

25 APRIL 2005

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 25 April 2005.

- p Cllr Lt Col M J Shand - Chairman
- p Cllr Sqn Ldr B M F Pemberton - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

- p G Abbott
- p K F Ault
- p K E Austin
- p C Baker
- p G C Beck
- p Mrs J L Cleary
- p D E Cracknell
- p G F Dart
- p W H Dow
- e L T Dunsdon
- p M H G Fidler
- p Ms L C Ford
- p Mrs L P Francis
- p P C Greenfield
- p R C H Hale
- p C J Harrison
- p D Harrison
- p F R Harrison
- p J D Heron
- p D A Hibbert
- p P E Hickman
- p Mrs M D Holding
- p J M Hoy
- p Mrs M Humber
- p J A G Hutchins
- p M J Kendal
- p Mrs B M Maynard
- p Mrs M McLean
- p M J Molyneux

Councillors:

- p M J Molyneux
- p R J Neath
- p G J Parkes
- p J Penwarden
- e L R Puttock
- p A W Rice TD
- p B Rickman
- p Mrs M J Robinson
- p B Rule
- p D J Russell
- p T M Russell
- p D N Scott
- e N E Scott
- p S A Shepherd
- p Mrs B Smith
- p Mrs S I Snowden
- p M H Thierry
- e A R Tinsley
- p D B Tipp
- p Mrs B Vincent
- p M S Wade
- e S S Wade
- p G M Walmsley
- p J G Ward
- e A Weeks
- p Dr M N Whitehead
- p C A Wise
- p P R Woods
- p Mrs P A Wyeth

Officers Attending:

D Yates, N Gibbs, C Malyon, J Mascall, Ms J Bateman and Miss G O'Rourke.

61. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

All members of the Council declared personal interests, where appropriate, as members of Town and Parish Councils. In that capacity, all members agreed that their interests were not prejudicial. They remained in the meeting and took part in the discussions and voted where appropriate.

All members present declared personal interests in Minute 66.

Cllr Mrs Ford declared a personal interest in Minute 69.

62. MINUTES (REPORT A).**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2005, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Arising on the minutes, members noted that the written response to Portfolio Holder question No. 2 (Minute 58 – Portfolio Holders' Question Time refers) would be sent to all members shortly.

63. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Chairman announced with pleasure that his recent Charity Ball at Hoburne Bashley had raised £3,159. He said he was very pleased that he had been able to welcome 2CR FM's Breakfast Show DJ Graham Mack, who had auctioned 21 special prizes, which had raised just over £1,500.

The Chairman said that his final fundraising event would be the Planthunters Fair, at Appletree Court on Saturday 7 May. He thanked his fellow council members who had already volunteered to help for an hour and a half on the day. There would be plants, pots, honey, strawberries and other garden related produce on sale with cream teas being served in the afternoon. All the produce was from local growers in the New Forest and all the entrance fees would go direct to New Forest and District Sailability, the Chairman's Charity.

64. CABINET.

The Chairman presented the report of the Cabinet dated 2 March and 6 April 2005. On the motion that the report be received and the recommendations be adopted:

(a) Project Integra Business Plan 2005 – 2010

Cllr Shepherd, the Chairman of the Project Integra Policy Review and Scrutiny Committee, gave an update on the current position. He said that at the last Project Integra Board Meeting the representative of Hampshire County Council had left the meeting. The HCC representative had subsequently said that he felt that the Project Integra Board lacked a shared vision and an ability to drive forward. Cllr Shepherd said that whilst it was clear that the Board was not operating perfectly, and this had been reflected in the Cabinet's comments on the Business Plan, the Board were looking at ways to be more proactive and improve performance.

