

15 JULY 2013

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday 15 July 2013.

- p Cllr Ms L C Ford – Chairman
- p Cllr Mrs M D Holding – Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

- p A R Alvey
- p Mrs D E Andrews
- p G C Beck
- p Mrs S V Beeton
- 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 A T Glass
- ap M R Harris
- p C J Harrison
- p D Harrison
- p E J Heron
- p J D Heron
- ap Miss A J Hickman
- p Mrs A J Hoare
- p Mrs P Jackman
- ap M J Kendal
- p A N G Kilgour
- ap C Lagdon
- ap Mrs M E Lewis
- p Mrs P J Lovelace
- B D Lucas

Councillors:

- p Mrs A E McEvoy
- p 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
- p Mrs A M Rostand
- p D J Russell
- p R F Scrivens
- ap 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
- ap Mrs C V Ward
- p J G Ward
- p C A Wise
- ap 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.

9. MINUTES (PAPERS A AND B).

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the special meeting and the annual meeting held on 13 May 2013 be signed by the Chairman as correct records.

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr M S Wade in Minute 13 – Report of the General Purposes & Licensing Committee dated 5 July 2013.

11. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Standing when speaking during meetings of the Council

The Chairman announced that she would not be asking members to stand when speaking at meetings of the Council during her term of office.

Questions to Portfolio Holders under Standing Order 22A

The Chairman did not intend, as a matter of course, to allow questions to Portfolio Holders under Standing Order 22A when proper notice of the question had not been given. The standing orders gave the Chairman discretion to take additional questions without the required notice if time allowed, but she said she would exercise discretion in exceptional circumstances only.

Civic Service

The Chairman's Civic Service would be held on Sunday 28 July 2013 at 3.00 pm at the Church of St Mary & All Saints, Ellingham. All members were welcome to attend. The Chairman was looking forward to showcasing the church to the civic heads and to other members who might not have visited it before.

New Forest Show

The Chairman reminded members that the New Forest Show would take place on 30th & 31st July and 1st August 2013. This was a significant event for the District. The District Council would have a stand, themed "Get involved", with the Leisure team offering taster exercise sessions. The Brand New Forest campaign would also be promoted. The Chairman hoped members would support the show by attending and visiting the NFDC stand.

Hampshire Commuter Challenge

Council staff had taken part in the Hampshire Commuter Challenge in May and competed against other organisations to see who could save the most miles travelling to work by walking, cycling, taking public transport or car-sharing. Thanks to a sterling effort, Appletree Court employees won in the large organisation category and had been presented with a trophy and a hamper. The hamper had been raffled off to staff and had raised some money for the Chairman's chosen charities. The Chairman thanked the staff who participated for their efforts in reducing their mileage, for winning the prize, and for donating the hamper.

Death of Employee

The Chairman referred to the untimely death of one of the Council's Environment Services employees, Phil Hunt, who had passed away the previous week during the course of his refuse collection duties. Phil had worked for the authority for 8 years, initially at the Totton Depot and more recently at Lymington.

That Chairman extended the Council's heartfelt sympathy to Phil Hunt's family at this sad time.

12. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Ringwood Gateway

The Leader of the Council was delighted to announce that the Ringwood Gateway, the Council's shared public services building with Ringwood Town Council and Hampshire County Council, had won 'Best Partnership Project' at the Building Excellence Awards for the South-East region. The scheme would go through to the national finals in London later this year.

The Leader said that it had been wonderful to see the development of this modern and innovative facility which was being well used by local people. He thanked the members and officers who had been involved in the project for their hard work and commitment and congratulated them on this very deserving award. He also thanked the Council's partners in the project, Ringwood Town Council and Hampshire County Council, for helping to achieve this success.

Some members remarked that the Ringwood Gateway was one of the finest community projects that they had seen implemented.

13. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, PANELS AND CABINET.

Report of General Purposes and Licensing Committee

Cllr M S Wade declared a disclosable pecuniary interest on the grounds that his wife worked for the Authority. He took no part in the debate and did not vote.

Cllr Dow, Vice-Chairman of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee, presented the report of the meeting held on 15 July 2013.

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

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the recommendation be adopted.

Report of Cabinet

Cllr Rickman, the Leader of the Council and Chairman of the Cabinet, presented the report of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 5 June and 3 July 2013.

CCTV, Community Alarms & Out of Hours Service

Members paid tribute to officers and members of the Task & Finish Group involved in developing the proposals. They welcomed the opportunity for the Council to add value to its services and the future business opportunities the proposals would bring. Members hoped to see other reviews across the Council result in similar innovative outcomes.

On the motion that the report be received, it was:

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the recommendation be adopted.

14. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22.

There were none.

15. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22A.

Question from: Cllr M S Wade to Cllr Mrs Brooks, Health & Leisure Portfolio Holder

“Would the Portfolio Holder support putting in a bid for funding to provide free swimming for ex-service men and women of the British Armed Forces at our Leisure Centres?”

Answer:

The Portfolio Holder replied that while the Council offered advantageous rates at the Council’s leisure centres to serving members of the Armed Forces (and also the emergency services), there was a far greater number of ex-service personnel who would potentially be eligible for concessions. Council taxpayers would have to bear the burden of any concessions and for this reason she was reluctant to progress the matter. However, if Cllr M S Wade or any other members were aware of grants that might be available to support such a scheme, she would be happy to investigate the matter further.

Fluoridiation

With the consent of the Chairman, and arising from the informal presentation by Dr Ruth Milton, Hampshire’s Director Public Health, before the meeting, Cllr D Harrison asked the Leader of the Council if he would consider writing, on behalf of this Council, to Hampshire County Council, conveying its previously expressed strong opposition to the fluoridation of public water supplies. The Leader of the Council agreed to do this.

16. MEETING DATES FOR THE 2014/15 MUNICIPAL YEAR.

RESOLVED:

That meetings be held on the following Mondays at 6.30 pm:-

- 19 May 2014 (Annual meeting, already agreed)
- 14 July 2014
- 8 September 2014
- 20 October 2014
- 8 December 2014
- 23 February 2015
- 13 April 2015
- 18 May 2015 (Annual Meeting)

17. DELEGATION OF POWERS TO OFFICERS.

The Council considered changes to the Scheme of Delegation of powers to officers.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the following officers be authorised to make all decisions and to take all actions under the Town and County Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995, as amended (including the most recent amendment in Statutory Instrument 2013 No 1101)

- Head of Planning and Transportation
- Development Control Manager
- Planning Enforcement Team Leader
- Area Planning Officers

(It was noted that a protocol would be drawn up under which the above officers would consult with the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Planning Development Control Committee and ward councillors prior to making a decision where the “prior approval” of the local planning authority was required.)

- (b) That all existing “prior approval” delegations under the Council’s Scheme of Delegation be updated to reflect this new delegation.

18. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS.

RESOLVED:

That the following changes be made to the General Purposes & Licensing Committee: -

- i. That Cllr Mrs McEvoy be appointed to fill the current vacancy; and
- ii. That Cllrs Mrs Beeton and Kilgour be appointed to the Committee in place of Cllrs Thierry and Mrs Wyeth.

CHAIRMAN