

16 DECEMBER 2002

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 16 December 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
- e K E Austin
- p G C Beck
- p 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
- e 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
- 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

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
- p M J Shand
- S A Shepherd
- p Mrs B Smith
- p N L T Smith
- p Mrs L P Snashall
- e G Spikins
- p M H Thierry
- p D B Tipp
- 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, N Gibbs, C Malyon, Ms J Bateman, Miss G O'Rourke and Mrs R Rutins.

44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr Brooks declared an interest in Minute 47.

Cllrs Harris, Heron, Howe, Maynard, Russell, Snashall and S S Wade declared interests in Minute 48.

45. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meetings held on 14 October and 18 November 2002, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as correct record subject to Minute 4 (18 November) – ‘Appointment of Leader of the Council’, the third paragraph, second sentence being amended to read ‘She commented that the Cabinet appeared to work well and was very inclusive’

46. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

(a) Colin Schuman

The Chairman announced with great sadness the death of Colin Schuman. Mr Schuman worked for the Council from 1984 – 1996 and was very well known by members for the very effective PR campaign he had led on the Council’s behalf in opposition to the proposal to build a second power station at Fawley. Members joined the Chairman in expressing their sympathy to Colin’s wife and family and stood in silent tribute to his memory.

(b) Dibden Bay

The Chairman reported that the Dibden Bay Enquiry had closed, marking the end of 13 months of some of the most important work in the Council’s history.

In closing the Inspector had recognised the Inquiry as ‘a total of 3 years work on one of the most significant environmental issues in the history of this country’. Many people, Councillors, officers and members of the community had made their contribution to the Council’s case, which was also recognised by the Inspector when he commended the high standard of witnesses and the strength of local feeling about the development.

The Chairman said that no one had contributed more to the work than Simon Trueick, Planning Officer who had been seconded to lead the co-ordination of the Council’s case throughout the whole period.

Members joined the Chairman in recognising the work that Mr Trueick had done and thanked him for his commitment to the project.

(c) West Totton Greenroute

The Chairman was very pleased to take the opportunity to recognise the award for planning excellence recently presented to the Council. The regional commendation from the Royal Town Planning Institute for the creation of the West Totton Greenroute network was presented by Jonathon Porrit, environmentalist and advisor to the government on sustainability.

The vision of a Greenroute was first conceived more than 20 years ago to create a sustainable, safe and attractive environment with a series of linked open spaces, footpaths and cycleways through the new residential areas of West Totton. The vision became a reality through the positive use of the local planning process, with landscape planning, design and implementation spanning many years.

In winning the award, the West Totton Greenroute scheme was recognised for its excellence in enhancement of the environment, the quality of the professional planning work, the social and economic benefits, originality, partnership and community involvement.

Success for the Greenroute has been the result of the efforts of many NFDC people over the years. Members joined the Chairman in congratulating all those involved, and in particular Neil Williamson, Michael Field and Richard Payne the three members of the landscape design team.

(d) The Chairman's Charity Ball – Friday 7 March 2003

The Chairman was pleased to announce that he would be hosting his charity ball on Friday 7 March 2003 at Hoburne Bashley, in aid of his charity, Forest Bus.

Tickets were available with the last date for booking being Friday 7 February.

(e) Historic Photograph

To celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Golden Jubilee, the Chairman had hosted a special evening, inviting all past Chairmen from this Council and its predecessor authorities.

The Chairman presented the Council with a special historic photograph that depicted the Chief Executives and Chairmen going back to 1967.

47. PETITION – CLOSURE OF CALSHOT TOILETS

Cllr Brooks declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item as a beach hut owner at Calshot. She left the meeting during discussion of this item.

Mr Holtham from Fawley Parish Council presented a petition containing 311 signatures requesting that the public toilets in the car park at Calshot Beach be refurbished and not demolished.

Mr Holtham said that currently at Calshot there were 2 toilets, one in the main car park and one at the Spit End car park.

The toilet in the Main car park was a seasonal one, which was located, half way along Calshot Beach and was well used by the people using the western end of the beach.

