

8 SEPTEMBER 2014

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 8 September 2014

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

Councillors:

- p A R Alvey
- ap 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
- Ms L C Ford
- p A T Glass
- p M R Harris
- p C J Harrison
- ap D Harrison
- p E J Heron
- p J D Heron
- ap Miss A J Hickman
- p Mrs P Jackman
- p M J Kendal
- A N G Kilgour
- C Lagdon
- p Mrs M E Lewis
- ap 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
- ap L R Puttock
- p A W Rice
- p B Rickman
- ap 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
- ap M D Southgate
- p A J Swain
- ap M H Thierry
- p A R Tinsley
- D B Tipp
- p F P Vickers
- ap M S Wade
- p S S Wade
- p R A Wappet
- p Mrs C V Ward
- ap J G Ward
- ap C A Wise
- p Mrs B M Woodfield
- p P R Woods
- p Mrs P A Wyeth

Officers Attending:

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

20. MINUTES (PAPER A).

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2014 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllrs Britton, Mrs Brooks, Dart, Lucas, Penman, Russell and Scrivens in Minute No. 24, item 1 of the Report of Cabinet dated 6 August 2014.

22. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**Chairman's Activities**

The Chairman reported that since the last meeting of the Council she had represented the Council at a wide range of events in the New Forest, Hampshire and Dorset.

She had been privileged to take part in the Lantern of Remembrance dedication service with Cllr Barbara Woodfield (Mayor of Ringwood) outside the Gateway building in Ringwood to celebrate those who had given their lives in battle. She had also attended a service to commemorate members of the Royal Hampshire Regiment killed in action, held at the Memorial Garden at Serle's House, Winchester, and the WW1 vigil at Winchester Cathedral to mark the 'Lights Out' initiative.

She had presented the charity cheques arising from the New Milton Recreation Centre's Little Big Spin event; and had also attended:

- the New Forest Show and had been present at the ceremony during which Lady Penelope Cobham, the Chairman of VisitEngland, had cut the cake marking 25 years of putting the New Forest officially on the tourism map. The Chief Executive of VisitEngland had also attended.
- the opening of the art review at Brockenhurst College;
- the end of year celebration at Coxlease School, Lyndhurst
- the Hampshire Scouting Jamboree at Buddens Scout Camp near Wareham
- the opening of the railway bridge at Brockenhurst Railway Station where a lift had been installed for wheelchair use.
- the show at Happy's Circus at Burley
- the open event at Solent Station at Marchwood Military Port to view the Sea Mounting Centre

Council's Success at the New Forest Show

The Chairman was very pleased to report that the Council's Health and Leisure marquee had been judged the best trade stand at the New Forest Show, and had also received an extra special award - the J W Howlett Challenge Cup, for the best local stand in any section. The Chairman congratulated and thanked officers involved in achieving such an outstanding success for the Council.

Civic Day – Friday 19 September

The Chairman would host her Civic Day on Friday 19 September. The theme would be 'Living and working in the New Forest'. Various sites across the New Forest would be showcased, including the Beaulieu Road Pony Sales, the New Park Hampshire County showground, the Balmer Lawn Hotel in Brockenhurst and Paulton's Park.

The Immortal 7th Division – Friday 12 September

The Chairman would be hosting a small event on Friday 12 September in the grounds of Appletree Court to commemorate the Great War and the New Forest's connection to the 7th Division. The 7th Division had been formed in September 1914 and had assembled in the New Forest at Lyndhurst before being posted to Belgium and entrenched at Ypres. They had been the first troop to occupy Ypres where they had served with extreme bravery. The 7th Division had played a key role in several other battles during the First World War. Representatives from Marchwood Military Port, Lyndhurst Parish Council, the Royal British Legion (Lyndhurst branch), Friends of New Forest Airfields and the New Forest National Park would attend the event.

Death of Dr Andrew Bradbury, Coastal Projects Manager

The Chairman referred with deep regret of the recent sudden and tragic death of Andy Bradbury, who had been employed as the Council's Coastal Projects Manager. Members spoke in memory of Andy and paid tribute to his many achievements in the field of coast protection. His knowledge and experience of coast protection matters had made him a highly respected figure locally, nationally and internationally. One of his major achievements in the district had been the refurbishment of Hurst Spit which had proved to be an extremely important and effective coastal defence. He had been at the forefront of the rapid response to the extreme weather conditions on the night of 14 February 2014.

Andy would be remembered for his immense contribution to coastal work locally, nationally and internationally. He would be greatly missed by everyone at New Forest District Council.

