

18 JULY 2011

**NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday 18 July 2011

- p Cllr J Penwarden – Chairman
- p Cllr Mrs A E McEvoy – Vice-Chairman

**Councillors:**

- p A R Alvey
- p Mrs D E Andrews
- p G C Beck
- p Ms R Bellows
- p Mrs S M Bennison
- p J E Binns
- p D A Britton
- p Mrs D M Brooks
- p S J Clarke
- p Mrs J L Cleary
- p G F Dart
- p S P Davies
- p W H Dow
- p Ms L C Ford
- p A T Glass
- p M R Harris
- p C J Harrison
- p D Harrison
- p E J Heron
- p J D Heron
- p Miss A J Hickman
- p Mrs A J Hoare
- p Mrs M D Holding
- p Mrs P Jackman
- p M J Kendal
- p A N G Kilgour
- p C Lagdon
- p Mrs M E Lewis
- p Mrs P J Lovelace

**Councillors:**

- p B D Lucas
- e Mrs M McLean
- p A D O'Sullivan
- p Sqn Ldr B M F Pemberton
- p N S Penman
- p L R Puttock
- 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
- p R F Scrivens
- p Miss A Sevier
- p M D Southgate
- p A J Swain
- p M H Thierry
- p A R Tinsley
- p D B Tipp
- p F P Vickers
- e M S Wade
- p S S Wade
- p R A Wappet
- p Mrs C V Ward
- p J G Ward
- p C A Wise
- p Mrs B M Woodifield
- p P R Woods
- p Mrs P A Wyeth

**Officers Attending:**

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

**11. MINUTES (REPORT A)**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2011 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

Cllrs Britton, Mrs Brooks, Dart, D Harrison, Lagdon, Penman, Russell and Scrivens declared interests in Minute 14.

**13. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

The Chairman had attended 19 civic events to date, highlights of these included: -

Having the honour to meet Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall at the opening of Exbury's refurbished train line.

A post operational tour presentation by the 16 (Air Assault) Brigade, recently returned from Afghanistan. The presentation had been made by the individual members of the squad. The squad had seen a huge improvement in the situation on the ground in Helmand Province since their previous deployment 18 months earlier. The profile of women in Afghanistan had increased, with women being represented on local councils. The Afghanistan Army had taken full control of operations one day a week. Their operational control would be extended to longer periods, as they gained in confidence, with a total handover in the foreseeable future.

The Hampshire Sports Day at Aldershot where teams from the New Forest were represented, sending over 200 competitors, 33 volunteers and 27 young leaders. All the game results and placing of the New Forest teams (including medal winners) could be found on [www.spoorthampshireiow.co.uk](http://www.spoorthampshireiow.co.uk)

The Calshot Sailing Club Open Day. The club had over 100 members of all ages. Two new young members, who had joined last year with no sailing experience, were now in a national team. The Chairman encouraged those with an interest in sailing to join.

The Coxlease School open day to see the new purpose-built classrooms which had replaced the poor quality classrooms and a new gymnasium.

A Buckingham Palace Garden Party in company with one of the Council's long-serving employees, Robert Powell, and his sister. Robert had worked in local government for 40 years.

A Senior Citizens' Party at Hardley School, where pupils from the school provided both entertainment and refreshments.

Presenting prizes at the Dibden ProAm Golf event. The event had been organised by the ProAm Golf Association and the Council's Leisure Services. Forty-three teams had competed for prizes. A proportion of the funds raised from the event would go towards the Chairman's charities.

The Chairman reminded councillors that the New Forest Show would take place on 26 – 28 July.

**14. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

There were none.

**15. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND CABINET.****Report of General Purposes and Licensing Committee**

Cllrs Britton, Mrs Brooks, Dart, D Harrison, Lagdon, Penman, Russell and Scrivens declared a personal interest in this item as members of Totton and Eling Town Council, which had applied for the necessary permission to run a street market on the highway. They considered that their interest was prejudicial and withdrew from the meeting for the consideration and voting. Cllr D Harrison made a statement as detailed below before leaving the meeting.

