

1 NOVEMBER 1999

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 1 November 1999.

- p Cllr Mrs P A Wyeth - Chairman
- p Cllr A W Rice TD - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

- p Mrs S M Abernethy
- p K F Ault
- p K E Austin
- p E R Bowring
- p F J Bright
- p Mrs D M Brooks
- p D S Burdle
- p W R Catt
- p J E Coles
- p D E Cracknell
- p P H Cummings
- p B D Dash
- e J J Dawson
- p W H Dow
- p Miss P A Drake
- p T J Droogleever
- p L T Dunsdon
- p B C Earwicker
- p M H G Fidler
- p R L Frampton
- p Ms C F Gradidge
- p P C Greenfield
- p R C H Hale
- p L E Harris
- p F R Harrison
- p S A Hayes
- p J D Heron
- p Mrs M D Holding

Councillors:

- p Mrs A M Howe
- p J M Hoy
- p J A G Hutchins JP
- p M J Kendal
- p M C Kidman
- e G N D Locock
- p Mrs B M Maynard
- p Mrs M McLean
- p Mrs M Powell, BA
- p G K Richardson
- p B Rickman
- p Mrs M J Robinson
- p B Rule
- p T M Russell
- p D N Scott
- p M J Shand
- p S A Shepherd
- p Mrs B Smith
- p Mrs L P Snashall
- p G Spikins
- p M H Thierry
- p D B Tipp
- p J Waddington
- p M S Wade
- p S S Wade
- p Mrs D Wilson
- p C A Wise
- p P R Woods

Officers Attending:

I B Mackintosh, N J Gibbs, Ms E Malcolm, Mrs P Higgins, K Ireland, Mrs R Rutins and T R Simpson.

11. MINUTES.

Cllr Hayes reported that, in respect of minute no. 10(b), the amount of £700,000 referred to in the penultimate paragraph before the recommendation was the approximate cost of operating the Council's car parks, including the cost of operating charging in the initial five town centre car parks, and not the cost of operating a charging scheme.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 1999, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

12. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**(a) Former Cllr Sid Emery**

The Chairman reported with very great regret the death on 7 August of former Cllr Sid Emery. Cllr Emery had been elected to the Council in May 1995 to represent the Totton North Ward, but had not been successful at the May 1999 elections. During his period of service as a councillor he had served on a number of committees. He had also represented the Council on a number of outside bodies.

Despite Cllr Emery's quite severe disabilities he had always been cheerful, positive about life and had also sought to represent the people in his ward to the best of his abilities.

Members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the late Cllr Sid Emery.

(b) Retirement of Sir John Hoddinott, Chief Constable of Hampshire

The Chairman reported that, in her absence, the Leader of the Council had hosted a luncheon on the occasion of the retirement of Sir John Hoddinott, Chief Constable of Hampshire. The luncheon had been to thank Sir John for his service to the community and, in particular to New Forest District.

13. PETITION (PAPER B).

Wg Cmdr R S Lloyd presented the petition before the Council. He said he was speaking as a committed Conservative voter and a very concerned Council Tax payer. He felt that the decision to abolish car parking charges in town and village centres was such an important one that it should have been taken by the full Council and not by the Planning and Transportation Committee. He stated that not only Liberal Democrats had objected to the removal of the charging but that many Conservatives were dismayed at the manner in which the decision had been forced through the Council. He considered that the Council was not in tune with the electorate. His Member of Parliament, Dr Julian Lewis, when asked for his opinion had said that the abolition of charging had been a policy statement in the party's manifesto prior to the May 1999 elections and as such had to be carried out.

Wg Cmdr Lloyd referred to the fact that during the consultation period the Leader of the Council had stated that the consultation exercise was not a referendum. Wg Cmdr Lloyd said that it was clear that at the time of consulting the decision to abolish charging had already been made and that the consultation had been a waste of time, effort and money to the people who had taken the trouble to write in. He felt that a common sense approach would have been for the Conservative administration to review its policy on the car parking charges issue. Wg Cmdr Lloyd felt that no factual evidence had been produced to show that charging threatened the commercial viability of shopping areas. Car parking charges were the norm throughout the

country. Without some contributions by visitors to the cost of providing car parks, costs were borne entirely by the Council Taxpayer. Wg Cmdr Lloyd urged the Council to reconsider its decision.

The Chairman stated that she had decided under Standing Order 7(4), that the matter would be debated at this meeting of the Council and not stand referred to the Planning and Transportation Committee.

The Council noted that the question of the removal of charges in town and village car parks was to be debated later in the meeting when the report of the Planning and Transportation Committee was considered.