Death of former Councillor Roy Bowring

The Chairman reported with regret the death of former Councillor Roy Bowring. Members spoke in memory of former Councillor Bowring, particularly his knowledge and love of Hordle (the area he represented) and the New Forest, and his untiring efforts for local people.

23. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

There were none.

24. REPORTS OF CABINET.

Cllrs Britton, Mrs Brooks, Dart, Lucas, Penman, Russell and Scrivens disclosed non-pecuniary interests in item 1 (Eling Tide Mill and Learning Centre) of the report of the Cabinet dated 6 August 2014 as members of Totton and Eling Town Council which was a partner in the project. They had received dispensations to speak from the Proper Officer of the Council. They did not vote.

The Leader of the Council, as Chairman of the Cabinet, presented the reports of the meetings held on 6 August and 3 September 2014.

On the motion that the reports be received and the recommendations adopted:

Item 1 – (6 August 2014) – Eling Tide Mill and Learning Centre

Members congratulated officers of both the District and Town Councils for their hard work and efforts to develop the project and secure the grant from the National Lottery Fund.

Item 2 – (6 August 2014) – Beach Huts at Milford on Sea

Cllr Kendal thanked the Head of Environment Services for his hard work and diligence in dealing with the complex issue of the damage to the beach huts. He expressed the view that the Cabinet's recommendation represented a reasonable solution for all concerned, given the devastating damage arising from the extreme weather on 14 February 2014. However, the Council could not guarantee that the new structures would withstand a similar storm, and he considered that this should be made clear to the beach hut owners to protect the Council's future position. Cllr Kendal requested that if a project board was established, both Milford on Sea district councillors be invited to serve on it.

The Environment Portfolio Holder confirmed that the Council could not guarantee the future stability of the new huts if the area suffered another severe storm. However the design and specification for the replacement huts had been based on withstanding the conditions experienced during the 14 February storm. The Council was moving forward despite the difficult circumstances.

Item 2 – (3 September 2014) Applemore Health and Leisure Centre

In response to a query regarding the delay in the works at Applemore Health & Leisure Centre, the Leader of the Council had no further information to report. However, a review involving local members would take place at the appropriate time and the outcome would be shared with members of the Council.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be received and the recommendations be adopted.

25. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22.

There were none.

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

Because of Cllr D Harrison's absence due to illness, the question he had submitted would be held over until the next meeting.

Question: from Cllr Mrs Brooks to Cllr Vickers, Planning & Transportation Portfolio Holder

"Now that it has become clear that we will be required to introduce CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) on 6 April 2015, could the Portfolio Holder explain to members what the implications are for existing section 106 monies?"

Answer:

The Portfolio Holder replied that from 6 April 2015 the process for collecting the majority of developer contributions would be replaced by the new system (CIL), where a fixed amount per dwelling would be collected instead of amounts for different types of infrastructure. From this date there would also be national restrictions on the use of pooled contributions. As the contributions collected from small developments generally could not fully fund projects, it had been Council practice to pool multiple contributions (e.g. for land purchase or enhancement of a play area). The new rules would restrict the use of contributions from 6 April 2015. The Council's Planning Policy Officer would shortly invite Town and Parish Councils (with the exception of those within the National Park) to a meeting to discuss the allocation of the Section 106 monies that the District Council currently held. It was important that all contributions currently held and identified were allocated to schemes to ensure that projects could proceed unimpeded by the pooling restrictions.

In response to a supplementary question regarding the preparations the Council needed to make for the introduction of CIL, the Portfolio Holder explained that the new process had the potential to raise as much as £800,000 per year. However, before any CIL receipts could be allocated to projects there were the following calls on the contributions:

- (a) The District Council could use up to 5% of the total receipts to recover the costs of administering the system
- (b) 15% of the receipts had to be passed to the Town or Parish Council where development had taken place. The Town or Parish then had to determine the infrastructure for which it had to be used and account for it annually. If a Parish had a neighbourhood plan the proportion of the CIL receipt allocated to them would rise to 25%.
- (c) For various legal reasons it would be necessary for the first call on any CIL funds remaining with the District Council would be for the provision of Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANGS).

When the above deductions were taken into account, approximately £300,000 per annum should remain for the Council to allocate to other infrastructure projects.

A report on the proposed allocation mechanism would be submitted to the Cabinet on 1 October. The Portfolio Holder encouraged all members to keep up to date with progress on this matter as it was of significant importance to the District Council and to local communities

27. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS.

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

CHAIRMAN