The Spit End toilet was open all year round, that car park was well used all year, generally by the elderly who were able to sit in their cars and watch the world go by.

Mr Holtham said that the Council's idea of building a new café was good, but why not put it where the customers were. The Spit End car park had 3 times as many visitors as any other area of Calshot and the Council had information to support this. Also there were very few car parking spaces for an upgraded café and toilet combined at the present location, in fact there were no car parking spaces allocated for the present café.

To reduce the numbers of toilets was also foolhardy, as the Spit End toilet had struggled on more than one occasion to cope with the amount of usage on busy weekends, with the Council's men being called out to rod the blocked drains. When the Round the World Race finished last year, the Spit End car park toilet was closed due to vandalism, there was chaos at Calshot, but at least there had been another toilet available. The present toilets entered a sewer, but the café only had a septic tank, would this be able to cope with the increased load?

The toilets were not only there for the Beach Hut owners; they were also there for the thousands of visitors, from many parts of the country. Mr Holtham said the Council had only consulted the Beach Hut owners with a questionnaire, the results of which he had never seen published, but he thought it proved what the results were, when he had a petition not to close them. The current petition was not only signed by the Beach Hut owners, but by the sailboarders as well, who above all did not want the sea to be polluted. It was also supported by Fawley Parish Council. The Council had spent years trying to get the clean water accreditation and shouldn't throw it away now.

Two toilets on a Beach over a mile long were only just adequate. They were old and worn out, but the buildings were there, and only needed modernising. The Council's management of them left a little to be desired, for at least two years the Spit End toilets have not even had ladies and gents signs on the doors to define which to use, even though complaints had been made.

Mr Holtham summed up by saying that Calshot Beach was owned and run by the Council who had a Health and Hygiene responsibility to supply adequate toilet facilities for the numbers of people using the beach. He noted that the Council had budgeted for the refurbishment of the two toilets and requested that the work be completed by Easter.

In accordance with Standing Order 38 the Chairman of the Council decided that the matter was urgent and should be dealt with at the meeting.

The Environment Portfolio Holder said that the Council had already entered into discussion on the future provision of toilet facilities at Calshot. It was important for the Council to hear residents' views. In 1999 a cross party group of members and officers had visited all the Council's public conveniences and had agreed a priority programme of replacement/refurbishment. The closing of the current toilets and their replacement with 'Superloos' and showers had been a unanimous decision.

The Café at Calshot was at the end of its working life and officers had been asked to look at a replacement by means of a partnership arrangement with the private sector. There had been discussions with the Cadland Estate; the private beach hut owners and Fawley Parish Council. The total cost of the scheme was anticipated to be in the region of £330,000 to be split between the Council and interested parties.

The Portfolio Holder noted the representations from 190 Beach Hut owners who wanted toilets to continue to be sited at either end of the Spit. He did not feel there would be a problem walking to a single central location. In addition to the proposed improved facilities there would also be a chemical toilet point in the car park.

The Environment Portfolio Holder proposed that the Council should adhere to their previous decision made at their meeting on 22 April 2002 that "the petition be noted and the public toilets at Calshot remain open until negotiations with Fawley Parish Council and the beach hut owners are completed and replacement facilities are available".

Members spoke for and against the motion.

Some members felt that the existing toilets were in the right place and that the proposals for a centrally located facility were not the best use of Council tax payers' money. This was the second petition received from local people and the proposals should be looked at again bearing in mind that the Council existed to provide services for people and not the other way around. To move from the provision of two toilets to one was a drop in service provision. At certain times of the year, such as Cowes week, the area was very busy and toilets at either end of the Spit provided the best facilities.

The Chairman of Fawley Parish Council was not in favour of the proposal and the beach hut owners were not happy about the loss of one toilet. The solution proposed would make the situation worse rather than improve it.

Some members thought that a partnership approach could provide facilities that would be of benefit to visitors to the area. Public conveniences generally were subject to vandalism and it was not possible to have attendants on duty 24 hours a day. Therefore, there was a need to look at new ways of maintaining facilities. Calshot provided a good opportunity to enter into a partnership and should be considered. The current toilets were in a very bad state of repair and would need rebuilding rather than refurbishment. It was a much better option to build one new modern facility with showers.