Some members supported Wg Cmdr Lloyd's view that the decision to abolish charging should have been taken by the full Council and not by the Planning and Transportation Committee and that the decision was contrary to the wishes of the majority of Council taxpayers. A member felt that the abolition of charging had not, in fact, been a Conservative party manifesto pledge across the district. A number of different pledges had been made in different areas, and it was difficult to understand what the Conservative Party's overall policies and pledges were.

14. BUSINESS SERVICES CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the report of the meeting held on 3 September 1999.

On the motion that the report be received it was:-

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

15. CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the report of the meetings held on 25 August, 28 September and 19 October 1999. On the motion that the report be received and the recommendations adopted:-

(a) Item 1 - Local Information Office at New Milton

The Chairman of the Committee undertook to provide Cllr Dash with a written reply on the estimated revenue costs to the District Council of operating the proposed new joint Information Office at New Milton.

(b) Item 4 - Appletree Court – Refurbishment of Heating System

The Chairman of the Committee stressed that the Council was not committed to incurring all of the estimated cost of refurbishing the heating system. Although the estimated cost of the entire scheme was £616,000, provision of £211,000 had been made in the 2000/01 budget for work to proceed on the heating in the south wing. The proposals for refurbishment of the heating system in the east and north wings would be reassessed at each stage thereafter.

(c) Item 5 - Periodic Electoral Review

A member expressed concern that, in his view, the review process was stacked heavily against the interests of the rural parishes. With the emphasis on achieving elector/councillor equality across the district, representation of the small villages would reduce. This was another example of how major development in urban areas adversely affected smaller rural parishes and villages.

Other members accepted that the system was rigid but reminded the Council that the guidelines to which the Local Government Commission operated had been known and made clear to members from the outset of the exercise. Officers were complimented on the way they had tried to achieve solutions most acceptable to local people within the strict parameters set by the Local Government Commission.

A member was unhappy with the composition of the proposed new Bashley and Fernhill wards in New Milton. He also proposed that the realigned Becton Ward should be named "Ashley and Becton". In support of this, he said that the majority of the electorate in the ward lived in Ashley. Ashley was a distinct community whereas Becton was not. Another member said that this argument could be applied to other wards in New Milton as well and if the suggestion was implemented changes to the names in other wards should be considered. The motion was seconded.

The Chairman of the Committee reported that the names of the wards had been suggested by the New Milton Town Council which had wished, where possible, to retain the current names. The matter had been referred back to the New Milton Town Council. The Chairman of the Town Council was, however, not prepared to resubmit the matter to the Town Council as all issues surrounding the review process, including names, had been discussed very thoroughly. The member making the suggestion had not been present at any of the Town Council's meetings when the matter had been discussed nor had he submitted written views. If the member so wished he could make representations for a different name direct to the Local Government Commission.

Some members accepted that the views of Town and Parish Councils were important but reminded the Council that the decision on recommended names was one for the District Council. The amendment was put to the vote and was lost.

It was reported that Local District Councillors in Fawley had made representations direct to the Local Government Commission expressing their opposition to the proposed cross boundary ward between Hythe & Dibden and Fawley Parishes.

Attention was drawn to a drafting error on page 16 of Appendix 1 to the report.

Members of the Working Party and the officers were thanked for their contributions to the process and, insofar as the officers were concerned, for the extraordinary amount of time spent on the project.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and that the recommendations be adopted, subject to the substitution of Appendix 1 attached to these minutes for Appendix 1 to the report to the Committee.

Cllr Earwicker recorded his vote against resolution (b) of Item 5 of the report.

16. DIRECT SERVICES CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the report of the meeting held on 8 October 1999. On the motion that the report be received it was:-

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

17. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the report of the meeting held on 2 September 1999.

On the motion that the report be received:-

(a) Item 6 - Air Quality Monitoring

In response to a question, the Chairman of the Committee explained the process for undertaking the specific diffusion tube survey in the Totton area. He hoped that the public would be reassured by the result which indicated that pollution levels were actually 50% below the standard set as being acceptable in air quality terms.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

18. HOUSING COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the report of the meeting held on 15 September 1999. On the motion that the report be received:-

(a) Item 1 - Provision of Housing Advice

Reference was made to the fact that at the meeting of the Committee the officers had pointed out that if the Housing Advice Service was offered in-house there would be limited scope for research work which was used for the development of policy. The Chairman was asked:

- (i) What policy initiatives she wished to see developed.
- (ii) What resources had officers identified were needed?
- (iii) Who would do the research work?

- (iv) How would this be paid for?

The Chairman of the Committee undertook to provide Cllr Harrison with a written reply.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

19. LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the report of the meetings held on 31 August and 30 September 1999.

