

20 OCTOBER 2014

## NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 20 October 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
- p Mrs S V Beeton
- p 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
- p S P Davies
- p W H Dow
- p Ms L C Ford
- p A T Glass
- p M R Harris
- ap C J Harrison
- p D Harrison
- p E J Heron
- p J D Heron
- p Mrs P Jackman
- p M J Kendal
- ap A N G Kilgour
- p C Lagdon
- p Mrs M E Lewis
- p Mrs P J Lovelace
- ap B D Lucas
- p Mrs A E McEvoy

### Councillors:

- 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
- ap 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
- ap 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
- p J G Ward
- p C A Wise
- p Mrs B M Woodifield
- p P R Woods
- ap Mrs P A Wyeth
- Vacancy

### Officers Attending:

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

### 28. MINUTES (PAPER A).

#### RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2014 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to:

Cllrs Mrs Ford and Lagdon being listed as having given their apologies; and Cllrs Puttock and Tipp being listed as being present.

**29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

There were none.

**30. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.****Death of Cllr Miss Ann Hickman**

The Chairman referred with deep regret to the recent death of Cllr Ann Hickman. Cllr Hickman had been elected to the District Council in May 2011 for the Bransgore and Burley Ward. During her term of office she had served on the Appeals Committee and the General Purposes & Licensing Committee. She had been a long-serving member of Bransgore Parish Council and had been Chairman of the Parish Council for many years. The Chairman, the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive together with other members had attended her funeral. She would be missed by many people.

Members spoke in memory of Cllr Hickman and paid tribute to her work for local residents in Bransgore. She had been well-liked and respected within her local community and would be greatly missed.

Members stood in silence as a mark of respect.

**Chairman's Activities since last Council meeting**

The Chairman reported that since the last meeting of the Council she had represented the Council at a wide range of events including:

- A Reception and Retreat for the retirement of Dame Mary Fagan at the Great Hall, Winchester.
- Hurst Castle where the Pikemen and Musketeers of the Artillery Company, bodyguard of the Mayor of London, gave a display of cannon fire in defence of the Castle.
- Marchwood Barracks where a display of Beating the Retreat took place.
- Hosting a ceremony paying tribute to The Immortal 7<sup>th</sup> who left Lyndhurst for Ypres in WW1 at Appletree Court.
- Attending a number of civic days in Bournemouth, Fareham, Christchurch, East Dorset, Test Valley and Hampshire.
- Attending a Thanksgiving service and reception for Freemasons and their families and friends at Winchester Cathedral.
- Meeting a number of French delegates who were visiting the New Forest and also attending the charity ball for the New Forest Business Partnership.
- Spending time with homeless youngsters at 'It's Your Choice' garden party in Totton and with older people at Woodlands House Open Day.
- Attending the opening of The Coates Centre at Oakhaven Hospice by Dame Mary Fagan, Lord Lieutenant.
- Attending charity events in Winchester and Bournemouth.

**Civic Day - Friday 19 September 2014**

The Chairman reported that her Civic Day held on 19 September had been a great success. She had been able to showcase some features of the District including the Beaulieu Road Pony Sales, the New Forest Show Ground in Brockenhurst where numerous demonstrations, tastings and exhibitions took place, the Balmer

Lawn Hotel in Brockenhurst for lunch and a talk on how hotels and tourism worked in the New Forest and Paulton's Park.

The Chairman thanked all those who had been involved in the organisation and demonstrations during the day especially Dominic May, Official Verderer, Johnathan Gerrelli, Agister, the Leader of the Council, Cllr Barry Rickman and his wife Sue, Chris and Alison Wilson of the Balmer Lawn Hotel, Mr and Mrs Mancy, owners of Paulton's Park, Steve Lawton, Managing Director, Paulton's Park, and her Personal Assistant, Donna Langfield.

### **Immortal 7th Division**

Tributes to the Immortal 7th Division which played a vital role in the First World War were paid at a commemorative event at Appletree Court on Friday, 12 September. The Division had defended Ypres, blocking the German forces from reaching the French coastal ports of Dunkirk and Calais. Despite being heavily out-numbered the 7th Division held their line with over 9000 of its men killed, wounded or missing.

