

## REPORT OF LEISURE SERVICE COMMITTEE

(Meeting held 29 August 2000)

### 1. GRANT AID APPLICATIONS (REPORT A) (MINUTE 21)

The Committee has made a number of grants to local organisations as follows:-

<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Amount of Grant</b>
Breamore Award Group	£173
Hampshire Village Hall Touring Scheme	£1,000
League of Venturers Search and Rescue	£500

The grant for the Breamore Award Group was towards the setting up of a new Duke of Edinburgh Scheme, which was strongly supported by the Parish Council.

The Hampshire Village Hall Touring Scheme is operated by Hampshire County Council for the benefit of smaller towns and villages in the County. It provides a way for people to see and participate in a wide range of the arts including professional theatre; music; entertainment and childrens' activities locally to where they live.

The £500 to the League of Venturers is to provide assistance with training and operation costs. The League is made up of twenty 11-18 year olds from Fawley and Marchwood and offers training in seamanship and first aid. The League not only volunteer additional support to the Solent Sea Rescue Organisation, but also offer support for many events such as School functions at Gang Warily Recreation Centre and other sporting events in the Waterside area.

### 2. BRAMSHOTT HILL GOLF CLUB – MATCH GREEN FEES (REPORT B) (MINUTE 22)

The Committee has determined policy issues relating to club match green fees.

The Bramshott Hill Golf Club was founded in 1974 and has a mens/ladies/veterans and junior section, and currently has over 400 Members.

As part of its competition programme, all sections of the Club play matches against other golf clubs in Hampshire. Some of these are played at Dibden and some at other courses.

When visiting other golf courses, the members of the Bramshott Hill Golf Club teams receive 'courtesy of the course' i.e they do not pay any green fees.

It had recently come to the attention of Officers that Bramshott Hill Golf Club also offer 'courtesy of the course' to visiting teams but do not actually reimburse the Council for this lost income.

The Council was therefore in effect subsidising visiting golfers, many of whom came from outside of the New Forest District area, for which there appeared to be no formal Committee Authority.

The Club were of the opinion that as this arrangement had been in place for so long it was now established practice and should continue, and that the suggested change in policy may have implications for the viability of the Club.

It was pointed out that the golf facility at Dibden made £119,000 in revenue surplus, and that the amount to be saved from withdrawing the match fee subsidy would be insignificant in comparison.

It was also pointed out that the decision to withdraw the subsidy might lead to reduced catering revenues, as higher playing costs might dissuade players from having meals at the Centre.

It was noted that the loss of income represented by the green fees given to visiting teams was in excess of £4,000. This cost would now fall on the Club.

A survey of all the non private golf clubs at which the club play had revealed that except for two cases, the full cost of the match fees for visiting players was borne by the host club through its annual subscriptions.

After careful consideration of points made, Members felt that, on balance, the extra revenue derived from phasing out club match Green Fee Subsidies could be put to better use elsewhere.

In recognition of the effect on the Club, it was agreed to reduce the subsidy in phases, as follows:-

- 2000/01 – No charge to Bramshott Hill Golf Club
- From April 2001 to March 2002 – 50% of fees payable by Bramshott Hill Golf Club
- From April 2002 onwards – full fees payable by Bramshott Hill Golf Club

### **3. FERNHILL LANE NEW MILTON : RESCHEDULING (REPORT D) (MINUTE 24)**

The Committee has agreed to reschedule the release of Developers' Contributions to facilitate a sports scheme at Fernhill Lane, New Milton.

The Committee considered the scheme at the last Expenditure Plan round in Autumn of last year, and made an allocation from both the General Fund and Developers' Contributions.

The need for rescheduling arose because an application for funding from the Sport Lottery did not succeed, despite a great deal of preparation and effort from all concerned, but in particular the Town Council.

The Town Council subsequently held a special meeting and resolved to proceed with the first phase of the Scheme. This phase consists of ground works to prepare the site for the provision of two cricket squares and facilities for mini football. It is understood that it is essential to progress with these works as soon possible as it is likely to take two years for the pitches to mature sufficiently for use.

Although there was no demand for additional funds, the Committee agreed to reschedule the programme so that £400,000 in Developers' Contributions previously reserved for future years could be brought forward in £200,000 instalments in 2001/02 and 2002/03 respectively.

In the longer term it is hoped that future phases can be implemented in order to provide additional sports facilities on the remainder of the site.

#### **4. ADDITION TO KEYHAVEN RIVER POLICY (REPORT E) (MINUTE 25)**

The Committee has agreed to an amendment to the moorings policies at Keyhaven River in relation to users who cease to be Council Tax payers.

The Keyhaven River Consultative Committee at its meeting on 4 July 2000 considered the question of the overall set of policies in place at Keyhaven. This has arisen because the Consultative Committee wished to consider if the current policies were in the spirit of what the Council was aiming to achieve at Keyhaven. The Council operates its moorings and dinghy park at Keyhaven in order to provide opportunities for local people to enjoy the pursuit of water based activities. In support of this, only people who are Council Tax payers are eligible to join the waiting list (which is in excess of 160 currently).

Before the policy was changed by the Leisure Services Committee, current practice for those already on the River who ceased to be tax payers whilst holding a Council mooring or dinghy park space, was for them to retain the allocation but pay 50% extra. The difficulty with that arrangement was that it did not free up spaces for those on the waiting list. It therefore did not reinforce the intention to manage the River for local people.

With this in mind, the Consultative Committee felt a change was appropriate and it would be clearer if there was an adopted policy the following amendment was therefore proposed by the Consultative Committee and agreed by Leisure Services Committee:-

“As of 1 April 2001, any current holder of a mooring or dinghy park space who ceased to be a Council Tax payer in the District may be allocated a mooring for a maximum of two years from the date they cease to be a Council Tax payer, after which the mooring will be reallocated. In that period the charge will be 50% above the standard fee”.

#### **5. TOURISM SERVICE – BEST VALUE REVIEW (REPORT G) (MINUTE 27)**

The Committee has considered the recommendations of the Leisure Services Policy and Performance Review Sub-Committee following their meetings on 23 May and 22 August to consider issues relating to the Best Value review of the Council's Tourism Service and its future operation.

In respect of discussion with the New Forest Tourism Association, the Sub-Committee recommended and Leisure Services Committee agreed that:-

- (a) NFTA should be thanked for their submission;
- (b) The content of the submission be used to progress the partnership between the Tourism trade and the Council in providing its tourism service for the New Forest.

Tourism was the first service to be reviewed by the Committee under Best Value, and it is anticipated that there will be scope to improve the way future reviews are undertaken.

Current national experience with Best Value is also limited, and there is therefore little to gauge what makes a good or exceptional review in terms of process. However, an initial appraisal from District Audit has commended the approach in this Review. Lessons learned from this review had been already been factored into reviews being carried out elsewhere. The review includes a new set of Performance Indicators with targets and sets out 38 action points for the future improvement of performance.

There are suggested savings arising from the review, amounting to £348,500 over the review period.

**Councillor J A G Hutchins JP  
CHAIRMAN**

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