On the motion that the report be received:-

(a) Item 2 – Developers’ Contributions – CCTV at Bartley Park, Totton

A member expressed concern that the District Council was having to incur expenditure from developers’ contributions for CCTV at Bartley Park. He referred to the strong opposition which had been expressed at the planning stage to the vehicle access to the site and said that the fears of residents had been realised.

Steps being taken to ensure improved supervision of the site, involving the community and encouraging them to take responsibility for the area, were reported. Cllr Shepherd offered to raise any concerns members might have with him and he would raise these with the Totton and Eling Town Council.

Other members supported the decision of the Committee to allocate developers’ contributions for CCTV and felt the use of funds in this way was appropriate.

(b) Item 4 - Review of Policy on Provision of Sunbeds

Some members expressed concern and disappointment at the decision of the Leisure Services Committee to continue to provide sunbeds at Leisure Centres, notwithstanding a previous decision that they be removed by 2001. They considered that the Council should not be providing a facility that was potentially damaging to health.

Other members reminded the Council that the review of the previous policy had been undertaken as a result of demand from users. There was no conclusive evidence that limited use of sunbeds carried the risk of development of skin cancers. Research had shown that most users of the sunbeds at the Council’s Leisure Centres used the sunbeds only three to four times per annum. The Recreation Centres restricted usage by any one person to 20 sessions per annum. A proposal, duly seconded, that the matter be referred back to the Committee for further analysis and discussion was lost.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

20. PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the reports of the meetings held on 14 & 29 September and 27 October 1999.

On the motion that the reports be received and the recommendation adopted:-

(a) Item 1 (1 & 29 September 1999) - Removal of Car Parking Charges from Town and Village Centre Car Parks

Reference was made to the petition presented earlier in the meeting by Wg Cmdr Lloyd. Some members agreed that this reflected the concerns of a large number of Council taxpayers. They felt that the matter was one which was of such importance to the Council that it should have been decided by the Council and not by the Planning and Transportation Committee. A motion that the matter be referred back to the Committee for further debate and recommendation to the Council was duly seconded.

Members speaking in support of the reference back asked what the position was with regard to refunding the cost of permits members of the public had already purchased, and with regard to the meters. Others said that there was no solid evidence that businesses were being harmed by charging and stressed that the amended scheme for charging ensured that only visitors would pay for parking in town centres.

Members who supported the removal of charging stated that the business community had been overwhelmingly opposed to charging. The risk of harming traders far outweighed the benefit of the reduced income from the amended charging regime, which included free permits to all residents.

The Leader of the Council said that the position with regard to refunds would be investigated. The meters would be removed.

The proposal for the matter to be referred back to the Committee was put to the vote and was lost.

(b) Item 5 (14 & 29 September 1999) - Hot Food Takeaway Outlets in Rumbridge Street, Totton

In reply to members' questions on the implications of monitoring through the annual retail survey and the speed at which proposals would be reported to the Committee, the Chairman of the Committee agreed that clear policy direction and environmental initiatives were needed in Rumbridge Street. She assured the Council that an attempt would be made to identify revenue monies for design/analysis to be undertaken and that a further report would be submitted to the Planning and Transportation Committee soon.

(c) Item 5 (27 November 1999) - Green Transport Issues

A member enquired whether other members of the Council had appreciated that the majority group was proposing to charge staff to park in their work place car parks. The Chairman of the Committee stated that this was not the case but was merely one of a range of measures identified in an officer's report which could be considered at some stage in the future.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received and the recommendation adopted.

21. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND LICENSING, LEISURE SERVICES AND PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEES.

Cllr Waddington presented the report of the special joint meeting held on 27 October 1999.

On the motion that the report be received:-

(a) Item 1 - Proposed Engineering and Environmental Improvement Works at Lymington Quay

Cllr Wise disclosed a pecuniary interest in this matter and withdrew from the meeting during consideration and voting thereon.

Cllr Scott disclosed a non pecuniary interest in this matter under the provisions of paragraph 12A of the National Code of Local Government Conduct but remained present at the meeting and participated in the discussion.

In response to a question, Cllr Waddington confirmed that provision had not been made in the Council's budget for the estimated cost of providing showers in the proposed new toilet block for use by yachtsmen. The joint meeting had noted that the Harbour Commissioners might have difficulties funding the showers. The improved showers had, however, been left in the scheme for public consultation on the understanding that options for external funding could be explored at a later date. A further joint meeting of the Committees was to be held on 1 December 1999 when the results of the consultation would be available.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

22. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the reports of the meetings held on 28 September & 13 October and 27 October 1999.

