

20 JULY 1998

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 20 July 1998.

- p Cllr Mrs A M Howe - Chairman
- p Cllr F R Harrison - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

- e 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 R K Goodridge
- p W J Greer
- p R C H Hale
- p L E Harris
- p D Harrison
- p S A Hayes
- p J M Hoy

Councillors:

- p J A G Hutchins JP
- 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
- 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 DL
- 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, Ms E Malcom, K Ireland, T R Simpson and P Thompson.

12. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 1998, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

13. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**(a) Councillor Lesley Errington**

The Chairman referred to the recent sad death of Cllr Errington and spoke about her long and meritorious service to local government at all levels. As well as serving on the District Council since its inception in 1973, she was a highly valued member of the Hampshire County Council and in particular the Education Committee. She had also been a member of the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District Council in 1964 and the Ellingham Harbridge and Ibsley Parish Council, which she served for some 33 years. Members spoke in tribute to her distinguished career.

(b) Messrs J Jenkins and R Carver

The Chairman also regretfully announced the deaths of two former Chief Officers of the Council, John Jenkins and Ron Carver.

Members stood in silence as a token of respect to the memory of Cllr Mrs Errington, Mr J Jenkins and Mr R Carver.

(c) HM Queen's Birthday Honours

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

Sir John Hoddinott (Knighthood)
Mr John Ekins, OBE
Mr Paul Abbott, MBE
Mr William Smith, MBE

(d) Mr A Bradbury

The Chairman referred to the success of Mr A Bradbury, the Council's Coastal Projects Manager, who had won the premier prize at the 33rd annual Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food conference of River and Coastal Engineers, for his presentation paper on "Hurst Spit Stabilisation Scheme - Design and Construction of Beach Recharge".

(e) First European Union Grant for the New Forest

The Chairman announced the award of the first ever European Union Grant of £34,500 under the KONVER Programme which would contribute to the creation of 11 new office units in the New Forest Enterprise Centre, Rushington Business Park, Totton.

(f) 1998 Dibden Pro-Am Golf Tournament

The Chairman announced that the annual charity pro-am golf tournament on Friday 12 June had been a success, with a great deal of money being raised for charity.

14. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meetings held on 12, 18 and 19 May and 2 July 1998.

On the motion that the minutes be received,

(a) **Guidelines for the Review of Expenditure Plans 1999/2000 - 2002/03 (Minute 27)**

A member requested that the possible transfer of the housing stock to other owners be the subject of a report to Housing Committee in September, in order to allow the matter to be examined further at the Policy and Resources Committee meeting of 13 October, as it had a direct bearing on the review of expenditure plans.

(b) **Housing Investment Programme 1997/98 and 1998/99 (Minute 28)**

A member referred to the possibility of existing Council tenants being disadvantaged by a delay on decisions being taken on the possible transfer of the Council Housing Stock.

However, other members felt that the Council's existing financial regime with respect to housing was satisfactory, particularly given the comments in the recent Auditors Reports. The decision to approve supplementary Estimates for 1998/99 and 1999/2000 was reiterated.

(c) **Carbon Dioxide Emissions - Progress Report (Minute 29)**

A member queried the phraseology used in the resolution, which he felt was difficult to understand for those who were not technical experts. Another member felt that the matter ought to be referred back to Policy and Resources Committee for placement within the Council's corporate policies.

However, the Chairman stated that during previous debates at Central Services and Policy and Resources Committees, there had been very little dissent from the decision to adopt the ratio of £/kg of carbon dioxide saved as the criterion for determining prioritisation of capital expenditure for energy management.

On a vote being taken, it was agreed not to refer the matter back to Policy and Resources Committee.

(d) **Fleet Management - Alternative Fuelled Vehicles (Minute 30)**

It was reiterated that every avenue would be explored to reduce the costs of introducing the fuel and, to that effect, suppliers of ultra low sulphur diesel for the Council fleet would be thoroughly examined.

(e) **Strategic Performance Review Sub-Committee - 29 June 1998 (Minute 35)**

In answer to a question from a member, the Chairman undertook to supply information relating to redundancies and the associated pay-back time. He also noted concern about slippage in the Capital Programme.

(f) **Leased Car Scheme (Minute 37)**

Cllr Smith disclosed an interest in this item and, having left the meeting, took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

(g) **Pay and Reward Strategy (Minute 38)**

The Managing Director left the Council Chamber whilst this item was discussed. The Chairman reiterated the Council's rules relating to the disclosure of confidential information and urged members to respect the confidentiality of information which came into their possession during the course of their Council duties.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

15. PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meetings held on 13 and 18 May, 10 June and 8 July 1998.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

(a) **Mineral Extraction Sites - Community Liaison Panels (Minute 2.40)**

Councillor Wilson disclosed an interest in this item and, having left the meeting, took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

(b) **Enforcement Notice - New Forest Autos, Ringwood Road, Netley Marsh (Minute 243)**

Cllr Burdle disclosed an interest in this item and, having left the meeting, took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

16. LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meetings held on 18 May, 2 June and 9 July 1998.

On the motion that the minutes be received -

(a) **Bartley Park - Further Consideration of Scheme (Minute 16)**

It was noted that Cllr Burdle was not a Ward Councillor for the area in which the scheme was located, although he was a Ward Councillor for an adjacent area which would potentially be affected by car parking and access for the proposed scheme.

