



13 MAY 2002

**NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 13 May 2002.

**Councillors:**

p Mrs S M Abernethy  
p K F Ault  
p K E Austin  
p G C Beck  
p E R Bowring  
e F J Bright  
e 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 B D Dash  
p J J Dawson  
p W H Dow  
p Miss P A Drake  
p L T Dunsdon  
p B C Earwicker  
p M H G Fidler  
p Mrs L C Ford  
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 P E Hickman

**Councillors:**

p Mrs M D Holding  
p Mrs A M Howe  
p Mrs M Humber BA  
p J M Hoy  
p J A G Hutchins  
p M J Kendal  
p G N D Locock  
p Mrs B M Maynard  
p Mrs M McLean  
p B M F Pemberton  
p A W Rice TD  
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 N L T Smith  
p Mrs L P Snashall  
p G Spikins  
p M H Thierry  
p D B Tipp  
p M S Wade  
p S S Wade  
p C A Wise  
e P R Woods  
p Mrs P A Wyeth

**Officers Attending:**

D Yates, N J Gibbs, Ms E Malcolm, C Malyon, D Atwill, Ms J Bateman, Miss G O'Rourke and Mrs R Rutins.

The Chairman of the Council, Cllr Miss Drake (in the Chair)

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.**

Cllr Holding moved that Cllr Hoy be elected Chairman of the Council for the ensuing municipal year. The motion was seconded by Cllr Dow and a number of members spoke in support.

**RESOLVED:**

That Cllr Hoy be elected Chairman of the Council to continue in office until his successor becomes entitled to act as Chairman at the next annual meeting of the Council.

Cllr Hoy took the Chair and made the declaration of acceptance of office which was formally witnessed by the Chief Executive.

Cllr Miss Drake invested the Chairman with the Chain and Badge of Office and presented Mrs Hoy, the Chairman's lady, with a basket of flowers.

On behalf of the employees, the Chief Executive congratulated the Chairman on his election.

The Chairman thanked his fellow members for his election

The Chairman commented that his chosen charity for the year would be "Forest Bus" a New Forest Charity that was first started in 1993. Forest Bus provided a service to young people, children and adults and families living in hard to reach urban and rural communities in the New Forest and Romsey. The aim of the Charity was to enable all age groups to make changes in their own lives and that of their community by taking part in projects, socialising and having fun.

The Chairman said that he would use his year in office to promote the Council to ensure that the utmost was being done to improve the lives of the residents of the New Forest.

**2. VOTE OF THANKS TO CLLR DRAKE.**

The Chairman of the Council moved a vote of thanks to the outgoing Chairman Cllr Drake. A number of members spoke in support of the motion.

Members congratulated Cllr Drake on the magnificent way in which she had carried out her duties as Chairman. She had been an excellent ambassador for the Council and had performed the role with dignity and good humour.

It was seconded and

**RESOLVED:**

That the best wishes of the Council be recorded to Cllr Drake for her service during her term of office as Chairman of the Council.

Cllr Drake thanked her fellow councillors for their kind words and said that the past year had been the most varied and interesting of her life. She detailed a number of engagements that she had found particularly enjoyable. During her year she had raised a total of £3,574 for her Charity, Canine Partners for Independence. In particular the Plant Hunters Fair had raised £2,370 and Cllr Drake thanked all those involved in the organisation of and who had assisted at that event.

Cllr Drake thanked members for their support and friendship over her year as Chairman and gave special thanks to all those who had been kind enough to officially escort her at the many different events she had attended.

**3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN.**

It was moved by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Drake that Cllr Hutchins be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing municipal year.

Members spoke in support of the motion.

**RESOLVED:**

That Cllr Hutchins be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council to hold office until immediately after the election of the Chairman at the next annual meeting of the Council.

Cllr Hutchins made the declaration of acceptance of office which was formally witnessed by the Chief Executive. The Chairman invested Cllr Hutchins with his Badge of Office and presented Mrs Hutchins, the Vice-Chairman's Consort, with a basket of flowers.

**4. APPOINTMENT OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL.**

It was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED:**

That Cllr Hayes be appointed Leader of the Council for the ensuing municipal year.

**5. MINUTES.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2002 be signed as a correct record.

**6. COMMITTEES AND PANELS.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the following changes in membership of panels be agreed:-

Economy & Planning Review Panel – Cllr Drake appointed in place of Cllr Scott;

Environment Review Panel - Cllr Thierry appointed in place of Cllr Hutchins; and

Housing, Health and Social Exclusion Review Panel - Cllr Drake appointed in place of Cllr Abernethy

**7. POLITICAL REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES.**

**RESOLVED:**

That, in accordance with Section 15(1)(b) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the position in relation to the representation of political groups on committees and panels be noted.