On the motion that the reports be received and the recommendations adopted:-

(a) Item 2 (28/9 & 13/10/99) - Dibden Bay Project Co-ordinator

The Chairman of the Committee reported that details of the proposed post had not yet been finalised as investigations were still taking place as to whether the work could be funded from existing budgets.

(b) Item 3 (28/9 & 13/10/99) - Budgetary Control and Committee Budget Review for General Fund Housing Revenue Account and Capital Expenditure 1999/2000

Reference was made to the discussion on the report of the Housing Committee on the limited scope for carrying out research work if the Housing Advice Service was offered in-house. Assurances were sought from the Chairman that if necessary additional expenditure could be found from the General Fund for this purpose.

The Chairman of the Committee confirmed that this would be the case.

(c) Item 4 (28/9 & 13/10/99) - Housing Revenue Account Expenditure Plans 1999/2000 to 2003/2004

The Vice-Chairman of the Committee assured all employees that the Council had no plans to charge employees for car parking at the Council's offices at this stage.

(d) Item 5 (28/9 & 13/10/99) - Financial Strategy and Expenditure Plans 2000/2001 to 2003/2004

Cllrs Gradidge, McLean, Robinson and Smith disclosed non-pecuniary interests in the question of grants to the Waterside Arts and withdrew from the meeting during discussion and voting thereon.

A member expressed disappointment at the proposed reductions in grant aid to the arts and requested that the grant of £3,000 to the Waterside Arts be reinstated.

(e) Item 9 (28/9 & 13/10/99) - Modernising Local Government

A member requested the establishment of a separate Working Party, similar to that proposed for the new democratic structures, particularly to consider the future role of backbench members. He believed that the role of backbenchers should be looked at carefully to examine their representative and scrutiny roles. He did not consider that their position could best be dealt with by the Modernisation Working Party, which was likely to comprise of leading members of the political groups.

It was moved that the matter be referred back to Policy and Resources Committee with a recommendation that it establish a Working Party with a similar remit to the Modernisation Working Party, but comprising only of and chosen by backbench members, to examine the future role of back benchers.

The motion was seconded.

Some members spoke in support of the proposal, considering this would be a mechanism to ensure that all members of the Council would be fully involved in the new structures.

Other members felt that the Working Party already established, complemented by the Working Party to examine officer structures, would adequately deal with the roles of all members of the Council. It was likely that the backbench member would have a far more meaningful role under the new arrangements than at present.

The process would be transparent. Much needed to be done over the coming months and it was felt that the work could best be achieved by the Modernisation Working Party, reporting at intervals to the Policy and Resources Committee.

The amendment was voted on and was lost.

(f) Item 1 (27/10/99) - Chief Executive - Early Retirement

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED:

That under the provisions of Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and the press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

The Chief Executive withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of this item.

Some members referred to the fact that papers for the special meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on 27 October had been received very late and that members had not had an opportunity fully to consider their implications. They questioned whether the early retirement of the Chief Executive and the temporary arrangements proposed until a permanent Chief Executive was appointed were in the best interests of the authority. The cost to the Council was also a factor. The early retirement on health grounds of the Director of Finance and Administration further weakened the management structure.

The Chairman of the Committee disagreed and said that the management structures put in place by the Chief Executive, coupled with the temporary arrangements recommended, would ensure the efficient administration of the Council until both a new Chief Executive and a Director of Finance were appointed. In reply to a question on costs, members were reminded that the costs involved in the Chief Executive's early retirement had been reported in confidence to the special meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on 27 October but that these should not be made public.

The recommendation was carried.

Cllrs Dash, Earwicker, Gradidge and McLean recorded their votes against resolution (a).

RESOLVED:

That the public and the press be readmitted to the meeting.

Members of all political groups paid tribute to the advice and support given to them over a number of years by the Chief Executive, both in his current role and during his time as Director of Technical Services. Members said that they had enjoyed close working relationships with him and commended him on his integrity. The high esteem in which New Forest District Council was held throughout the county was a tribute to his achievements. Members extended to Mr Mackintosh and his wife their very best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

The Chief Executive thanked members for the many good wishes he had received since his retirement had been announced. He gave a brief resumé of some highlights of his career and said that it had been a real privilege to have been the Chief Executive of New Forest District Council. He thanked members for their support over the years and wished the Council well for the challenging times which lay ahead.

The Chairman reported that she was hosting an event on the evening of 23 November to mark the retirement of both the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance and Administration.

(g) Item 2 (27/10/99) - Retirement of the Director of Finance and Administration

The Chairman reported that the Director of Finance and Administration had asked her to express to members his thanks for their good wishes. He wished to thank also members, colleagues and those with whom he had worked in other organisations and the voluntary sector for their support over a number of years.

