried.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received and the recommendations adopted, subject to the amendment of the recommendation at Minute 53 to read as follows:

“That, at the next annual meeting of the Council, the arrangements for evening committee meetings be reviewed so that, for the 1998/99 municipal year, consideration can be given to meetings of Central Services Committee commencing at 10.00 a.m.”

44. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 1997.

On the motion that the minutes be received -

(a) Rate Support Grant and Standard Spending Assessment 1998/99 (Minute 53)

It was suggested that the cross-party deputation should call for the reduction in the proposed Local Government Revenue Finance Settlement for 1998/99 to be phased over a number of years. The Chairman of the Committee advised members that the deputation was due to meet the Minister for Local Government and Housing the following day and undertook to protest that the new formula was not being phased.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received and the recommendations adopted.

45. BUSINESS SERVICES CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

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

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

46. COUNCIL TAX 1998/99 (REPORT A).

Members considered a report setting out the calculation of the Council's tax base for 1998/99.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the calculation of the Council's tax base for the year 1998/99, as set out in the report, be approved;
- (b) That, pursuant to the report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, the amount calculated by this Council as its Council tax base for the year 1998/99 be as follows and as set out in the annex to these minutes:

Parish/Town	Tax Base
Ashurst & Colbury	910.64
Beaulieu	460.14
Boldre	1009.94
Bramshaw	315.83
Bransgore	1823.19
Breamore	177.43
Brockenhurst	1705.06
Burley	749.07
Copythorne	1175.07
Damerham	232.97
Denny Lodge	147.74
East Boldre	380.81
Ellingham, Harbridge and Ibsley	564.89
Exbury and Lepe	92.47
Fawley	4673.09
Fordingbridge	2265.92
Hale	256.08
Hordle	2230.18
Hyde	485.78
Hythe and Dibden	7083.27
Lymington and Pennington	6464.38
Lyndhurst	1344.78
Marchwood	1796.13
Martin	183.80
Milford-on-Sea	2493.61
Minstead	347.82
Netley Marsh	802.65
New Milton	10009.80
Ringwood	5086.88
Rockbourne	159.44

Sandleheath	243.97
Sopley	291.39
Sway	1590.89
Totton and Eling	9074.75
Whitsbury	96.20
Woodgreen	258.48
Whole District	66,984.54

CHAIRMAN

Attachment: Minute 46 - Annex

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