Other members commented that the Council were spending in the region of £800,000 on toilets across the district and it was uncertain if those that had signed the petition had been aware of the extent of the Council's investment or what was planned specifically for Calshot. Properly placed, well designed, well-maintained public conveniences were essential hence the Council's investment.

It was not financially viable to refurbish a 45 year old toilet. The only option was to rebuild. The proposal was for a new modern facility that would be farther away for some people but would be nearer for others. Cllr Woods, Chairman of the Environment Review Panel, supported the motion and said that the Environment Panel had unanimously supported the Council's decision.

Upon a vote the motion by the Environment Portfolio Holder was agreed.

48. REPORTS OF CABINET.**(1) 6 November 2002**

The Chairman (Cllr Hayes) presented the report of the Cabinet held on 6 November 2002. On the motion that the report be received and the recommendation adopted it was :-

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the recommendation adopted.

(2) 4 December 2002

Cllr Russell declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 1 (Revised Deposit Stage of the Local Plan Alterations) as a Director and Shareholder of St Georges Hospital Limited and Dragon Holdings Limited. There was no discussion on the policies relating to care homes.

Cllr Heron declared a personal interest in Item 1 (Revised Deposit Stage of the Local Plan Alterations) as President of the Ringwood Chamber of Trade. He did not consider his interest to be prejudicial. He remained at the meeting, took part in the discussion and voted.

Cllrs Harris; Howe; Maynard and SS Wade declared personal and prejudicial interests in Item 14 (Future of the Local Centre Site, Challenger Way, Dibden). They left the meeting during discussion of that item.

Cllr Snashall declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 2 (Expenditure Plan Proposals and Consultation - Clay Meadow Depot). There was no discussion on that particular item.

The Chairman (Cllr Kendal) presented the report of the Cabinet held on 4 December, 2002. In moving the report the Chairman drew attention to an error on the fees and charges for Ringwood Recreation Centre.

Since the introduction of the option to pay by monthly direct debit, the annual charge had always been 10-times the monthly charge, however the Ringwood Recreation Centre fees & charges were incorrectly stated in Appendix 1 to the Cabinet Report as shown below.

		Proposed Monthly Charge £	Proposed Annual Charge £	Revised Proposed Annual Charge £
Standard	Individual	33.00	325.00	330.00
	Joint	55.00	540.00	550.00
All Inclusive	Individual	36.00	357.00	360.00
	Joint	64.00	637.00	640.00

The Chairman therefore proposed that the revised proposed annual charge as detailed above should be agreed.

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

(3) Revised Deposit Stage of the Local Plan Alterations

A member said that he understood that the Revised Deposit stage of the Local Plan had been delayed to enable revisions to the proposals for Care Homes; Affordable Housing and rural businesses. Whilst there had been some changes to the proposals for care homes, the new proposals for Affordable housing had been rejected and the proposals for rural businesses withdrawn. These changes had delayed the plan by eight months. The member suggested that this point in the Local Plan could have been reached many weeks earlier.

Members spoke for and against the changes proposed in the Local Plan.

In particular members discussed the proposal to introduce a requirement for 50% provision of affordable housing in rural areas and Sandheath. A number of members pointed out the extent of the homelessness problem in rural areas and the need for this additional affordable housing.

One member felt that a compromise of 40% could be reached, other members felt that a target of 35% across the district was more realistic and would be workable.

The Chairman of the Housing, Health and Social Inclusion Review Panel said that the recent Housing Needs Survey had recommended provision of 50% affordable housing across the district. If a target of 35% was agreed then the Housing Needs Survey would need to be revisited to consider other ways of addressing the demonstrated need.

The Economy and Planning Portfolio holder said that it had been vital that the Local Plan had been reviewed to give all members an opportunity to comment again on issues. He agreed that the review had taken longer than anticipated but felt that the outcomes were useful. In particular he felt that the proposals in relation to extensions to dwellings would be fair and provide a good balance. He agreed that the Council should aim for the maximum numbers of affordable housing units but he believed that a target of 35% would actually produce more affordable homes than a target of 50%. A 50% target might deter developers from coming forward with schemes in the first place. However, he agreed that the matter should be kept under review in the light of the Housing Needs Survey.