(h) Item 3 (27/10/99) - Structure of Finance and Administration Directorate

Cllr Robinson referred to minute 77 of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 27 October. The minutes attributed a statement to Cllr Kendal that he found it difficult to trust the Leader of the Opposition Group as she had leaked to the press documents which had been stolen from the Council's electronic mail system.

Cllr Robinson had not been present at that meeting and said that she wished to make it absolutely clear that she had not dealt with stolen documents and neither had any member of her group. She said that she had made available to the press a copy of a document which had been sent to her which had apparently been left on the Council's e-mail system for anyone on the members' IT project to see. This could only have happened as a result of another member's failure to close down their part of the system correctly. A copy of the document had been printed off, leaving the system unaffected. She felt she had not stolen the document but as it was clear that it was Cllr Kendal who had not closed the system he had consequently been embarrassed.

Cllr Robinson said she had never revealed any documents that had been declared to be confidential. She complied with the specific rules laid down for confidentiality in Local Government and was confident that her integrity was intact. She called for open and honest governance from the Conservative administration. There should be the opportunity for plans and issues to be debated fully and openly with all the relevant facts available in the normal manner, not for matters of importance to be rushed through.

Some members spoke in support of Cllr Robinson.

Cllr Kendal said that the Conservative administration was not withholding information from the Liberal Democrat Group. He did consider the printing of a document from the Council's e-mail system, which was not intended for the person who had seen and printed it, to be stealing the document. It should not be necessary for documents to be marked confidential to ensure that members treated them as such.

Cllr Robinson's actions had led him to believe that the Liberal Democrat Group could not be trusted with sensitive information.

At this stage of the meeting it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED:

That under Standing Order 4(a)(i) the meeting of the Council continue until 10.30 p.m.

Other members expressed dismay that Cllr Kendal had in a letter to the press accused them of breaching confidentiality.

The Chairman of the Committee reminded the meeting that the remarks by Cllr Kendal at the Policy and Resources Committee had been made during the private session and had been included in the minutes at the request of the Opposition Group. He had recently held a meeting with Cllr Robinson and hoped that she felt that they had moved a long way to creating better working relationships as Leader of the Council and Leader of the Opposition. He felt that the leaking of the document concerned had constituted a breach of trust and a breach of the National Code of Local Government Conduct. He hoped, however, that the matter would now be closed.

Recommendations (a) to (h) were put to the vote and were carried.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED:

That under the provisions of Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

The Head of Central Administration, the Head of Personnel and the Assistant Director of Finance – Corporate and Client Services withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of recommendations (i) and (j).

It was proposed and seconded that recommendation (i) be amended to provide that the current post of Head of Personnel be redesignated Assistant Chief Executive with effect from 1 November 1999 for a temporary period only until a permanent Chief Executive was appointed and that recommendation (j) be deleted.

The amendment was put to the vote and was lost. Cllr Earwicker recorded his vote in favour of the amendment.

RESOLVED:

That the public and the press be re-admitted to the meeting.

(i) Item 4 (27/10/99) - Remuneration Package – Chief Executive

The Chairman of the Committee proposed that recommendation (d) be amended to provide for the advertisement for the post of Chief Executive to include a salary figure of circa £75,000.

The amendment was seconded and was carried.

(j) Item 13 (27/10/99) - Head of Paid Service

It was proposed seconded and:-

RESOLVED:

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and the press be excluded from the meeting for this item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

The Director of Community Services, the Director of Environment Services and the Head of Personnel withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

Cllr Shepherd drew attention to the fact that at the special meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee he had proposed that the post of Head of the Paid Service be filled on a temporary basis by an existing employee. He formally moved that recommendation (b) be amended to provide that the current Director of Community Services, Mr Nick Gibbs, be appointed as interim Chief Executive for the period 2 November 1999 until the commencement of employment of a permanent Chief Executive.

The motion was seconded.

Some members spoke in support of the amendment saying that they considered that the recommended arrangements would fragment the job of Chief Executive and not present a sound management structure.

The Chairman of the Committee pointed out that the person recommended for the post of interim Chief Executive was extremely experienced and was held in high esteem throughout the county. He did not believe that the Director of Community Services wished to fill the role in the interim period. The amendment was put to the vote and was lost.

RESOLVED:

That the public and the press be readmitted to the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received and the recommendations be adopted, subject to recommendation (d) of item 4 of the meeting held on 27 October being amended to reflect that the advertisement for the post of Chief Executive include a salary figure of circa £75,000.

At this stage of the meeting it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 4(A) be suspended.

23. NOTICE OF MOTION.

Cllr Robinson moved the motion standing in her name. The motion was seconded.