Cllr Beck, as Chairman of the Committee, presented the report of the Committee meeting held on 10 June 2011.

**(1) Street Trading – Proposals for Weekly Market off Salisbury Road, Totton**

Cllr D Harrison thanked the Committee for supporting the market, which he considered would prove economically viable. The market had been welcomed by all Town Council members. He encouraged other members to visit the market. He mentioned what he considered to be the negative impact car parking charges could have, not only on the market, but on Totton as a whole.

Other members spoke in support of the market and of the hard work undertaken by local councillors to reinstate it. They asked the Council to support the recommendations of the Committee.

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

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be received and the recommendations adopted.

**Reports of Cabinet**

The Leader of the Council, as Chairman of the Cabinet, presented the reports of the Cabinet meetings held on 1 June and 6 July 2011.

**(2) Installation of Solar Photovoltaic Panels on the Council's Civic Estate and Housing Stock**

It was reported that this issue had been recently discussed at Hampshire County Council's full council meeting. The County had been informed that the Government's current feed-in tariff would be reduced by the end of the financial year and that this would apply to panels installed after March 2012.

The County Council's initial capital investment for their project installations was £15.8 million and the County expected that this would pay for itself in 15 years through reduced energy costs and income from feed-in tariffs. The County would be happy to share information and hold discussions with the District Council on this matter.

**(3) Dibden Golf Centre Service Review – Procurement Options**

A member asked that when undertaking the review of the Golf Centre, all options for its future, including retaining management of the Golf Centre in-house, be considered. It was reported that some of the Golf Centre users had expressed concerns that outsourcing the running of the Centre might increase club and casual user charges, which would force current users to find alternative facilities.

The Leader of the Council assured members that the review would consider all possible options.

**(5) Medium Term Financial Plan – Budget Update 2011/12**

A member expressed concern that when the contract for the refurbishment works at the North Milton Estate had been entered into, officers had not had appropriate delegation to do so and that the District Auditor might look unfavourably on this.

The Leader of the Council responded that the work on the estate would ensure that all Council-owned properties on the estate met the Decent Homes Standard and that there would be close monitoring of the contract to ensure value for money.

The Chief Executive added that the various elements of the refurbishment works had been packaged together at a late stage in the project to form one large contract to give better value for money. However, in doing so, a technical issue in the procedure for the entering into of the contract had arising, but that this had been rectified by the Cabinet's decision on 6 July.

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

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be received and the recommendation adopted.

**16. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22.**

There were none.

**17. NOTICE OF MOTION.**

Cllr Tipp moved the following motion standing in his name:

“It is widely known that energy bills have been rising at rates well above inflation in the past few years and that this is already adversely affecting businesses and causing financial hardship to many people throughout the country on low incomes, including residents of this District.

In light of this I propose that the Council should write to the Government, urging it not to make commitments to reduce carbon dioxide emissions further or faster than other major industrial nations without a world-wide binding commitment by all those other industrial nations, as such a unilateral commitment would add further increases to UK energy prices causing increasing hardship.”

The motion was seconded.

**RESOLVED:**

That under the provisions of Standing Order 41, the motion be referred to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel for recommendation to the Cabinet and ultimately to the Council.

**18. PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' QUESTIONS.**

There were none.

**19. CHANGE OF DATE OF FEBRUARY 2012 COUNCIL MEETING**

**RESOLVED:**

That the meeting of the Council scheduled for Monday, 20 February 2012 be moved to Monday, 27 February 2012 at 6.30 pm.

**20. MEETING DATES FOR THE 2012/13 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

**RESOLVED:**

That the meetings be held on the following Mondays at 6.30pm.

14 May 2012 (annual meeting, already agreed)

16 July 2012

10 September 2012

22 October 2012

10 December 2012

25 February 2013

15 April 2013

13 May 2013 (Annual Meeting)

**21. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS**

No changes to committees and panels were proposed by the political groups.

CHAIRMAN