

13 DECEMBER 2010

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 13 December 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
- p S P Davies
- e W H Dow
- p L T Dunsdon
- p Ms L C Ford
- p H F Forse
- e 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
- e M J Kendal
- p C Lagdon
- p Mrs M E Lewis
- p Mrs K J Lord
- e Mrs P J Lovelace
- p B D Lucas
- p Mrs A E McEvoy
- p Mrs M McLean

Councillors:

- p 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
- e W S Rippon-Swaine
- p Mrs M J Robinson
- p Mrs A M Rostand
- e D J Russell
- p R F Scrivens
- p Lt Col M J Shand
- p Mrs B Smith
- p Mrs S I Snowden
- p A J Swain
- e M H Thierry
- p A R Tinsley
- p D B Tipp
- p C R Treleaven
- p 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
- e C A Wise
- p P R Woods
- Vacancy

Officers Attending:

D Yates, R Jackson, J Mascall, Miss G O'Rourke and A Rogers.

34. MINUTES (PAPER A).

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2010, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr Rice declared an interest in Minute 38.

36. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**Death of Cllr Alan Shotter**

The Chairman was sad to report, formally, the death of Cllr Alan Shotter on 16 October 2010 after a short illness. She was pleased to have been able to represent the Council at his funeral, along with the Chief Executive and a number of District Councillors. Cllr Shotter was elected to the Council in May 2007. During his term of office he served on a number of Committees and Panels, in particular the Planning Development Control Committee and the General Purposes & Licensing Committee, of which he was Vice-Chairman. Cllr Shotter also served on Hampshire County Council for some years and was a long-serving member of Marchwood Parish Council. At the time of his death he was Chairman of the New Forest Association of Local Councils. Cllr Shotter devoted a great deal of his time to serving the community and would be missed by many people. The meeting stood in silence as a mark of respect to his memory.

The Basics Bank

The Chairman reported that she and her husband had arranged for New Forest Basics Bank collection boxes to be situated in the Council offices at Lyndhurst, Lyminster and New Milton throughout November. The Basics Bank covered a wide area, supplying food, household and hygiene items to local people in need and in dire emergency situations over the Christmas period and beyond.

She thanked all councillors, employees and members of public who had kindly made donations. It was estimated that the equivalent of 7 packs had been collected, each pack being able to feed a family of four for a week.

The Chairman's Charity Dinner

The Chairman had hosted a Charity Dinner at New Milton Conservative Club on Tuesday 23 November, which was well attended and a great success, raising over £400 for her chosen charities, Oakhaven Hospice and Basics Bank.

Other Events

The Chairman also reported briefly on her attendance at the following events:

- On 10 December she hosted the annual Veterans' Christmas Party at Dibden Golf Centre, which was attended by 60 veterans.
- The Chairman had enjoyed a production of The Tales of Mr Toad at Hardley School, and was planning to join the school for the OAP Christmas Party.
- The Mid Hants and Wiltshire Federation of Townswomen's' Guilds Carol Service at Hythe Cornerstone URC Church.

Business Presentations

The Chairman welcomed Mr Rob Dewing from the New Forest Branch of the Federation of Small Businesses, and Mr Ken Moon, Regional Chairman of the Wessex Federation of Small Businesses. It was explained that New Forest District Council had won the top prize for the Best Small Business Friendly Programme at the recent Federation of Small Business (FSB) Awards for the Wessex Region. The award was made in recognition of the Brand New Forest Card Scheme, the aim of which was to increase custom and spending in local independent businesses throughout the Forest. Mr Dewing and Mr Moon presented the award to Cllr Mrs Holding, as Cabinet Member for Employment, Health and Wellbeing.

The Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive signed the Federation of Small Businesses Accord on behalf of Council, followed by Mr Dewing and Mr Moon on behalf of the Federation. The Accord was a voluntary code of practice for local authorities in the South East which sought to improve dialogue with local businesses, drew together best practice, and was designed to improve the level of participation by businesses in local democracy.

The Chairman praised officers and members whose hard work had led to the award, and thanked Mr Dewing and Mr Moon for their attendance, and their guidance and work in partnership with the Council.

37. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Leader of the Council reported that the Council had earlier in the day received details of the much anticipated draft Revenue Support Grant settlement for 2011/12 and 2012/13. Later years would be subject to a wider review of Local Government finance to be undertaken by the Government.

Initial understanding of the information received was that the total revenue support grant that NFDC would receive next year was £8.9 million, which was £2.7 million less than the current year. After making an adjustment for the transfer to Hampshire County Council of Concessionary Travel the decrease was nearly £1.7 million, a reduction of nearly 16%. In 2012/13 there would be a further reduction in grant of £1.1 million.

Although this reduction was disappointing, it was within the region that the Council had been expecting and planning for. The cuts in budgets that were needed would be challenging, but the Leader believed the Council could achieve this while protecting front line services next year and freezing Council Tax. At the next meeting of the Cabinet he would share with all Members more details of the settlement, together with plans for savings which were currently being worked on.

Secondly, the Localism Bill had just been published. It set out new powers to councils and communities. There would be a briefing for all Members in due course. The Leader expressed thanks to officers, the Cabinet and other Members for their support in preparing the Council to deal with the challenges ahead.

38. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND CABINET.

Report of Standards Committee

Cllr Hutchins, Vice Chairman of the Committee, presented the report of the meeting held on 24 September 2010.

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

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the recommendations adopted.

Reports of General Purposes and Licensing Committee

Cllr Puttock, Chairman of the Committee, presented the reports of the meetings held on 10 September and 12 November 2010.

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

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received and the recommendations adopted.

Reports of Cabinet

The Leader of the Council, as Chairman of the Cabinet, presented the report of the Cabinet held on 3 November 1 December 2010.

Cllr Rice declared a personal interest in the item concerning North Solent Shoreline Management Plan and Poole and Christchurch Bays Shoreline Management Plan (Report A, Minute 35 of the Cabinet Meeting held on 3 November 2010) as a member of the North Solent Shoreline Management Plan Elected Members Group. He did not consider his interest to be prejudicial. He remained at the meeting but did not speak or vote.

In respect of the item relating to Eling Wharf Foreshore, a member expressed the view that the Council had failed in its statutory duty by not formally determining the foreshore as contaminated land. Reference was made to the reluctance of the landowners to accept that the land was contaminated until evidence of it was produced. For this reason it was felt that the Council should have taken a more robust approach, and that as a result the Council's stance might retrospectively be regarded as weak in any future court proceedings.

In reply, it was explained that the Council's officers had gone to considerable lengths in assessing the situation and the appropriate response, and, having taken advice from barristers and the Environment Agency, it was felt that the Council's approach was robust. The remedial works for the area would be closely monitored at each stage. In view of these factors the Cabinet was satisfied that the right approach had been taken.

On the motion that the reports be received and the recommendation adopted, it was:

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received and the recommendation adopted.

39. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22.

There were none.

40. PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' QUESTION TIME.

Question from: Cllr David Harrison to Cllr Mrs Holding, Employment, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder

"In the light of the Government's wish for Local Government to play a much more direct role in delivering a positive health agenda for the communities in the New Forest District, did she yet have any clear idea about how this would happen locally?"

Answer:

The Portfolio Holder replied that the National Health Service White Paper was published less than two weeks ago and guidance on the Health and Wellbeing Boards was yet to be published. The Boards would be at County and Unitary level. There were still a lot of 'unknowns' as to the structure of GP Consortia and Public Health and exactly how they would work. The GP consortia would not be confirmed until April 2011 and then would only operate in 'shadow' form for a number of months.

At present the District Council was working closely with GPs and Managers through the Practice Based Commissioning Groups in the Forest. The Portfolio Holder was co-Chair of the Public Health and Wellbeing Board and Nikki Luddington, the Council's Health and Policy Development Manager, was also a member. Local GPs and Managers were very keen to work with the Council and did so in a number of areas. Councils had been asked for ideas as to how best public health could link with a West Hampshire GP Commissioning Consortium in which pathways and schemes would be a priority and would enable primary care and public health to work collaboratively.