**8. CONSTITUTION OF CABINET AND PORTFOLIOS.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the number and content of Cabinet Portfolios and members to be appointed to the Cabinet be as detailed below and as shown at Appendix 1 to these minutes:-

Policy and Strategy – Cllr Hayes

Crime and Disorder – Cllr Heron

Economy and Planning – Cllr Russell

Environment – Cllr Kendal

Finance and Support – Cllr Wise

Housing – Cllr Greenfield

Health and Social Exclusion – Cllr Holding

Leisure – Cllr Rickman

CHAIRMAN

Attachment: Minute No. 8 – Appendix 1

## **CABINET PORTFOLIOS**

1. The functions of the Cabinet shall be divided into Portfolios agreed by the Council.
2. The Leader shall allocate responsibility for each Portfolio to a Member of the Cabinet who shall be known as a Portfolio Holder.
3. The Portfolio Holder shall provide the political vision and leadership for each of the services contained within his/her Portfolio.
4. The responsibilities of the Portfolio Holders for the functions and services contained within each of the Portfolios approved by the Council, and referred to below, shall be as described in the Annexes to this Chapter:-

### **Policy and Strategy**

Functions and Services included:

- Corporate and Community Plans
- Best Value
- Political and Management Structures
- Financial Strategy and Budget Targets
- Public Relations
- Human Resources

### **Crime and Disorder**

Functions and Services included:

- Crime and Disorder
- Community Safety
- Emergency Planning
- Road Safety
- Service Specific Grants

### **Environment**

Functions and Services included:

- Environmental Health Services
- Sustainability co-ordination
- Refuse Collection
- Street Cleaning
- Grounds Maintenance
- Recycling
- Public Conveniences
- Cemeteries
- Pest Control
- Dog Wardens
- Coastal Protection
- Land Drainage and Sewerage

## **Housing**

Functions and Services included:

- Housing Strategy
- Housing Investment Programme
- Housing Service Delivery
- Improvement Grants

## **Economy and Planning**

Functions and Services included:

- Planning Strategy
- Development Plans
- Economic Development
- Building Control
- Transportation
- Car Park Management
- Concessionary Travel
- Highways Agency and Highways Development Control Advice
- Street Naming and Numbering
- Local Land Charges

## **Leisure**

Functions and Services included:

- Arts
- Play
- Sport
- Recreation
- Tourism
- Museums
- Galleries
- Libraries
- Adult Learning
- Youth Work
- Open Space
- Leisure related and other non-service specific and core funding grants
- Eling Tide Mill/Toll bridge

## **Finance and Support**

Functions and Services included:

- Information and Communications Technology
- Land and Buildings Asset Management
- Commercial Services – including catering services
- Capital and Revenue Budgets
- Council Tax and Benefits
- National Non-Domestic Rates – including Discretionary Non-Domestic Rate Relief
- Service Specific Grants

- Central Support Services, including –  
Accountancy  
Information Services  
Legal and Democratic Services  
Exchequer Functions  
Chief Executive's Administration

### **Health and Social Exclusion**

Functions and Services included:

- Personal Health
- Social Exclusion
- Service Specific Grants

(Democrat/CL130502/Minutes.doc)

17 JUNE 2002

**NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 17 June 2002

- p Cllr J M Hoy - Chairman
- p Cllr J A G Hutchins - Vice-Chairman

**Councillors:**

- p Mrs S M Abernethy
- p K F Ault
- p K E Austin
- p G C Beck
- e E R Bowring
- p 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 B D Dash
- e J J Dawson
- p W H Dow
- p Miss P A Drake
- p L T Dunsdon
- p B C Earwicker
- p M H G Fidler
- p Mrs L C Ford
- e R L Frampton
- e Ms C F Gradidge
- p P C Greenfield
- p R C H Hale
- p L E Harris
- e F R Harrison
- p S A Hayes
- p J D Heron

**Councillors:**

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

**Officers Attending:**

D Yates, N Gibbs, Ms E Malcolm, D Atwill, Ms J Bateman, Miss G O'Rourke and Mrs R Rutins.

**9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

Cllrs Earwicker, Rice and Rule declared interests in Minute 10.



**10. CABINET.**

The Chairman of the Cabinet presented the reports of the meetings held on 5 June and 17 June 2002.

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

**(a) Best Value Performance Plan 2002/2003 (5 June 2002)**

A member asked at what point had the member involvement in the scrutiny of the Public Services Best Value review changed. Members that had been involved originally had not been included in later scrutiny and verification meetings. The members that had participated originally should have continued to be involved throughout the process.

The Chairman of the Cabinet replied that he was not aware of the reasons for the change of member involvement and agreed that it would have been useful for the original members to have continued to be kept updated. There was no suggestion of exclusion of individual members. The Chairman agreed that he would investigate the matter and reply to the Councillor direct.

