

10 SEPTEMBER 2012

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 10 September 2012

- p Cllr Mrs A E McEvoy – Chairman
- p Cllr Ms L C Ford – Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

- p A R Alvey
- p Mrs D E Andrews
- p G C Beck
- p Mrs S V Beeton
- ap Ms R Bellows
- p Mrs S M Bennison
- ap J E Binns
- p D A Britton
- p Mrs D M Brooks
- p S J Clarke
- p Mrs J L Cleary
- ap G F Dart
- ap S P Davies
- p W H Dow
- 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
- ap Mrs P J Lovelace

Councillors:

- p B D Lucas
- ap Mrs M McLean
- p A D O'Sullivan
- p N S Penman
- p J Penwarden
- p L R Puttock
- p A W Rice
- p B Rickman
- p W S Rippon-Swaine
- p Mrs M J Robinson
- ap 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
- p M S Wade
- p S S Wade
- p R A Wappet
- p Mrs C V Ward
- ap J G Ward
- p C A Wise
- p Mrs B M Woodfield
- p P R Woods
- p Mrs P A Wyeth

Officers Attending:

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

29. MINUTES (REPORT A).

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2012 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllrs Lagdon, M S Wade, S S Wade and Mrs Wyeth disclosed interests in Minute 34 (Report of General Purposes and Licensing Committee, Item 1).

Cllrs D Harrison, E J Heron, Mrs Holding, Mrs Jackman, Rice, Rickman and Mrs Wyeth disclosed interests in Minute 34 (Report of Cabinet dated 5 September, Item 3).

31. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Mrs Sophie Beeton, the newly-elected Councillor for Milford ward, to her first meeting of the Council, and congratulated her on her election.

Civic Day

The Chairman reported that her Civic Day held on 20 July had been highly successful. The Waterside part of the district had been showcased with visits to Calshot Activity Centre, the 17 Port & Maritime Regiment Royal Logistic Corps at Marchwood, and Exbury Gardens. The Chairman thanked Donna-Louise Miller for her help in organising the day.

HM Visit to New Forest Show

The Chairman, along with the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive, had been extremely honoured to have met Her Majesty The Queen at the New Forest & Hampshire County Show on Wednesday 25 July.

New Forest Olympic Heroes

The Chairman congratulated all of the New Forest's Olympic and Paralympic heroes, in particular, Ben Ainslie from Lymington, who won Gold in the Sailing Finn Class, Dan McMillan from Sway for Handball, Aaron Phipps from Totton who played Wheelchair Rugby, and Bethany Woodward from Ferndown but previously from Ringwood who won Silver in T37 200m and Bronze in the 4x100m relay, the Handy Trust volunteers who were Paralympic torch bearers.

The Chairman was proud to announce that New Forest District Council had received an official certificate of thanks from the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, for the part the Council had played in the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay.

Dibden Golf Pro-am

On Friday the 10 August, the annual pro-am golf tournament had taken place at Dibden Golf Centre. Mytime Active, the operators of the Centre, upheld the tradition of running the event. The event had been a huge success thanks to the generosity of local businesses and the hard work of the staff at Dibden. The Chairman had been presented with a cheque for £1,000 for her two chosen charities.

Congratulations to Lucinda Upton

The Chairman congratulated the Council's Principal Auditor Lucinda Upton, for achieving an NVQ Level 7 in Strategic Management and Leadership. Lucinda had studied at Bournemouth and Poole College which would shortly award her with the Student of the Year award, last presented in 2008. All members congratulated Lucinda on her achievement.

Proms Spectacular

The Chairman announced that she would be hosting a proms spectacular event at Lepe Country Park on Sunday, 23 September from 5pm. Tickets could be purchased from the Chairman's PA, Donna-Louise Miller. The Chairman encouraged all members to support the event.

32. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

There were none.

33. BY-ELECTION FOR DISTRICT COUNCIL MILFORD WARD – 19 JULY 2012 – REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER (REPORT B).

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Returning Officer on the By-Election for the Milford Ward be noted.

34. REPORT OF COMMITTEE AND CABINET.

Report of General Purposes and Licensing Committee

Cllr M S Wade disclosed a pecuniary interest in this item as his wife worked for the Authority. He did not participate in the debate and abstained from voting. Cllrs Lagdon, S S Wade and Mrs Wyeth disclosed non-pecuniary interests in this item as family members worked for the Authority. They concluded that there were issues under common law which prevented them from speaking and voting. They did not speak and abstained from voting.

Cllr Beck, as Chairman of the Committee, presented the report of the Committee meeting held on 7 September 2012.

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.

Reports of Cabinet

Cllrs D Harrison, E J Heron, Mrs Holding, Mrs Jackman, Rice, Rickman and Mrs Wyeth disclosed interests in the report of the Cabinet dated 5 September (item 3), as members of the New Forest National Park Authority. Under common law rules, they did not participate in the debate nor voted on the matter.

Cllr Rickman, the Leader of the Council and Chairman of the Cabinet, presented the reports of the Cabinet held on 1 August and 5 September 2012.

Item 3 – (Meeting held on 5 September 2012) - Tree Service

Cllr Mrs Robinson, whilst pleased to learn that the Council would make savings through this proposed partnership working with the New Forest National Park Authority, requested that a robust monitoring process form part of the Service Level Agreement. The Council had an excellent tree service, which had protected a large number of trees. She hoped that the District would continue to receive the same standard of service under the new arrangements.

The Leader of the Council replied that the Council would monitor closely the Service Level Agreement. Local members would also continue to be included in the tree preservation order confirmation process where objections were received.

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

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received and recommendations adopted.

35. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22.

There were none.

36. QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22A.

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

“How many sites are there in the New Forest District Council area where planning permission has already been granted for housing development but still remain undeveloped?”

Answer:

The Portfolio Holder replied that there were 15 large sites (10 or more dwellings) outstanding, of which 10 had not been started – i.e. did not currently have dwellings under construction.

Cllr D Harrison asked a supplementary question as to whether the Council had considered imposing financial penalties on those developers who had agreed schemes, but whose planning permission had expired. The Portfolio Holder was unsure whether the Council had powers in this regard but would look into the matter and advise members. However he reported that there was in place planning permission in the district outside the National Park for 1,137 dwellings. This included 198 affordable dwellings. Overall, 298 (63 affordable) dwellings were currently under construction and would be completed shortly.

Question from: Cllr C Harrison to the Leader of the Council

“Is the Leader now able to confirm the cause of the Council’s recent IT outage?”.

Answer:

The Chief Executive replied that the Executive Management Team would consider the matter at their meeting the following day. The report was available on Forestnet under the EMT section. He said that the report indicated that the systems failed due to a problem with the Firmware. Firmware was used in hardware storage devices such as disk controllers. It was likely that a power surge stimulated the fault to produce the multiple disk failure. EMT would discuss options to minimise the risk of similar failures occurring in the future.

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

“Has the Council considered opening the car park at Appletree Court to members of the public attending the St George’s Day parade, as the public had experienced difficulties parking on the day of the parade?”

Answer:

In reply it was reported that that the Council had discussed making the car park at Appletree Court available as an overflow car park in the past and had done so for the Olympic Torch Relay. However there were a number of security issues to consider. The Portfolio Holder would look into this matter in more detail.

37. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS.

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

CHAIRMAN

(CL100912)