

4 JANUARY 1999

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 4 January 1999.

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

Councillors:

- p K E Austin
- e Mrs O A M Badland
- e 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
- e S M Noel
- p R F Orton
- p P G Pearce-Smith
- e 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 J Waddington
- p M S Wade
- p S S Wade
- p Dr M N Whitehead
- p Mrs D Wilson
- p Mrs P A Wyeth

Officers Attending:

Ms J Bateman, N J Gibbs, D A Gurney, K Ireland, I B Mackintosh, Ms E Malcolm, Mrs Rutins and T R Simpson.

36. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 1998, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

37. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**(a) Kenneth W Bailey**

The Chairman reported with regret the death last month of former Councillor Kenneth William Bailey. Mr Bailey was first elected to the Council in 1952. After a break of 4 years he was re-elected in 1958 and served continuously until 1974. He was Vice-Chairman of the Rural District Council in 1961/62 and Chairman in 1962/63.

In 1973 he was elected to the District Council and served as Vice-Chairman in 1974/75 and 1975/76 until his retirement.

(b) Mrs Marlene Fenwick

The Chairman also reported with regret the death of Mrs Marlene Fenwick who had worked for New Forest District Council and Lymington Borough Council for a total of 35 years. Marlene started work with Lymington Borough Council in 1954 and during her time with them was Secretary to no fewer than 11 mayors. Following Local Government reorganisation in 1974 she became Secretary to the Treasurer. She retired from the District Council in 1989.

Those present stood in silence as a mark of respect to the memory of Kenneth Bailey and Marlene Fenwick.

(c) Councillor Colin Ramsden

The Chairman reported that Cllr Colin Ramsden had been admitted to the Fenwick Hospital, Lyndhurst recently and was very ill. The Council joined the Chairman in sending their best wishes to Cllr Ramsden and his family.

(d) New Year's Honours List

The Chairman announced with pleasure that Jan Hoy from Beaulieu's National Motor Museum had been made an MBE for her services to tourism during her 23 years there.

John Burry, Official Verderer of the New Forest since 1993, had also been made an MBE for his services to forestry. Mr Burry, as part of his work dealt with the condition of animals in the Forest and this, together with his long commitment to the well being of the area, had resulted in him being honoured.

(e) Housing Investment Programme

The Chairman was pleased to announce that once again, the Government had decided that this Council had one of the best housing services in the Country. The Government were particularly impressed with the Council's levels of tenant involvement, excellent programme management and delivery, successful Empty Homes Strategy and clear commitments to a corporate strategy.

38. OPEN DEBATE.

The Chairman introduced the first ever public debate during a full meeting of the Council. The initiative was part of the Council's recently approved 10 Point Action Plan to involve the public more in its affairs. A number of suggestions for discussion had been suggested and "Speed Limits in New Forest Villages" chosen as being the one likely to be of most interest to residents.

A letter from Hampshire County Council setting out the present situation in relation to New Forest Speed Limits and their proposals for review was circulated to all present.

The debate was opened by Mr Les Sutton, Burley Village Protection Society. Burley was very popular with tourists and currently had a speed limit of 40mph through the centre of the village. Burley Village Protection Society were of the view that this should reduce to 30mph through Burley Village and onto Burley Street. Mr Sutton outlined several reasons for their request for a lower speed limit including a general overall increase in the volume of traffic and the increasing number of visitors to the village. The Society accepted that visitors and residents alike wanted to enjoy the village and were concerned at the risks to both people and animals whilst the speed limit remained at 40mph. The Society would also like the lower speed limit emphasised possibly by the use of rumble strips or humps.

Mr Boulwood a resident of Beaulieu, where there was already a 30mph speed limit and speed humps in the High Street addressed the Council. Mr Boulwood, whilst wholly in favour of the lower speed limit, expressed two areas of concern firstly that lower speed limits were only effective if they are enforced and secondly that the speed humps appeared to be too low to be effective.

There were no members of the public with opposing views. Members of the Council then entered into the debate.

It was proposed and seconded that a letter be sent to the Council's two Members of Parliament and Lord Whitty, Minister for Roads and Road Safety, confirming the Council's support for Hampshire County Council's proposal for lower speed limits on unclassified and 'C' roads and requesting that County Councils are given more discretion in setting lower speed limits in rural villages.

Inspector Bridgeman indicated that there were only 25 Officers in the area who were trained for speed detection. However, the Police, together with Hampshire County Council did all they could to reduce the speed of traffic and aid casualty reduction. It was noted that there were speed cameras on some routes and that, whilst, in some areas speeding might be a perception, it was accepted that there was a problem in villages which would not decrease. Inspector Bridgeman indicated that in areas of specific concern if a complaint was made to the Police in writing they would check on the volume, speed and type of traffic and report back.

Mr Alan Giles, Area Surveyor West, Hampshire County Council detailed the various stages of HCC's New Forest Speed Limit Strategy. Members noted that the original 40mph zone was to be extended to the wider Heritage Area and that those villages affected by the extensions to the 40mph zone would be incorporated within the 30mph limits at the same time. Villages already within the 40mph zone, including Burley, would also be considered for the lower limit.

Members expressed support for the strategy outlined by the Hampshire County Council and looked forward to its early implementation. Some Councillors expressed concern at the effectiveness of speed humps and it was generally agreed that speed cameras were more effective. Members also expressed concern that without sufficient enforcement none of the deterrents in place would be effective. Members were also of the view that better signage at the entrances to villages was necessary to ensure the motorist was aware of the speed restrictions.