**(b) Local Information Office and Affordable Housing at Stannington Car Park, Ashley Road/Spencer Road, New Milton (17 June 2002)**

Councillors Earwicker, Rice and Rule declared personal interests as members of New Milton Town Council. None considered their interests to be prejudicial. They remained at the meeting took part in the discussion and voted.

A member said that whilst they were very aware of the current inappropriate conditions that the CAB and others were working under, they were very concerned at the way in which the costs of the scheme had escalated. There had been no opportunity for scrutiny and the Corporate and Finance Review Panel that were meeting later that week should be given the opportunity to consider the revised scheme.

The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, Cllr Robinson, moved an amendment that the matter should be referred to the Corporate and Finance Review Panel for consideration.

The Chairman of the Cabinet said that originally a financial contribution had been expected from the Government Office for the South East (GOSE) but that had not been forthcoming and this had subsequently changed the nature and style of the project. The Cabinet had considered the comments from the CAB and were in agreement that the project should go ahead as a matter of urgency. The scheme had been fully discussed by Council Committees/Panels on a number of occasions and members had had every opportunity to look at the issues involved apart from the last stage when additional funding was required.

A number of other members spoke in support of the scheme proceeding. A member commented that the Review Panel should have been considering the issues at the earliest opportunity and it was not appropriate to defer the matter at this late stage.

In seconding the amendment Cllr Dash asked for detail of when the matter had been before the Review Panel as he was not aware that it had been considered within the last twelve months. Whilst he did not want to jeopardise the scheme, he did think that the costs had escalated considerably and should be reviewed.

Another member said that there was insufficient breakdown of the costs and whilst he supported the provision of a service that covered not only the New Milton area but Hordle, Sway and Milford as well, the Council should not be forced into a situation that it was not entirely satisfied with. Some members expressed concern that as the project was considerably over budget it should be subject to further review.

Other members commented that the Scheme was good value for money and the partnership with the housing association would provide much needed accommodation for twelve families. The overall proposals had been under consideration for a number of years and had the support of local members.

In summing up the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group reiterated that whilst she supported the Scheme, the matter had not been well scrutinised. The need to find savings to reduce the tender price had meant a number of changes to the scheme that required careful consideration. The Review Panel should be given the opportunity of scrutinising them.

The Chairman of the Cabinet replied that it was not appropriate to delay the scheme. Alternative sites for the Scheme had been considered previously and had been deemed not to be satisfactory. It would have been on these occasions that the Review Panel should have taken the opportunity to scrutinise the matter.

In accordance with Standing Order 51 a recorded vote was called for. Members voted for and against the amendment as follows:-

**FOR:**

Councillors J E Coles, B D Dash, L T Dunsdon, M H G Fidler, R C H Hale, L E Harris, P E Hickman, A M Howe, G N D Locock, B M Maynard, M McLean, M J Robinson, S A Shepherd, B Smith, L P Snashall and M S Wade.

**AGAINST:**

Councillors S M Abernethy, K E Austin, G C Beck, F J Bright, D M Brooks, D S Burdle, W R Catt, J L Cleary, W H Dow, P A Drake, L C Ford, P C Greenfield, S A Hayes, J D Heron, M D Holding, J M Hoy, J A G Hutchins, M J Kendal, B M F Pemberton, A W Rice TD, B Rickman, B Rule, T M Russell, D N Scott, D B Tipp, C A Wise and P A Wyeth.

**ABSTENTION:**

D E Cracknell, B C Earwicker, G Spikins and S S Wade.

The amendment was lost.

In accordance with Standing Order 51 a recorded vote was called for on the substantive motion. Members voted for and against the substantive motion as follows:-

**FOR:**

Councillors S M Abernethy, K E Austin, G C Beck, F J Bright, D M Brooks, D S Burdle, W R Catt, J L Cleary, W H Dow, P A Drake, L C Ford, P C Greenfield, S A Hayes, J D Heron, M D Holding, J M Hoy, J A G Hutchins, M J Kendal, B M F Pemberton, A W Rice TD, B Rickman, B Rule, T M Russell, D N Scott, D B Tipp, C A Wise and P A Wyeth.

**AGAINST:**

None.

**ABSTENTION:**

J E Coles, D E Cracknell, B D Dash, L T Dunsdon, B C Earwicker, M H G Fidler, R C H Hale, L E Harris, P E Hickman, A M Howe, G N D Locock, B M Maynard, M McLean, M J Robinson, S A Shepherd, B Smith, L P Snashall, G Spikins, M S Wade and S S Wade.

The Substantive motion was agreed.

It was therefore:-

**RESOLVED:**

That the reports be received and the recommendations adopted.

**11. APPOINTMENT TO CORPORATE AND FINANCE REVIEW PANEL.**

**RESOLVED:**

That Cllr Rice replace Cllr Drake as a member of the Corporate and Finance Review Panel.

CHAIRMAN

(DEMOCRAT/CL170602/MINUTES.DOC)