The Council was already involved in a wide public health agenda. Housing, leisure, community safety, health and wellbeing, reduced alcohol consumption, smoking cessation, obesity, and improving the wellbeing of older people were key priorities for the New Forest. New Forest District Council already worked on a number of joint projects including smoking prevention sessions in schools and raising awareness of the dangers of alcohol for young people. These were some of several initiatives. Community based exercise specifically aimed at reducing future risk of falls in older people were being developed to include a social element to reduce social isolation.

The Council played an important part in these matters and would continue to expand this depending on the final outcome for the GP consortia and public health.

Question from: Cllr Mrs Smith to Cllr Mrs Brooks, the Leisure, Culture and Youth Matters Portfolio Holder

“Does the Leisure, Culture and Youth Matters Portfolio Holder, share the Liberal Democrat group’s concern over government proposals to end the funding for School Sports Partnerships, and, if so, would she agree to write to the Minister, to express this Council’s concern at the short-sightedness of such proposals, in respect of the long term impact on the health of children and young people, who currently benefit from this partnership initiative?”

Answer:

The Portfolio Holder understood that the Government’s decision to change the Schools Sports Partnership was now under review. She had been in touch with Robyn Smith who was a senior Young Ambassador for the New Forest, and last week she met with Julian Lewis MP in Westminster, where Ambassadors from all over the country had submitted a petition to Michael Gove MP, the Secretary of State for Education.

Julian Lewis MP had written to the Sports Minister, Nick Gibb, and the Portfolio Holder undertook to write from the District Council to express concern about the matter. The Portfolio Holder believed that inter-school, and school, sports were very important to the health and wellbeing of youngsters, and she was very happy to say that the Council’s relationship with local schools was excellent. She was sure that, with the help of Jamie Burton, the District Council’s Sports and Youth Development Officer, the partnership would continue.

41. THE COUNCIL TAX 2011/2012 – SETTING THE BASE (REPORT B).

RESOLVED:

That, in so far as the Council is empowered to do so by law:

- (a) The calculation of the Council’s tax base for the year 2011/12 be approved; and
- (b) Pursuant to the report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) (Amendment) Regulations 2003, the amount calculated by this Council as its council tax base for the year 2011/12 be as follows, and as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report B.

PARISH/TOWN	TAX BASE 2011/12
Ashurst & Colbury	934.1
Beaulieu	516.4
Boldre	1051.9
Bramshaw	345.0
Bransgore	1870.4
Breamore	185.5
Brockenhurst	1849.5
Burley	774.9
Copythorne	1231.1
Damerham	236.5
Denny Lodge	153.7

PARISH/TOWN	TAX BASE 2011/12
East Boldre	403.4
Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley	594.7
Exbury & Lepe	109
Fawley	4904.1
Fordingbridge	2402.1
Godshill	219.3
Hale	265.5
Hordle	2477.6
Hyde	508.5
Hythe & Dibden	7843.0
Lymington & Pennington	7244.3
Lyndhurst	1415.1
Marchwood	2129.5
Martin	189.6
Milford on Sea	2763.5
Minstead	368.4
Netley Marsh	834.5
New Milton	11015.5
Ringwood	5514.0
Rockbourne	167.7
Sandleheath	281.4
Sopley	306.7
Sway	1696.2
Totton & Eling	9888.6
Whitsbury	102.0
Woodgreen	254.4
Whole District	73047.6

42. ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS AND FILLING OF VACANCIES ON COMMITTEES (REPORT C).

RESOLVED:

That the following changes be made to the membership of Committees and Panels:-

Committee/Panel	Change
Appeals Committee	Cllr Pemberton in place of Cllr Shotter
General Purposes and Licensing Committee	Cllr Mrs Wyeth in place of Cllr Shotter
Leisure, Culture and Youth Matters Review Panel	Cllr C J Harrison in place of Cllr Mrs Snowden
Planning Development Control Committee	Cllr Reid in place of Cllr Shotter

43. CHANGE OF DATE OF FEBRUARY 2011 COUNCIL MEETING.

RESOLVED:

That the meeting of the Council scheduled for 21 February 2011 be moved to 28 February 2011.

CHAIRMAN

(DEMOCRAT/CL131210/MINUTES.DOC)