The Chairman decided that the motion should be determined at this meeting of the Council.

Some members spoke in support of the motion.

Other members said that it was important for the traffic management exercise to take place before policy was set. The County Council, through the New Forest Transportation Strategy Panel, would be looking at traffic management measures including parking policy and this Council's response to that policy should be considered at that stage.

The motion was put to the vote and was lost.

CHAIRMAN

Attachment: Appendix 1 - Minute 15(c)

(CL011199)

PROPOSED NEW DISTRICT WARDS

(Recommended names for each ward, more fully dealt with in Appendix 2, appear in brackets)

(A) WARDS FALLING WITHIN PARISH OR TOWN COUNCIL AREAS

Lymington & Pennington

One single member and two two member wards

- (1) A new single member ward (Buckland) in the north east of the existing Lymington Town Ward, bounded:

to the north by the Town Council boundary;

to the east by the Town Council boundary;

to the south by East Hill/Avenue Road/north along Southampton Road/then west along a line to the south of Woodley Gardens, Redwood Close and Bramble Walk/then a line south to the east of Howlett Close and Samber Close;

to the west by the boundary with the new Pennington ward (see (2) below).
- (2) A two member ward (Pennington), covering the same area as the existing Pennington ward but with the eastern boundary following a line along Ridgway Lane to the coast;
- (3) A two member ward (Lymington Town), consisting of the existing Lymington Town ward apart from the new Buckland ward set out in (1) and the area west of Ridgway Lane described in (2)

New Milton

One single member and four two member wards.

- (1) a single member ward (Bashley) in the north of the existing Bashley ward and bounded-

to the north by the Town Council boundary with Brockenhurst;

to the east by the Town Council boundary with Hordle;

to the south by Sway Road/Brockhills Drive/Hollands Wood Drive/south along Fernhill Lane to Lake Grove Road/Lake Grove Road/Marley Avenue/south along Stem Lane to the railway line/the railway line;

to the west by the Town Council boundary with Bransgore.

- (2) a two member ward (Fernhill) comprising the remainder of the existing Bashley ward and bounded:
- to the north by the southern boundary of the Bashley ward (see (1) above);
 - to the east by the Town Council boundary with Hordle;
 - to the south by the railway line;
 - to the west by Stem Lane
- (3) a two member ward (Milton) comprising the existing Milton ward, but including an area from the mid-west of the existing Becton ward, north of the A337 Lymington Road, and bounded:
- to the north by the railway line;
 - to the east by Caird Avenue;
 - to the south by the A337 Lymington Road;
 - to the west by the Town Council boundary.
- (4) a two member ward (Barton) comprising the existing Barton ward, but including an area from the west of the existing Becton ward, and bounded:
- to the north by the A337 Lymington Road;
 - to the east by Farm Lane North and South/Dilly Lane;
 - to the south by the coast;
 - to the west by the Town Council boundary.
- (5) a two member ward (Becton) comprising the remainder of the existing Becton Ward, minus the areas transferring to Milton and Barton as above, and bounded:
- to the north by the railway line;
 - to the east by the Town Council boundary;
 - to the south by the coast;
 - to the west by Dilly Lane and Farm Lane North and South.

Ringwood

One single member and two two member wards.

- (1) a single member ward (Ringwood East and Sopley) including the whole of Sopley as well as those parts of Ringwood Town Council area which are bounded:

to the north and east by the Town Council boundary;

to the south by Sopley;

to the west by (from the north) Narrow Lane south to the A31, then following the existing Ward boundary to the south east corner of Ringwood South, continuing south down the same road to Sopley.

- (2) A two-member ward (Ringwood South) consisting mainly of the existing Ringwood South Ward and bounded:

to the north by the A31;

to the east by the boundary of Ringwood East and Sopley ward (see (1));

to the south and west by the Town Council boundary.

- (3) A two-member ward (Ringwood North) consisting mainly of the Ringwood North and Poulner areas and bounded:

to the north by the Town Council boundary;

to the east by the western boundary of the Ringwood East and Sopley ward (see (1));

to the south by the A31;

to the west by the Town Council boundary.

Fawley

A single member cross-boundary ward with Hythe & Dibden Parish and two two member wards wholly within Fawley Parish.

- (1) a single member, cross parish boundary, ward, bounded, in the Fawley area (Hardley) –

to the north, by the existing Parish boundary;

to the east, by continuing the existing boundary with Hythe and Dibden Parish south down New Road, then in an easterly direction down Cadland Road to its first junction, then south keeping Cadland Park within the Ward;

to the south, by the southern boundary of Cadland Park, meeting Long Lane and continuing for a short distance north along Long Lane, then west along the northern boundary of Hardley School and the boundary between The Warren and Larkspur Gardens as far as the Dark Water;

to the west, by the Dark Water.

