

13 SEPTEMBER 2010

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 13 September 2010.

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

Councillors:

- p 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
- e S P Davies
- p W H Dow
- e L T Dunsdon
- p Ms L C Ford
- e H F Forse
- e P C Greenfield
- p C J Harrison
- p D Harrison
- p E J Heron
- p J D Heron
- e 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
- e Mrs P J Lovelace
- e B D Lucas
- p Mrs A E McEvoy
- p Mrs M McLean

Councillors:

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

Officers Attending:

D Yates, R Jackson, J Mascall, A Rogers, Mrs R Rutins and Ms M Stephens.

23. MINUTES (PAPER A).

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2010 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

No declarations of interest were made by members in connection with any agenda items.

25. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

New Forest Show

The Chairman had been honoured to receive congratulations from the President of the New Forest Show on the Council winning first prize for its exhibition at the 90th anniversary of the show.

The Chairman thanked all officers and members who had worked so hard to produce such a first class result.

Charity Supper Dance

The Chairman reminded members that she would be holding a charity supper dance on Friday, 1 October at 7.30 pm at Lyndhurst Community Centre. Tickets were £10.00 with all the proceeds going to the Oakhaven Hospice Trust. Tickets were available from her Personal Assistant, Donna-Louise Miller.

Sue Roberts

The Chairman announced with deep regret the death of Sue Roberts from Nightstop. Nightstop was a registered charity which provided emergency overnight accommodation for homeless 16 - 24 year olds.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing praised Sue for her tremendous work for the young homeless within the New Forest. She would be sadly missed by many people within the District. Other members spoke of Sue's kindness and offered their condolences to her family.

26. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Leader of the Council reminded members that the Council was awaiting the publication of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review on 20 October, which would set the financial context for the Council's work over the next few years.

The Chief Executive would organise a briefing session for all members of the Council on the outcome of the review, so that consideration could be given to the impact the Coalition Government's policies would have on the District Council and the New Forest. The briefing session would be held in early November.

27. REPORT OF GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE.

Cllr Puttock, Chairman of the Committee, presented the report of the meeting held on 10 September 2010.

On the motion that the report be received and the recommendations adopted, it was

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the recommendations be adopted.

28. REPORT OF CABINET.

The Leader of the Council, as Chairman of the Cabinet, presented the report of the Cabinet dated 1 September 2010.

On the motion that the report be received and the recommendations be adopted, it was

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the recommendations be adopted.

29. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22.

Cllr D Harrison asked the Leader of the Council the question set out under Agenda Item 6 regarding a possible change to the Constitution to provide flexibility in the timeframe for special meetings arising from the call-in of executive decisions in August.

The Leader of the Council replied that he did not consider that the Constitution should be amended as requested. The Council was a dynamic organisation and its business needed to be conducted within reasonable timeframes. He did not agree that the Council should put important business on hold just because some members might be away on summer holidays.

A decision on Cllr D Harrison's recent call-in had been needed urgently as the Council's leisure centres were losing income because of the withdrawal, at short notice, of the Government grant for free swims. To delay even further would have meant an even greater financial loss to the Council and its taxpayers.

The Council, unlike Parliament, did not go into recess. The Cabinet met in August and so did the Planning Development Control Committee. If there was other important business to deal with in mid-summer the Council would meet to deal with it. Indeed, the Panel meeting to consider Cllr D Harrison's and Cllr Mrs Robinson's call-in had been held in August.

Council members could not be available all of the time. That was why meeting law provided for a quorum – so important business could be conducted in the absence of some members.

As such the Leader did not intend to pursue Cllr D Harrison's suggestion.

30. PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' QUESTIONS

Question from: Cllr D Harrison to Cllr Treleaven, Planning and Transportation Portfolio Holder

"It is reported that the Conservative controlled Hampshire County Council plan to start charging blue badge holders for car parking. May I be reassured that there are no similar plans for blue badge holders to be charged for car parking in our own car parks?"

Answer:

The Portfolio Holder replied that the provision of appropriately sized and conveniently located bays for use by Blue Badge holders in the Council's car parks was much appreciated by people with disabilities. Although it was important to bear in mind that that Blue Badges were provided primarily to assist mobility and not as a financial benefit, the Council nevertheless did not charge those displaying a valid blue badge in its off street car parks. There were no proposals to introduce such a charge. In any event, the option to charge badge holders could only be considered if people with disabilities had convenient access to payment facilities in all of the Council's car parks. The Council's existing pay and display facilities had not been specifically designed to achieve this.

31. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Cllr J Heron be appointed to the Planning Development Control Committee in place of Cllr Mrs Carpenter; and
- (b) That Cllr Wise be appointed to the Industrial Relations Committee in place of Cllr Hutchins, and that Cllr Hutchins act as a substitute in place of Cllr Wise.

CHAIRMAN