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the annual charges at the Ringwood Recreation Centre being amended as detailed above, the report be received and the recommendations adopted.

49. THE COUNCIL TAX 2003/2004 – SETTING THE TAX BASE (REPORT A).

RESOLVED:-

- (a) That the calculation of the Council's tax base for the year 2003/2004 be approved; and
- (b) That pursuant to Report A to the Council and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of The Tax Base) Regulations 1992, the amount calculated by this Council as its council tax base for the year 2000/2001 be as follows and as detailed in Appendix 1 to these minutes:

PARISH/TOWN	TAX BASE 2003/04
Ashurst & Colbury	905.1
Beaulieu	484.0
Boldre	1018.9
Bramshaw	337.3
Bransgore	1839.7
Breamore	171.0
Brockenhurst	1736.3
Burley	754.0
Copythorne	1200.8
Damerham	233.0
Denny Lodge	144.7
East Boldre	382.0
Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley	579.5
Exbury & Lepe	98.6
Fawley	4792.6
Fordingbridge	2281.1
Godshill	209.9
Hale	270.6
Hordle	2351.2
Hyde	494.8
Hythe & Dibden	7480.5
Lymington & Pennington	6589.3
Lyndhurst	1357.7
Marchwood	2016.5
Martin	188.6
Milford on Sea	2537.9
Minstead	351.7
Netley Marsh	815.3
New Milton	10450.0
Ringwood	5272.5
Rockbourne	163.0
Sandleheath	264.5
Sopley	286.6
Sway	1607.5
Totton & Eling	9469.0
Whitsbury	100.6
Woodgreen	247.4
Whole District	69483.7

50. QUESTION UNDER STANDING ORDER 22.

In accordance with Standing Order 9, Cllr Robinson asked the Leader of the Council the following question:-

"The Cabinet has now completed a series of meetings around the District. In the light of these, would the Leader please provide the following information:

What was the overall cost of the events?

How many members of the public attended the meetings? (not including elected members who turned up)

What were the topics raised by the public?

What did the Cabinet learn as a result of the exercise?"

The Leader replied that the Government's local democracy theme for the year was connecting with communities. He said that Members would have seen that there had been regular pilot research studies done through the Citizens' Panel and that regular feedback was received from them from time to time. In addition other aspects of the Council's services were specifically researched in a particular geographic area. For example, Housing maintenance services were researched via tenants questionnaires and the response indicated a 99% satisfaction rating. The Council had also recently agreed to test 'recycling awareness' in Totton, Netley View and Barton on Sea using a DEFRA grant.

The Leader said that from Audit Commission satisfaction surveys of all UK Councils, NFDC was the only council to receive over 90% satisfaction rating across the board when considering all services.

The Leader said that he considered a television style cabinet question time was an ideal way in which people could meet the Cabinet face to face, and ask questions of policy/future strategy and, at the same time, meet with the Portfolio holders informally and thus hopefully develop an interest in local government. The other objective was to test opinion on the Council's services relative to the individual communities.

The following costs were incurred to ensure a successful outcome:

£2,000 on equipment – display boards, banners, lights and stands. That equipment had an indefinite life and was now being used as a capital asset available to anyone in the Council to use; in particular it could be used by the Council at the New Forest Show. A further £2,000 was spent on room hire, refreshments, public address equipment and publicity. These items were met from the Council's modest public relations budget.

A total of 135 people had attended the Cabinet "question times". Clearly in each area local issues were to the fore and matters such as recycling; traffic management; Highways matters; new Council structures; National Park and Council Tax had been followed up.

In general, the Leader said that he felt that the attendees were very satisfied with the way in which the Council was operating. It was intended to develop the approach further with, in response to comments, more advance publicity.

In a supplementary question Cllr Robinson asked if the Leader regretted that Area Forum meetings had stopped.