The Environment Portfolio Holder said that Project Integra was a flagship partnership. The Partnership had been in existence for a number of years and he agreed that there were improvements that could be made. Until now the infrastructure for dealing with waste had not been in place. The Marchwood Incinerator would be finally opened soon. Many authorities had suffered as a result of a lack of facilities that were needed to reduce landfill. The Portfolio Holder

said that the statement from HCC was only the view of one individual. He was sure that the Partnership would be able to address all the issues and seek a way forward in the near future.

Other members said that Project Integra was one of the most important partnerships that the Council had. It was important that they were aware of this Council's support. The Environment Portfolio Holder confirmed that all member authorities had been contacted and assurances had been given to them.

The Chairman said that there were issues in the Business Plan that needed to be addressed. In particular, it was important that the Partnership as a whole achieved a 40% recycling target, rather than just a few individual authorities within the group. He confirmed that the Council would continue to support Project Integra.

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Cabinet dated 2 March and 6 April 2005 be received and the recommendations adopted.

65. NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL/TEST VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMERCIAL SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE.

In moving the report of the Commercial Services Joint Committee dated 3 March 2005, the Vice-Chairman amended the first line of paragraph 1(a) of the report to reflect the fact that the overall financial position was shown for the third and not first quarter of the year.

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Commercial Services Joint Committee dated 3 March 2005 be noted.

66. STANDARDS COMMITTEE.

All members present declared personal interests in item 1 of this report (Members' Allowances Scheme). They did not feel their interest was prejudicial, as the subject matter related to an exemption specified in the District Council's Code of Conduct.

The Chairman presented the report of the Standards Committee dated 25 February 2005. On the motion that the report be received and the recommendations adopted:

(a) Members' Allowances Scheme

A member proposed that there should be a 4.6% increase in members' allowances for the current year. He said that for the year commencing May 2004 a 9.2% increase had been recommended. However, the Council had limited the allowance increase to 4.6% which represented half the increase in average earnings. He felt that this year the remaining 4.6% should be awarded.

The proposal was not seconded.

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Standards Committee dated 25 February 2005 be received and the recommendations adopted.

67. GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE.

The Chairman presented the report of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee dated 25 April 2005. On the motion that the report be received and the recommendations adopted it was:

RESOLVED:

That the report of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee dated 25 April 2005 be received and the recommendations adopted.

68. PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' QUESTION TIME.

There were no Portfolio Holder questions.

69. CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2005/06.

Cllr Mrs Ford declared a personal interest in that her spouse was proposed for election as Chairman. She did not consider her interest to be prejudicial. She remained at the meeting and voted.

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Sqn Ldr B M F Pemberton be nominated as Chairman and Cllr D N Scott as Vice-Chairman of the Council for the following Municipal Year.

70. REPORT OF THE REVIEW PANELS FOR 2004/05 (REPORT B).

The Council considered the report of the Review Panels for 2004/05. Cllr Ward spoke on behalf of all the Chairmen. He said that meetings of the Chairmen of the review panels had taken place throughout the year and they had proved very useful. The Chairmen of the Planning Development Control Committee and the General Purposes and Licensing Committee had also been invited to attend.

Cllr Ward said that there was still a lot of work to be done to refine the scrutiny system. The Corporate Overview Panel was still relatively new and he hoped that members would give the revised arrangements time to settle. The report had been produced as a result of the meetings of the Chairmen and he hoped that the Council found it interesting.

The Leader of the Opposition commended the report and agreed it was the way forward. Areas for improvement had already been highlighted. She said that she felt there was still a need for more detailed scrutiny of the budget and hoped that the Corporate Overview Panel would find the capacity to undertake this.

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Review Panels for 2004/05 be noted.

71. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ACT 2003 – HIGH HEDGES.

RESOLVED:

That the Planning Development Control Committee be delegated all the functions relating to High Hedges as contained within Part 8 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003.

72. ADDITIONAL COUNCIL MEETING.

RESOLVED:

That an extraordinary meeting of the Council be held on Monday 13 June 2005 at 6:30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

(DEMOCRAT/CL250405/MINUTES.DOC)