(b) **Lymington Recreation Centre Management Agreement (Minute 18)**

The Chairman pointed out that it needed to be borne in mind that the proposed changes to the Management Agreement at Lymington Recreation Centre would be concomitant with capital input from the various parties to the new Management Agreement.

(c) **Expenditure Plans 1998/99 to 2002/03 (Minute 20)**

The Chairman of the Lymington Recreation Centre Consultative Committee, Cllr Hayes, enquired as to whether there was likely to be finance made available in the next Expenditure Programme for a Phase II scheme at Lymington Recreation Centre.

The Chairman of the Leisure Services Committee responded that important meetings on the possibility of reintroducing a Phase II scheme were imminent.

(d) **Bartley Park (Minute 25)**

Members noted that the minute number relating to the special meeting held on 9 July 1998 needed to be amended to minute 25.

A member proposed that this matter be referred back to the Leisure Services Committee for further consideration as he was unhappy about the site being made available to Totton and Eling Town Council on a 999 year lease and continued to hold misgivings about access to the site through a rural area. The proposal was seconded.

A number of members spoke on the issues raised by the proposed referral back.

The Chairman of the Committee responded that discussion on this scheme had been the subject of many inaccuracies and that a 999 year lease was a perfectly standard arrangement. He also felt that the likelihood of any problems arising was negligible, although the situation would continue to be reviewed.

A member requested this matter to be determined by recorded vote and, in accordance with Standing Order 19, more than 15 of the members stood in their place to indicate their support.

The vote on the amendment was recorded as follows:-

For	Against	Abstained
Beeton	P A Baker	Badland
Burdle	P D Baker	Bailey
Drake	Bianchi	Cracknell
Drew	Bowring	Goodridge
Greer	Coles	Howe
Hayes	Cooke	Hoy
Jones	Cox	Hutchins
Orton	Croydon	Kendal
Scott	Dash	Noel
	G Dawson	Rickman
	J J Dawson	Wilson
	Earwicker	Wyeth
	Emery	
	Hale	
	Harris	
	D Harrison	
	F R Harrison	
	Locock	
	Maynard	
	McGeorge	
	McLean	
	Pearce-Smith	
	Rickus	
	Robinson	
	Shand	
	Shepherd	
	Smith	
	Snashall	
	Spikins	
	Vernon-Jackson	
	M S Wade	
	S S Wade	

With 9 members voting in favour, 32 against and 12 abstentions, the amendment was lost.

A further named vote was requested by a member on the question of referring back to Leisure Services Committee the 999 year lease for the scheme with Totton and Eling Town Council. In accordance with Standing Order 19, more than 15 of the members stood in their places to indicate their support.

The vote on the amendment was taken as follows:-

For	Against	Abstained
Badland	P A Baker	
Bailey	P D Baker	
Beeton	Bowring	
Bianchi	Coles	
Burdle	Cooke	
Cracknell	Cox	
Drake	Croydon	
Drew	Dash	
Greer	G Dawson	
Hayes	J J Dawson	
Hoy	Earwicker	
Hutchins	Emery	
Jones	Goodridge	
Kendal	Hale	
Noel	Harris	
Orton	D Harrison	
Rickman	F R Harrison	
Scott	Howe	
Spikins	Locock	
Wilson	Maynard	
Wyeth	McGeorge	
	McLean	
	Pearce-Smith	
	Rickus	
	Robinson	
	Shand	
	Shepherd	
	Smith	
	Snashall	
	Vernon-Jackson	
	M S Wade	
	S S Wade	

With 21 members voting in favour, 32 against and no abstentions, the amendment was lost.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

17. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meetings held on 18 May and 4 June 1998.

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

18. CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meetings held on 18 May and 23 June 1998.

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

19. BUSINESS SERVICES CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meetings held on 18 May and 23 June 1998.

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received

20. DIRECT SERVICES CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meetings held on 18 May and 23 June 1998.

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

21. HOUSING COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meetings held on 18 May and 29 June 1998.

On the motion that the minutes be received,

(a) The Council's Housing Stock (Minute 7)

Members discussed the implications of undertaking a full appraisal into the options available for the future of the Council's housing stock. It was generally agreed that the interests of the Council's existing tenants were paramount and that it was important to ensure that they were kept fully informed of progress.

It was also reiterated that any transfer of the Council's stock could only take place with the full agreement of tenants.

(b) **Introductory Tenancies (Minute 11)**

The Chairman of the Committee requested that this matter be referred back to the Housing Committee, as further information was required on possible modifications which could be required to the computer system, with consequent financial implications.

Members agreed that the matter should be considered again at the September meeting of the Committee, when the full financial implications would be available.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received, subject to minute 11 being referred back.

22. POLITICAL REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES.

Members noted the arrangements being made to fill a vacancy on the Council for the Ringwood North ward following the death of Cllr Mrs L K Errington.

The effect of a review to determine the allocation of seats to political groups would be that the currently vacant seat on Planning and Transportation would need to be allocated to the Conservative Group, in order for the political composition to reflect as nearly as possible the political composition of the Council of 57 members. The Council had a duty to conduct a further review after the election to fill the vacancy in the Ringwood North ward.

RESOLVED:

That, as a consequence of the review, Cllr Drake be appointed to the Planning and Transportation Committee and Cllr Beeton to Leisure Services Committee, in place of Cllr Drake.

CHAIRMAN