The Leader said that the previous Area Forums had been led by members and not by residents. The Cabinet 'question times' provided an opportunity for anyone to ask any questions or make statements and for the Cabinet to give accountable answers. He felt that the style of the 'question times' was right but agreed that better advance publicity was needed.

51. PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' QUESTION TIME.

Question No. 1 from: Cllr Harrison to Cllr Holding, Health and Social Inclusion Portfolio Holder

On the evening of October 16, travellers invaded a car park belonging to this Council. Because I was unable to get the help of an Environmental Health Officer, residents in Westfield Road, Totton, had to suffer the noise of generators throughout the night. Will the Portfolio Holder now reinstate the service under which Environmental Health Officers were on call to deal with emergencies occurring at night?

Answer:

The Health and Social Exclusion Portfolio Holder responded that the 'On Call Service' was withdrawn in March 2002 due to safety concerns. The option at the time was either to substantially increase funding for the service or withdraw it. Of the approximately 250 calls per year only about half of these would have actually warranted an officer doing anything at all. Most of them related to members of the public requiring routine advice for non-emergency matters.

The Portfolio Holder said that the difficulty with the service was that it required officers to go out to locations at night and meet complainants and those being complained about. Routinely they would call the Police for back up before visiting any property being complained about. The Council was required to undertake risk assessments for Health and Safety and this posed a considerable problem for this service.

It was clear from a number of incidents that staff were in considerable danger at night whilst working alone. The Police could not be relied upon at all times to protect the Council's officers as a first priority. There had been occasions when police protection was available but was then called away to another incident leaving Environmental Health officers unable to complete their job.

The Council's prime concern was for the health, safety and well being of the staff and requiring them to work late at night in situations with difficult, hostile complainants was not acceptable.

In a supplementary question the Portfolio Holder was asked whether she thought that the extra cost involved was worth the additional service that would be provided to the public. The Portfolio Holder responded that the most important issue was the safety of the staff and this always had to be paramount.

Question No. 2 from: Cllr Tipp to Cllr N Smith, Environment Portfolio Holder

Would the new Portfolio Holder for the Environment please outline his plans to the Council?

Note:

In the absence of the Environment Portfolio Holder this question was deferred for consideration at the next meeting of the Council.

Question No. 3 from: Cllr Mrs B Smith to Cllr Heron, Crime and Disorder Portfolio Holder

Following his attendance recently at a conference on partnerships to promote good health and crime reduction, could the Portfolio Holder say what measures and initiatives he is proposing for New Forest District in order to promote co-operative working with partners in these fields?

Answer:

The Portfolio Holder responded that this Council already recognised that there were extremely strong links between the issues of crime and health. The Community Safety Officer's post was transferred internally so that it was under the same Head of Service that led on Health Policy. Internally within the Council there had been two officer groups looking at the wider issues of Health and Crime and Disorder respectively. It was decided, two months ago, to join these groups into one. The issues that they looked at were very similar and there was a wide cross cutting agenda. The Chair of the local Drug Reference Group (DRG) was also the Health Policy Development Manager which was a joint appointment with the PCT. The Community Safety Officer also sat on the DRG.

On a related issue this Council had operated a partnership since about 1997 known as "Divided We Fall". This was a multi agency partnership with the primary function of dealing with a wide range of neighbourhood nuisance. In many of the cases that were looked at it was very apparent that other wider support was needed rather than straight enforcement action via an Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC) or similar. Mental Health and Parenting issues were often the cause of the problem and hence key partners from these disciplines formed part of the partnership.

The Portfolio Holder said that the Geographical Information System (GIS) was being developed to accommodate a wide range of data. Currently it was holding a range of crime data but it was hoped that the recent analyses of deprivation indicators would be able to go onto the system thus mapping the areas of the district that had to be considered as priorities. Clearly this type of information would also help inform the debate within the Local Strategic partnership (LSP).

The PCT and the District Council had been working together on the Participatory Needs Assessments around the District. The groups in Calshot and Pennington had strong health and crime issues. In Pennington the team had set up a separate group to look at crime within that specific area.