- (2) a two-member ward (Holbury and North Blackfield) consisting of the remainder of Hardley/Holbury and the northern area of Blackfield and Langley and bounded:

to the north, by the southern and western boundaries of the Hardley area described in paragraph (1) above;

to the east, by Long Lane and Fawley Road as far as Ashdown, then south keeping the properties in Ashdown to the east of the boundary, then following the existing boundary between Blackfield and Langley and Fawley Holbury District Wards to the pond south of Hedley Close;

to the south, in a north westerly direction up Dark Lane to its junction with Blackfield Road, then in a south westerly direction along Blackfield Road to its junction with Hampton Lane;

to the west, north along Hampton Lane to its junction with Rollestone Road, then along Rollestone Road following the existing boundary between Blackfield and Langley and Fawley Holbury Wards, and the Parish boundary with Denny Lodge.

- (3) A two-member ward (Fawley, Blackfield and Langley) consisting of the remainder of Blackfield and Langley and Fawley encompassing the rest of the Parish:- the petro-chemical area, the remainder of Blackfield and Langley, and Fawley Parish Ward.

Hythe & Dibden

A single member cross-boundary ward with Fawley Parish and three two member wards wholly within Hythe & Dibden Parish.

- (1) the Hythe & Dibden area of the single member cross-boundary ward bounded by:

to the north, by the rear of the properties in Rose Close and Ipley Way, then in a southerly direction down the rear of Deerleap Close and the western properties in Deerleap Way, then in an easterly direction along the stream dividing the Langdown Road estate from the "birds" estate to the coast;

to the east, by the coast;

to the south, by the existing parish boundary (as amended to include 7 properties in Hart Hill/Frost Lane within Hythe & Dibden);

to the west, by Fawley Road.

- (2) A 2 member ward (Butts Ash and Dibden Purlieu) comprising the current Butts Ash Parish Ward and most of the current Dibden Purlieu District/Parish Ward and bounded:

to the north, by Water Lane (the current boundary between Dibden Purlieu and Dibden) as far as the rear of the properties fronting Peartree Road, then south down the rear of the Peartree Road and Noads Way properties to Beaulieu Road, then south down Whitewater Rise to the stream which currently divides Hythe South and Dibden Purlieu Wards, then in a south east direction along that line to Fawley Road;

to the east, by Fawley Road;

to the south and west, by the Parish boundary.

- (3) A 2 member ward (Hythe West and Langdown) bounded:

to the north, along Beaulieu Road from Peartree Close in an easterly direction to Mullins Lane, then north along Upper Mullins Lane for a short distance, branching west to the footpath to the rear of Tamar Grove, then north to Claypits Lane;

the east, down Southampton Road to Mousehole Lane, east along Mousehole Lane and South Street; then to the north of the new development at St Johns Street/Dreamland to the coast;

to the south, by the northern boundary with the Furzedown area described in 11.4.1 above, for a short distance down Fawley Road to the stream which forms the current boundary between Hythe South and Dibden Purlieu as far as Whitewater Rise;

to the west, north along Whitewater Rise, following the eastern boundary of the new Butts Ash and Dibden Purlieu ward (see (2) above).

- (4) A 2 member ward (Dibden and Hythe East) consisting mainly of Dibden, the more rural area to the north of the Parish, and the area around Hythe Village Centre/Marina and bounded:

to the north, by the Parish boundary;

to the east, by the coast south as far as the new development off St Johns Street;

to the south, on the eastern side by the boundary with the new Hythe West and Langdown ward (see (3) above), and on the western side by the boundary with the new Butts Ash and Dibden Purlieu Ward (see (2) above);

to the west, by the Parish boundary.

Totton & Eling

Five two member wards.

- (1) A two member Totton South Ward on its existing boundaries.

- (2) A two member Totton North Ward consisting of the western area of the current Totton North Ward, extended south to Michigan Way, and bounded:

to the north, by the Town Council boundary,

to the east, down the eastern edge of the industrial estate, then west to the rear of properties in Salisbury Road, south down the eastern edge of properties in Nutsey Lane, then west along Salisbury Road to between Testwood Crescent and Longbridge Court, then south meeting the canal again and following it south and east along the rear of Blackwater Drive, then south to the rear of Honeywood Close/Rothbury Close/Charnwood Close, then west for a short distance along the current boundary between Totton North and Central Wards (including Blackwater Mews) to the canal, then south along the canal to meet Calmore Road,

to the south, west along Calmore Road to Michigan Way, then west along Michigan Way to the Town Council boundary,

to the west, by the Town Council boundary.

