

14 JUNE 2010

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 14 June 2010.

- p Cllr Mrs P A Wyeth – Chairman
- e Cllr J Penwarden – Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

- e G C Beck
- p D A Britton
- p Mrs D M Brooks
- p Mrs F Carpenter
- p Mrs J L Cleary
- p G F Dart
- p S P Davies
- p W H Dow
- e L T Dunsdon
- p Ms L C Ford
- p H F Forse
- p P C Greenfield
- p C J Harrison
- p D Harrison
- p E J Heron
- p J D Heron
- p P E Hickman
- p Mrs A J Hoare
- p Mrs M D Holding
- p J A G Hutchins
- p Mrs P Jackman
- p M J Kendal
- p C Lagdon
- p Mrs M E Lewis
- p Mrs K J Lord
- p Mrs P J Lovelace
- e B D Lucas
- p Mrs A E McEvoy
- e Mrs M McLean

Councillors:

- G J Parkes
- p Sqn Ldr B M F Pemberton
- p L R Puttock
- p M P Reid
- p A W Rice
- p B Rickman
- p W S Rippon-Swaine
- p Mrs M J Robinson
- e Mrs A M Rostand
- e D J Russell
- e R F Scrivens
- e Lt Col M J Shand
- e A E J Shotter
- e Mrs B Smith
- Mrs S I Snowden
- p A J Swain
- p M H Thierry
- p A R Tinsley
- p D B Tipp
- p C R Treleaven
- p F P Vickers
- e M S Wade
- S S Wade
- p R A Wappet
- p J G Ward
- e A Weeks
- e Dr M N Whitehead
- p C A Wise
- p P R Woods

Officers Attending:

D Yates, R Jackson, J Mascall, Miss G O'Rourke, Mrs R Rutins and Ms M Stephens.

8. MINUTES (PAPER A).

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meetings held on 19 April and 17 May 2010 having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as correct records.

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllrs Ms Ford, D Harrison, E J Heron, J D Heron, Mrs Holding, Kendal, Mrs McEvoy, Rice, Rickman, Rippon-Swaine and Mrs Wyeth in Minute No. 12.

10. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Chairman informed members of her activities since she took office in May. The Chairman had performed various civic duties in this time, ranging from attending local carnivals, Sea Scout events and civic services at Winchester and Test Valley.

The Chairman requested, and members agreed, that, because of the importance of the two main items on the agenda, members of the public be permitted to speak on the items set out in the scheme for public participation at meetings.

11. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Leader said that it would be of no surprise to members that the Council was receiving a number of messages and announcements from the new Government which would have a major impact on what the Council did and what the Council was planning on doing. For example proposed legislation would have an impact on the Council's review of scrutiny arrangements. The Council was also beginning to get a clearer picture of the financial challenges ahead.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer had on 24 May announced that local government would make a contribution towards an overall national saving of £6.2 billion across government in 2010/11. Details on how this Council would be affected were announced on 10 June.

It was now apparent that the Council would not receive £120,000 of Planning Delivery Grant and £70,000 of area based and Local Authority Business Growth Incentive (LABGI) that had been budgeted for in 2010/11. The Leader would ask Portfolio Holders to review the implications of this and report to the Cabinet.

In addition the Council had been informed that the second instalment of LPSA2 Reward Grant which was due in 2010/11 would now not be paid. A sum of £459,070 (50% of the total reward grant due) had been expected resulting from the Council's excellent performance as reported to the Cabinet in June.

In light of the announcement, the Leader, together with the Cabinet, would undertake a further review of expenditure requirements related to LPSA2 prior to any commitments being made with regard to the use of the reward grant.

12. REPORT OF CABINET.

Cllr Rickman, the Leader of the Council and the Chairman of the Cabinet, presented the report of the meeting held on 2 June 2010.

On the motion that the report be received and the recommendations be adopted:

(a) Ringwood Gateway Scheme – Furlong Car Park, Ringwood

Cllr D Harrison declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a member of Hampshire County Council. He withdrew from the meeting and took no part in discussion and voting.

Cllr E J Heron declared a personal interest as a member of Hampshire County Council. He remained in the meeting and voted.

Cllr Kendal declared a personal and prejudicial interest because of his position as portfolio holder for Hampshire County Council. He withdrew from the meeting and took no part in discussion and voting.

Cllr Mrs McEvoy declared a personal interest as a member of Hampshire County Council. She remained in the meeting and voted.

Cllr Rippon-Swaine declared a personal interest as a member of Hampshire County Council; and a personal and prejudicial interest as a member of Ringwood Town Council. He withdrew from the meeting and took no part in discussion and voting.

Cllr Rice declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a member of Hampshire County Council. He withdrew from the meeting and took no part in discussion and voting.

Cllr Mrs Ford declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a member Ringwood Town Council. She made a statement, withdrew from the meeting and took no part in voting.

Cllr J D Heron declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a member Ringwood Town Council. He made a statement, withdrew from the meeting and took no part in voting.

Cllr J D Heron said that the scheme had received positive feedback during consultation process and was fully supported by members of the public.

Cllr Mrs Ford said that the scheme was fully supported by Ringwood Town Council who looked forward to the new building. She also said that the scheme was supported by the residents of Ringwood.

The Planning and Transportation Portfolio Holder supported the proposal and was pleased that it recognised the amenity value of the site which was an important consideration for local people. He said that the scheme would provide a high quality building.

An important aspect of the scheme was that it would be self financing in that it would be fully funded from the sale of existing buildings and contributions from the partner authorities as well as

money already committed for new public conveniences. It would also allow more services to be provided at lower annual running costs, thus delivering savings for the Council and the taxpayer, estimated to be in the region of £50,000 per annum.

Other members spoke in support of the proposal particularly the civic pride the building would bring to the residents of Ringwood. Members congratulated officers on their hard work on this scheme.

The Planning and Transportation Portfolio Holder confirmed that positive dialogue had taken place with those parties who leased part of the Public Offices in Ringwood, which would be disposed of by the District Council.

(b) Optimisation of Office Accommodation and Arrangements for Shared Accommodation with New Forest National Park Authority

Cllrs D Harrison, E J Heron, J D Heron, Mrs Holding, Rice, Rickman and Mrs Wyeth declared personal and prejudicial interests as members of the New Forest National Park Authority. They withdrew from the meeting and took no part in the discussion or voting. Cllr D Harrison made a statement before withdrawing.

In view of the Chairman's previously declared personal and prejudicial interest, it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Wise be elected Chairman for the remainder of the meeting.

Cllr Wise took the Chair.

A number of members spoke in support of the proposal commenting particularly on the benefits it would bring to the Council and TO the New Forest National Park Authority, as well as providing value for money for the local taxpayer. Other members supported the proposal due to the benefits that the scheme would bring to Lymington as a town.

Some members hoped that this would be the first step in sharing other resources, including officers, with the New Forest National Park Authority.

The Finance and Efficiency Portfolio Holder said that the shared use of office accommodation at Lymington Town Hall would deliver financial efficiencies to the benefit of the Council and the local taxpayer. There would be additional car parking spaces, for public use at peak weekend periods on the Town Hall site, which would be another benefit to Lymington as a town.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the recommendations be adopted.

CHAIRMAN

(DEMOCRAT/CL140610/MINUTES.DOC)