After a lengthy debate and, following an amendment to the original motion, which was duly seconded it was:

RESOLVED:

- (a) That a letter be written to Dr J Lewis and Mr D Swayne the two local Members of Parliament and Lord Whitty, the Minister for Roads and Road Safety:-
 - (i) Confirming the Council's support for Hampshire County Council's proposal for lower speed limits on unclassified and Class C roads, and requesting that County Councils are given more discretion in setting and signing lower speed limits in rural villages;
 - (ii) Requesting that the Government give County Councils additional funding for speed enforcement cameras;
 - (iii) Requesting that part of the income from fines be transferred to the Police for enforcement purposes; and
- (b) That the policy outlined by the Area Surveyor West in section 3 of his paper be supported and that this Council look forward to its earliest implementation.

39. CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the report of the meeting held on 1 December 1998.

On the motion that the report be received and the recommendations be adopted:

- (a) **Code of Conduct for Councillors and Officers Dealing with Planning Matters**

Some Councillors again expressed the view that certain provisions of the Code would unnecessarily constrain them in their representative role within their communities. In particular, concern was expressed at the provision that Councillors involved in the decision making process on planning matters should not organise support for, or opposition to, a proposal before they were fully aware of all the details of the application. Concern was particularly expressed that members of the Planning and Transportation Committee had additional responsibilities in this respect.

Other members stressed that the recommended Code of Conduct did not introduce new issues but brought together in one document accepted practice currently followed by the District Council. Following a lengthy debate a motion to refer the matter back to the Committee was duly seconded, was put to the vote and declared lost.

It was then proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED:

That the question be now put.

The Committee's recommendation was put and declared carried.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the recommendations be adopted.

40. DIRECT SERVICES CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the report of the meeting held on 24 November 1998.

On the motion that the report be received:

(a) **New Forest Caterers**

In reply to a question, the Chairman of the Committee confirmed that the use of the Applemore Recreation Centre Bar was a matter for the Leisure Services Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

41. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the report of the meeting held on 5 November 1998.

On the motion that the report be received and the recommendation be adopted:

(a) **Licensing of Sex Establishments**

It was proposed and seconded that the recommendation be not approved. The proposal was lost.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the recommendation be adopted.

42. HOUSING COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the report of the meeting held on 17 November 1998.

On the motion that the report be received:

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

43. LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the report of the meeting held on 10 November 1998.

On the motion that the report be received:

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

44. PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the report of the meeting held on 4 November 1998.

On the motion that the report be received:

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

45. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the report of the meeting held on 10 December 1998.

On the motion that the report be received:

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

46. THE COUNCIL TAX 1999/2000 SETTING THE TAX BASE.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the calculation of the Council's Tax Base for the year 1999/2000 be approved; and

- (b) That pursuant to Report A to the Council and in accordance with the Local Authority (Calculation of the Tax Base) Regulations 1992, the amount calculated by this Council as its Council Tax base for the year 1999/2000 be as follows and as set out in the Annex to these minutes:

| PARISH/TOWN | TAX BASE |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Ashurst & Colbury | 910.1 |
| Beaulieu | 462.5 |
| Boldre | 1004.9 |
| Bramshaw | 324.4 |
| Bransgore | 1841.3 |
| Breamore | 174.9 |
| Brockenhurst | 1714.7 |
| Burley | 748.0 |
| Copythorne | 1168.9 |
| Damerham | 229.7 |
| Denny Lodge | 147.6 |
| East Boldre | 379.2 |
| Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley | 565.1 |
| Exbury & Lepe | 97.2 |
| Fawley | 4709.2 |
| Fordingbridge | 2274.9 |
| Hale | 253.9 |
| Hordle | 2260.2 |
| Hyde | 485.1 |
| Hythe & Dibden | 7239.0 |
| Lymington & Pennington | 6497.8 |
| Lyndhurst | 1346.4 |
| Marchwood | 1802.8 |
| Martin | 186.6 |
| Milford on Sea | 2517.8 |
| Minstead | 347.9 |
| Netley Marsh | 797.1 |
| New Milton | 10155.7 |
| Ringwood | 5136.9 |
| Rockbourne | 161.7 |
| Sandleheath | 248.2 |
| Sopley | 295.2 |
| Sway | 1593.6 |
| Totton & Eling | 9104.3 |
| Whitsbury | 98.5 |
| Woodgreen | 256.5 |
| Whole District | 67537.8 |

47. REVIEW OF POLITICAL REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES.

Following the resignation of Cllr Pearce-Smith from the Liberal Democrat Group and his subsequent joining of the Conservative Group the political composition of the Council was now:-

Liberal Democrat – 30

Conservative – 24

Independent – 4

A review of the political representation on Committees was necessary to provide for the Independent Group to relinquish one Committee place to the Conservative Group.

The nominations of the political group were reported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Councillor S S Wade be appointed to Central Services Committee in place of Councillor Spikins;
- (b) That Councillor Earwicker be appointed to Leisure Services Committee in place of Councillor Pearce-Smith; and
- (c) That Councillor Drew be appointed to the vacancy on the Direct Services Contracts Committee.

CHAIRMAN

Attachments: Minute 46 – Annex

Council

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ANNEX SENT TO IT – 11 FEBRUARY 1999