

24 SEPTEMBER 2001

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 24 September 2001.

- p Cllr Miss P A Drake - Chairman
- p Cllr J M Hoy - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

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

Councillors:

- p Mrs A M Howe
- p Mrs M Humber BA
- p J A G Hutchins JP
- p M J Kendal
- p M C Kidman
- G N D Locock
- p Mrs B M Maynard
- p Mrs M McLean
- p A W Rice TD
- p B Rickman
- p Mrs M J Robinson
- p B Rule
- T M Russell
- e D N Scott
- e M J Shand
- p S A Shepherd
- e Mrs B Smith
- p N L T Smith
- Mrs L P Snashall
- p G Spikins
- p M H Thierry
- p D B Tipp
- e J Waddington
- p M S Wade
- p S S Wade
- p C A Wise
- p P R Woods
- p Mrs P A Wyeth

Officers Attending:

D Yates, Ms E Malcolm, C Malyon, D Atwill, Ms J Bateman and Ms G O'Rourke.

1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

(a) Events in America

The Council noted that the Chairman had written to His Worship the Mayor of New York expressing the Council's condolences and deepest sympathy of the recent tragic events in the United States. The Vice-Chairman had also written to the Commander of the US Army Combat Battalion at Hythe expressing similar sentiments.

The Chairman had posted a message on the Council's ForestNet expressing the Council's sympathy and support and thoughts and prayers for the families, friends and colleagues of those that had either tragically lost their lives or had suffered injury. The Chairman had also expressed the Council's admiration and best wishes to all those involved in the rescue operation and the aftermath of the event.

The Council noted that the Chairman of the County Council would be holding his annual civic service in Winchester Cathedral on Sunday, 30 September at 3.00 p.m. All Civic Heads, Councillors and staff in Hampshire were invited to attend. The Chairman of the County Council had rearranged his original service to incorporate an act of remembrance for the tragedies in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania.

Members stood in silence as a mark of respect to all those who had sadly lost their lives.

2. **CABINET.**

The Chairman of the Cabinet presented the report of the meeting held on 6 September 2001. On the motion that the report be received and that the recommendations adopted:-

(a) **Amendments to the Council's Constitution**

A member commented that the protocol for executive decision making did not appear to be as stringent as that for Portfolio Holders particularly in terms of consultation. He suggested that it might be helpful for reports to Cabinet, Portfolio Holders and Review Panels to include a separate section on consultation.

The member also expressed the view that in relation to call-in procedures for executive decisions, it would be sensible to involve Review Panels at the earliest possible stage before decisions were taken by the Cabinet in order to avoid a 'call-in situation' wherever possible. Another member commented that a member who was not appointed to any Review Panel was at a disadvantage as they were not able to invoke call-in procedures directly. He suggested that the protocol for call-in procedures should be extended to enable any member of the Council to call-in any decision.

The Chairman responded and agreed that Review Panels were a major tool that the Cabinet should use in the decision making process. Review Panels were able to specialise in subject areas and could provide the Cabinet with specific advice. The Chairman agreed that consideration should be given to indicating in reports what consultation had taken place.

In relation to 'call-in' procedures the Chairman said that it was an individual members own choice whether or not they served on a Review Panel. It would however not be possible for every member not to serve on every Review Panel and therefore members needed to be able to discuss issues with each other. Again however the Chairman agreed that the issue of 'call-in' would be revisited if members felt excluded.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the recommendations adopted.

3. GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the report of the meeting held on 24 September 2001. On the motion that the report be received and the recommendations adopted it was:-

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the recommendations adopted.

4. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEE AND REVIEW PANELS.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Councillor Brooks be appointed to the Corporate and Finance Review Panel in place of Cllr Kidman;
- (b) That Councillor Frampton be appointed to the Economy and Planning Review Panel in place of Cllr N L T Smith;
- (c) That Councillor N L T Smith be appointed to the Environment Review Panel in place of Cllr Brooks;
- (d) That Cllr Waddington be appointed to the General Purposes and Licensing Committee in place of Cllr Frampton; and
- (e) That Councillor Tipp be appointed to the Housing Review Panel in place of Cllr Kidman.

CHAIRMAN