### **Get Ahead for Christmas Cooking Demo - Thursday, 30 October 2014**

The Chairman was holding a fundraising Cookery Demonstration by the New Forest Marque demonstrator Judith Long on Thursday, 30 October at 2.30pm in Brockenhurst Village Hall. She would be concentrating on cooking which could be prepared in advance of Christmas. Proceeds of the event would go towards the Chairman's two chosen charities.

### **Remembrance Day - Sunday 9 November 2014**

New Forest District Council would be represented at a number of Remembrance Sunday services on 9 November. The Chairman would attend and lay wreaths at services at Brockenhurst, Lyndhurst, Keyhaven and Milford on Sea.

#### **31. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

There were none.

#### **32. REPORT OF CABINET.**

The Leader of the Council, as Chairman of the Cabinet, presented the report of the meeting held on 1 October 2014.

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.

#### **33. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22.**

There were none.

**34. QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22A.**

**Question 1:** from Cllr D Harrison to Cllr Mrs Cleary, Housing & Communities Portfolio Holder

"The decision by New Forest District Council to cut funding to New Forest Age Concern's very highly valued luncheon clubs in Totton was greeted by shock and dismay, not least because it ended a run of some 20 years in which this Council had consistently funded the service.

When I challenged the decision, you responded that you recognised the value of the service but that the funding should come from Hampshire County Council.

I have since used the opportunity to check at a decision day of the Executive Member for Health and Adult Services, Hampshire County Council, and was told that the funding for this service should definitely come from New Forest District Council.

As you can appreciate, I am trying to do my best to protect this service for the benefit of the older people who enjoy a hot meal and the opportunity for friendship and company. I have managed to save it for one year, by pooling a community engagement grant with my fellow Hampshire County Councillor in Totton, Councillor Chris Lagdon. However, I am now looking again to this Council to accept responsibility and reinstate the funding. May I have that assurance please?"

**Answer:**

The Portfolio Holder reiterated her reply to Cllr Harrison's previous question on this matter. The decision to cease subsidising the Meals on Wheels service in the District had been made in 2012. The District Council had no responsibility to provide the service. Officers had met with representatives of all supported luncheon clubs and agreed a process for withdrawing funding over a period of time. The District Council had stopped funding the Totton luncheon clubs in April 2014. It was not appropriate for the District Council to consider reinstating funding for individual luncheon clubs.

Cllr D Harrison expressed the view that the Council should provide services according to need rather than treating all areas equally. Totton had high levels of deprivation and this should be taken into account when considering the needs of vulnerable older people.

**Question 2:** from Cllr M Wade to Cllr Mrs Brooks, Health and Leisure Portfolio Holder

"In regard to the Applemore Swimming Pool refurbishment problems what is the actual cost for the extra work carried out and the amount of the subsequent loss of income to this authority for the failure to open the swimming pool on time causing inconvenience and disruption to local people and local school children?"

**Answer:**

The Portfolio Holder replied that the delay had been extremely unfortunate and the Council recognised the patience of customers during the works. The focus

remained as previously stated to the Council, to work positively with the contractor to achieve the target of opening in November. The Portfolio Holder was pleased that all parties continued to work together to achieve this date. The Council did not want any of the parties diverted from this prime objective by discussions regarding the conduct of the contract.

Officers were working with the contractor to collate information, so that members could review the conduct of the project as a whole. The precise form and timing of that review was currently being developed, however it would include a full analysis of any financial variations. Members would be advised of how the review would be undertaken as soon as the relevant information had been gathered.

In response to Cllr M Wade's view on the need to ensure that members were kept informed of the details pertaining to the contract, the Portfolio Holder assured members that they would be apprised of the details, including a financial analysis, once these were known.

**35. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS.**

**RESOLVED:**

That Cllr Binns be appointed to the Appeals Committee in place of the late Cllr Miss Hickman.

CHAIRMAN

(CL201014)