The Portfolio Holder said that clearly the Council did recognise the strong links between crime and health and would continue to develop the cross cutting themes between the two subjects.

In a supplementary question Cllr Mrs Smith asked again what new ways of working the Portfolio Holder proposed to promote cooperative working with partners.

The Portfolio Holder responded that the Council would continue to build on the work that had been started. There was no 'quick fix' to the issues and he was pleased with the way in which matters were progressing.

Question No. 4 from: Cllr Hale to Cllr Russell, Economy & Planning Portfolio Holder

The Portfolio Holder will remember that in the summer issue of Forest News the Council ran a £100 prize draw in connection with its questionnaire on traffic management. Can the Portfolio Holder explain the conduct of the draw in as much as -

When the draw was made?

Who won?

Where were the results published?

Were all returned slips included in the draw?

Answer:

The Portfolio Holder responded that the draw had been made at the end of November. The Winner was Mrs V Bailey of Totton. The results had not been published in the latest edition of Forest News because the consultation period for the survey had been extended and did not expire until after the print deadline for Forest News. The results would be published in the next edition.

All the return slips were included in the draw. Mrs Bailey was sent her prize cheque in time for Christmas.

In a supplementary question Cllr Hale asked if the Portfolio Holder was confident that the draw had been completed in line with the Lotteries and Amusement Act 1976.

The Portfolio Holder said that the Council employed professional officers and he was confident that all requirements would have been met.

Question No. 5 from: Cllr M S Wade to Cllr Heron, Crime & Disorder Portfolio Holder

Can you confirm the revenue cost of CCTV to the New Forest District Council in the next financial year and advise what contribution you are receiving from the beneficiaries of the scheme and what amount will be paid for by the District as a whole.

Answer:

The Portfolio Holder gave details of the transmission costs and the on going annual revenue contributions for Lymington, Ringwood and Totton. It was noted that Ringwood Town Council had asked if they could defer payment until the next financial year and this was being considered.

The Portfolio Holder reported that an agreement had been reached in principle for the NFDC control room at Lyndhurst to monitor the Romsey CCTV scheme. This would not affect the running of this Council's scheme and would help reduce costs.

In a Supplementary Question Cllr M S Wade said that the Crime and Disorder Review Panel at their last meeting had discussed the increases in the annual revenue costs of CCTV maintenance. He asked for an assurance that the Council would not seek an ongoing increase in transmission costs.

The Portfolio Holder responded that the Town Council had set maximum contribution levels according to an agreed formula and this had resulted in all, with the exception of Totton, paying less than the maximum they had set.

Question No. 6 from: Cllr Harrison to Cllr Russell, Economy and Planning Portfolio Holder

Does the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Planning consider that the New Forest Transportation Panel and the South West Hampshire Transportation Panel provide this Council with a useful opportunity to influence the transportation policies of Hampshire County Council?

Answer:

The Portfolio Holder replied that the New Forest Transportation Panel now included the coastal towns area and the South West Hampshire Transportation Panel covered Totton and the waterside and areas outside of NFDC. The Council had been trying unsuccessfully to persuade HCC that, now that Southampton was a separate highway authority, there should be a single strategy area and panel for the whole of NFDC particularly in the context of the proposed joint planning arrangements for a New Forest National Park.

The Portfolio Holder detailed the membership of both panels and the dates of future meetings. He indicated that there was to be an informal meeting of HCC and NFDC on 28 January to discuss the outcome of consultations on Totton town centre. In 2002 the meetings had covered a wide variety of topics including the progress of the Local Transport Plan; Local Plan reviews; Quality Bus Partnerships; Schemes in Hythe; Totton Town centre; New Forest Transport Strategy and Dibden Bay Terminal Transport Infrastructure.

52. NOTICE OF MOTION.

Cllr Pemberton moved the following Notice of Motion standing in his name:-

‘That the Chairman of the Council write to the Home Secretary stating the concern of the New Forest District Council that the system of vetting by the Criminal Records Bureau would not notify applicant organisations of any new case of abuse by an individual previously cleared, and that the new abuse would not be known to the original applicant organisation until it subsequently sought further clearance, up to three years later.’

