

14 JULY 2014

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 14 July 2014.

- p Cllr Mrs M D Holding – Chairman
- p Cllr Mrs A J Hoare – Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

- p A R Alvey
- p Mrs D E Andrews
- p G C Beck
- ap 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
- ap G F Dart
- p S P Davies
- p W H Dow
- p A T Glass
- ap Ms L C Ford
- p 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 P Jackman
- p M J Kendal
- p A N G Kilgour
- p C Lagdon
- p Mrs M E Lewis
- p Mrs P J Lovelace
- p 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
- ap D J Russell
- p R F Scrivens
- p Miss A Sevier
- p M D Southgate
- A J Swain
- 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
- 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, Miss G O'Rourke, Mrs R Rutins and Ms M Stephens.

11. MINUTES (PAPER A).

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the annual meeting held on 19 May 2014 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the amendment that Cllr Mrs Robinson be noted as giving her apologies.

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllrs Lagdon and M S Wade in Minute No. 15, item 1 of the Report of General Purposes & Licensing Committee dated 13 June 2014.

Cllr Mrs Rostand in Minute No. 15, item 1 of the Report of Cabinet dated 4 June 2014.

13. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Chairman announced that she had taken part in numerous events across the New Forest and Hampshire which had been both interesting and wide ranging.

She had attended the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. She had also had the honour of being presented to the Earl of Wessex at the Minstead Training Trust open morning.

The Chairman had attended several events across Hampshire to celebrate the centenary of WWI, including the Drumhead Ceremony at Portsmouth, the Hampshire County First World War Centenary Service at Winchester Cathedral as well as the annual Commemoration Service at the Forest Airfields at Holmsley. The Vice-Chairman also attended the Memorial Service at Lepe Country Park.

The Chairman attended the Hampshire and Isle of Wight sports annual games held at the Aldershot Military Athletics Stadium as well as the Ferny Crofts Scouts Open Day and also the Hampshire Scouts AGM in Winchester. She had also represented the New Forest at the South East Reserve Forces and Cadets' Association 2014 Hampshire and Isle of Wight Counties Briefing held at the National Oceanography Centre.

In celebration of Older People's day on 12 July, the Chairman had visited two care homes in the New Forest - Hartwood House, Lyndhurst and Woodlands House, Woodlands.

The Chairman had attended many other civic events including services, receptions, charity and fundraising events across Hampshire.

Armed Forces Day

On Monday 23 June the Chairman had had the honour of raising the Armed Forces Day flag outside Appletree Court. As the flag was raised, Rob Mangles, facility manager at New Milton health and leisure centre, had played the traditional 'Reveille' on a World War Two bugle.

Council wins award for support to Reserve Forces

The Council had received a special award for the support given to members of the Reserve Forces (past, present and future), presented by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Hampshire, Dame Mary Fagan, on 1st July . The award was collected on behalf of the Council by Mrs Catherine Granville (HR Operations Manager) at a reception on board HMS Victory, Portsmouth.

Civic Service – Sunday 13th July 2014

The Chairman thanked the Councillors who had attended the Chairman's Civic Service on Sunday 13 July at St Saviour's Church, Brockenhurst.

Australian Visit

The Chairman had had the pleasure and honour of welcoming the Governor of New South Wales, Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO and her consort to Appletree Court as part of their official visit to England to celebrate the bicentenary of Captain (later Admiral) Arthur Phillip's death in 1814. Arthur Phillip, a former resident of Lyndhurst, led the first fleet of convicts to Australia and later became the first Governor of New South Wales.

New Forest Show

The Chairman reminded councillors that the New Forest Show would take place on 29 – 31 July. She encouraged all councillors to go along and support the event and visit the NFDC display. The theme for the show this year was 'hands on' where people would be encouraged to participate in activities and experience country life.

14. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**NFDC & New Forest Tourism Association**

Since its creation by New Forest District Council in 1989, the New Forest Tourism Association (NFTA) had become the voice of local tourism representing over 250 businesses from world class hotels, such as the Chewton Glen, right through to the smallest pubs, shops and B&Bs.

The partnership between NFDC and NFTA had been valuable in unlocking the true potential of tourism over the years by creating significant economic benefits, such as the many apprenticeships for young local people, as well as providing a significant engine to support the wider quality of life for all residents. The tourism industry did much to underpin a vibrant and locally resilient economy.