- (3) A two member Totton East Ward consisting of the eastern areas of the current Totton North and Totton Central Wards, and a small area from the centre north of the current Totton Central Ward, and bounded:

to the north, by the Town Council boundary,

to the east, by the coast,

to the south, by the existing boundary between Totton Central and Totton South to the point where it turns north,

to the west, along the existing boundary between Totton Central and Totton South as far as the railway line, then north to the mini-roundabout in Ringwood Road near Asda, then along Ringwood Road to the “town centre” roundabout, then north along Salisbury Road to the existing boundary between Totton North and Totton Central, following that boundary west to the rear of Hammonds Way and Bishops Close to Water Lane, then west along Water Lane and between the rear of Hammonds Green and Totton College, then north along the rear of Brackley Way, then east along the existing boundary between Totton North and Totton Central to meet and follow the eastern boundary of the new Totton North ward from Charnwood Close north (see (2)).

- (4) A two member Totton Central Ward consisting of the south western part of the current Totton Central Ward and bounded:

to the north, by Ringwood Road as far as its junction with Calmore Road, then north to Portal Road, along the rear of Abbotsfield to Water Lane, then north to the east of Bishops Close and following the western boundary of the new Totton East ward to the “town centre” roundabout (see (3));

to the east, by the western boundary of the new Totton East ward from the “town centre” roundabout to the railway line (see (3))

to the south, by the existing boundary between Totton Central and Totton South,

to the west, by the Town Council boundary.

- (5) A two member Totton West Ward consisting of most of the north western area of the current Totton Central Ward and bounded:

to the north, by the southern boundary of the new Totton North ward (see (2)) as far east as Blackwater Mews, then by the western boundary of the new Totton East ward between Brackley Way and the rear of Bishops Close (see (3)),

to the east, by the boundary of the fourth ward from Water Lane south to the rear of Abbotsfield and along Portal Road to Ringwood Road at its junction with Calmore Road,

to the south, by Ringwood Road west to the Town Council boundary,

to the west, by the Town Council boundary.

Ashurst & Colbury, Netley Marsh and Southern Copythorne

A two member ward (Ashurst, Copythorne South and Netley Marsh), comprising the whole of Ashurst & Colbury and Netley Marsh Parishes and the southern part of Copythorne, with the boundary where it dissects Copythorne being -

starting from the north western corner of the existing North/South boundary, south following the Cadnam River to a point west of the M27 nearest the A31/Old Lyndhurst Road/Newbridge Road cross roads, in an easterly direction across the M27, through the above-mentioned cross roads and along field boundaries, meeting Winsor Road immediately north of the school, then along field boundaries keeping to the north of Burnards Copse, and following the stream to the eastern boundary of the Parish.

Bramshaw, Copythorne North and Minstead

A single member ward (Bramshaw, Copythorne North and Minstead), comprising the whole of the Bramshaw and Minstead Parishes and the northern part of Copythorne, bounded within Copythorne as set out above.

Milford

A two member ward (Milford) comprising the whole of Milford Parish and properties in Hordle Parish south of the A337.

Hordle

A two member ward (Hordle) comprising the whole of Hordle Parish with the exception of those properties south of the A337 transferring to Milford Ward.

(B) WARDS COVERING WHOLE PARISH OR TOWN COUNCIL AREAS

Marchwood

A two member ward (Marchwood) covering the whole of Marchwood Parish.

Lyndhurst

A single member ward (Lyndhurst) comprising the whole of Lyndhurst Parish.

Brockenhurst, Denny Lodge, Beaulieu, Exbury & Lepe and East Boldre

A two member ward (Brockenhurst and Forest South East) comprising the whole of Brockenhurst, Denny Lodge, Beaulieu, Exbury & Lepe and East Boldre Parishes.

Damerham, Martin, Rockbourne, Whitsbury, Breamore, Hale and Woodgreen

A single member ward (Downlands and Forest) comprising the whole of Damerham, Martin, Rockbourne, Whitsbury, Breamore, Hale and Woodgreen Parishes.

Godshill, Hyde and Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley

A single member ward (Forest North West) comprising the whole of the Godshill, Hyde and Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley Parishes.

Fordingbridge and Sandleheath

A two member ward (Fordingbridge) comprising the whole of Fordingbridge and Sandleheath Parishes.

Bransgore and Burley

A two member ward (Bransgore and Burley) comprising the whole of Bransgore and Burley Parishes.

Boldre and Sway

A two member ward (Boldre and Sway) comprising the whole of Boldre and Sway Parishes.

(CL011199)