In accordance with Standing Order 41.2 the Chairman of the Council agreed that the Notice of Motion was urgent and should be dealt with at the meeting.

Cllr Pemberton in moving the motion said that, as an example, if an employee who was cleared by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB), committed an offence outside and beyond local jurisdictions he would as a result, be placed on the Sexual Offenders Register. Because this had happened in another part of the country it did not follow that the applicant organization would hear about it unless the CRB read across from the new entry to the old and chose to tell the Council.

In such a situation, the Council may not learn of the offence until up to three years later when the original clearance had expired and an application for renewal was made. The purpose therefore of the motion was to alert the Home Office to this possible weakness in the system operating in the CRB.

The motion was seconded and upon a vote was agreed.

RESOLVED:

That the Notice of Motion as set out above be agreed.

53. CLLR G SPIKINS – ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS.

In response to some concern expressed, members noted that the wording of the resolution was as required in law.

Members sent their very best wishes to Cllr Spikins for a full and speedy recovery.

RESOLVED:-

That the Council approves the failure by Cllr Spikins to attend meetings due to his ill health.

54. MEETING DATES FOR THE 2003/2004 MUNICIPAL YEAR.

RESOLVED:-

That the Council meet on Mondays at 6.30 p.m. on the following dates in the 2003/2004 municipal year:-

19 May 2003
21 July 2003
8 September 2003

Council

16 DECEMBER 2002

27 October 2003
15 December 2003
23 February 2004
26 April 2004
17 May 2004

CHAIRMAN

(DEMOCRAT/CL161202/MINUTES.DOC)

VALUATION BANDS

All dwellings have been valued by the Inland Revenue for the purpose of Council Tax. Valuations are based on property prices at April 1991. There are eight valuation bands and each dwelling has been placed into one of these bands according to its assessed value at that time. Band A is the lowest. The higher the band, the higher the charge will be. See the table below:-

BAND	RANGE OF VALUES	PROPORTION
A	Up to £40,000	£1.00
B	Over £40,000 - £52,000	£1.17
C	Over £52,000 - £68,000	£1.33
D	Over £68,000 - £88,000	£1.50
E	Over £88,000 -£120,000	£1.83
F	Over £120,000 -£160,000	£2.17
G	Over £160,000 -£320,000	£2.50
H	Over £320,000	£3.00

For every £1.00 of Council Tax for a band 'A' property, a band 'B' property will be charged £1.17 - and so on. Any discounts and rebates would make the difference less than this.

COMPARATIVE TAXBASES FOR 2002/03 AND 2003/04

PARISH/TOWN	2002/03 TAX BASE	2003/04 TAX BASE
Ashurst & Colbury	915.3	905.1
Beaulieu	476.5	484.0
Boldre	996.3	1018.9
Bramshaw	330.3	337.3
Bransgore	1835.2	1839.7
Breamore	175.7	171.0
Brockenhurst	1708.8	1736.3
Burley	738.0	754.0
Copythorne	1194.8	1200.8
Damerham	230.5	233.0
Denny Lodge	147.1	144.7
East Boldre	374.6	382.0
Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley	580.7	579.5
Exbury & Lepe	97.3	98.6
Fawley	4752.7	4792.6
Fordingbridge	2202.5	2281.1
Godshill	209.0	209.9
Hale	265.8	270.6
Hordle	2319.0	2351.2
Hyde	494.2	494.8
Hythe & Dibden	7332.7	7480.5
Lymington & Pennington	6526.8	6589.3
Lyndhurst	1336.5	1357.7
Marchwood	1905.8	2016.5
Martin	186.6	188.6
Milford on Sea	2532.6	2537.9
Minstead	350.7	351.7
Netley Marsh	805.1	815.3
New Milton	10290.8	10450.0
Ringwood	5193.1	5272.5
Rockbourne	159.0	163.0
Sandleheath	261.3	264.5
Sopley	289.7	286.6
Sway	1598.2	1607.5
Totton & Eling	9418.5	9469.0
Whitsbury	97.8	100.6
Woodgreen	248.2	247.4
Whole District	68577.7	69483.7