While the partnership had benefited from NFDC's investment of officer time and resources, the industry's investment of funds and facilities in support of joint activities, the NFTA should be congratulated that the public/private partnership's fitness for purpose was still every bit as effective as when it was originally formed 25 years ago. It had been interesting to note that this had not been the case elsewhere in the county as structures had come and gone almost with the seasons.

The Leader of the Council was happy to report that this unique partnership recognised the need to preserve and protect the natural beauty of this sensitive and unique area of England, working closely with the National Park and the Forestry Commission to market and promote the New Forest as one of the UK's premier quality visitor destinations.

As part of the Silver Jubilee celebrations, Lady Penelope Cobham (Chairman) and James Berresford (Chief Executive) of VisitEngland, the country's national Tourism Authority, would be visiting the New Forest Show on 30 July to participate in commemorating this tourism milestone for the area.

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014

The Leader of the Council reported that The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 were due to come into force at the end of July. The Regulations allowed any person attending a public local government meeting to take photographs, film or audio record the proceedings or to report on them. The Regulations required authorities to provide reasonable facilities to facilitate the requirements of the legislation. The new rules applied to all Councils including Town and Parish Councils. A protocol to reflect the new rules would be developed and circulated to Members in due course.

15. REPORTS 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 speak and abstained from voting. Cllr Lagdon disclosed a non-pecuniary interest in this item as a family member worked for the Authority. He did not speak.

Cllr Beck Chairman of the General Purposes & Licensing Committee, presented the report of the meeting held on 13 June 2014.

Cllr Beck, moved that the report heading be amended to read 'Local Government Pension Scheme – Policy Statement on Pension Discretions'.

The amendment was seconded.

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

RESOLVED:

That the recommendation be adopted, subject to the amendment of the report heading to read 'Local Government Pension Scheme – Policy Statement on Pension Discretions'.

Reports of Cabinet

Cllr Mrs Rostand disclosed a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 1 (Beach Huts at Milford on Sea) of the Report of Cabinet dated 4 June 2014 on the grounds that she owned a beach hut at Milford on Sea. She did not speak and abstained from voting.

The Leader of the Council, as Chairman of the Cabinet, presented the reports of the meetings held on 4 June and 2 July 2014.

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

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received and the recommendations be adopted.

16. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22.

There were none.

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

Question 1: from Cllr D Harrison to Cllr E J Heron, Environment Portfolio Holder

"I am concerned at reports that Southampton City Council are proposing to reduce air quality monitoring just at a time when traffic congestion into the city is becoming a regular occurrence. With the prospect of more traffic congestion and Heavy Goods Vehicle movements in parts of the New Forest District, particularly in the areas I represent, may I have his assurance there are no planned reductions in monitoring by this Council?"

Answer:

The Portfolio Holder replied that there were no plans to reduce air quality monitoring overall, but that areas being monitored fluctuated depending on circumstances.

Question 2: from Cllr D Harrison to Cllr E J Heron, Environment Portfolio Holder

"Totton suffered the menace of abandoned shopping trolleys from Asda supermarket for years until they eventually took up my suggestion of a pound coin return system. To my dismay, the other major supermarket in the town, Morrisons, has apparently decided to no longer use such a system. I now fear we will have similar problems with Morrisons shopping trolleys.

Could the Portfolio Holder please outline what consultation has taken place between the store and the Council, whether he agrees that the decision of Morrisons will likely lead to problems, and whether the Council will toughen up its stance, using the legislative powers it has to penalise the store, if trolleys are removed from the site and end up in surrounding roads, ditches and rivers?"

Answer:

The Portfolio Holder replied that Morrisons had not consulted the Council prior to their decision, but that there was no obligation for them to do so. He undertook to write to Morrisons reminding them of the Council's powers under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. These included authority for the Council to seize abandoned shopping trolleys and to charge the owners of the shopping trolleys for their return.

18. MEETING DATES FOR THE 2015/16 MUNICIPAL YEAR.

RESOLVED:

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

18 May 2015 (Annual meeting, already agreed)

13 July 2015

7 September 2015

19 October 2015

7 December 2015

22 February 2016

18 April 2016

16 May 2016 (Annual Meeting)

19. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS.

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

CHAIRMAN

(CL140714)