

24 MAY 1999

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the annual meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 24 May 1999.

Councillors:

p Mrs S M Abernethy
p K F Ault
p K E Austin
p E R Bowring
p F J Bright
p Mrs D M Brooks
p D S Burdle
p W R Catt
p J E Coles
p D E Cracknell
p P H Cummings
p B D Dash
p J J Dawson
p W H Dow
p Miss P A Drake
p T J Droogleever
p L T Dunsdon
p B C Earwicker
p M H G Fidler
p R L Frampton
e C F Gradidge
p P C Greenfield
p R C H Hale
p L E Harris
p F R Harrison
p S A Hayes
p J D Heron
p Mrs M D Holding
p Mrs A M Howe

Councillors:

p J M Hoy
p J A G Hutchins JP
p M J Kendal
p M C Kidman
p G N D Locock
p Mrs B M Maynard
p Mrs M McLean
p Ms M Powell
p A W Rice TD
p G K Richardson
p B Rickman
p Mrs M J Robinson
p B Rule
p T M Russell
p D N Scott
p M J Shand
p S A Shepherd
p Mrs B Smith
p Mrs L P Snashall
p G Spikins
p M H Thierry
p D B Tipp
e J Waddington
p M S Wade
p S S Wade
p Mrs D Wilson
p C A Wise
p P R Woods
p Mrs P A Wyeth

Officers Attending:

I B Mackintosh, Ms J Bateman, Mrs P Fennell, N J Gibbs, Miss T Harwood, K Ireland, Ms E Malcolm, A Rogers, Mrs R Rutins, T R Simpson and P Thompson.

The Chairman of the Council (Cllr Howe) in the Chair.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.

Cllr Rickman moved that Cllr Wyeth be elected Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year. The motion was seconded by Cllr Drake.

Members spoke in support of the election of Cllr Wyeth commenting that she had all the qualities required for the job, including a wealth of experience of local government and a great knowledge of the New Forest and its needs. Members commented that her good humour, common sense and fairness would serve the Council well.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Wyeth be elected Chairman of the Council to continue in office until her successor becomes entitled to act as Chairman at the next annual meeting of the Council on 15 May 2000.

Cllr Wyeth took the Chair and made the declaration of acceptance of office which was formally witnessed by the Head of Central Administration.

Cllr Howe invested the Chairman with the Chain and Badge of Office, and presented her with a bouquet of flowers. Cllr Howe also invested the Chairman's Consort with his Badge of Office.

On behalf of the staff, the Managing Director congratulated the Chairman on her election.

The Chairman thanked her fellow members for her election and commented that it was a great honour for her and the people of Lyndhurst. She looked forward to promoting the district and its many qualities.

The Chairman of the Council (Cllr Wyeth) in the Chair.

2. VOTE OF THANKS TO CLLR MRS A M HOWE.

It was moved by the Chairman of the Council, seconded by Cllr Smith and unanimously

RESOLVED:

That the best wishes of this Council be accorded to Cllr Howe for her excellent service during her term of office as Chairman of the Council and that she be wished every success for the future.

Members spoke of the way in which Cllr Howe had undertaken her duties and had represented so many different aspects of the District. Members commented on the way in which Cllr Howe had carried out her duties with dignity, good humour and vigour and were pleased that, with the support of her husband, she had managed to enjoy her year as Chairman. Members believed she was an exemplary ambassador for the authority.

On behalf of all the staff the Managing Director expressed thanks and good wishes to Cllr Howe. He commented that the staff has appreciated her interest and her ability to put everyone at their ease.

The Chairman presented Cllr Howe with a past-Chairman's Badge and a bouquet of flowers.

Cllr Howe thanked her fellow Councillors for allowing her to undertake the role of Chairman during the preceding year. She commented that it had been a wonderful year and a memorable experience and hoped that much had been accomplished to the benefit of the Council and the people it represented.

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN.

It was moved by the Chairman of the Council that Cllr Rice be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council. The motion was seconded by Cllr Hayes.

Cllr Dash proposed that Cllr Smith be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council. The motion was seconded by Cllr Robinson. On a vote by ballot it was

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Rice be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council to hold office until immediately after the election of the Chairman at the next annual meeting of the Council on 15 May 2000.

Cllr Rice made the declaration of acceptance of Office, which was formally witnessed by the Head of Central Administration.

The Chairman invested Cllr Rice with the Badge of Office, and presented his Consort, Mrs Davies, with the Consort's Badge and a bouquet of flowers.

Cllr Rice thanked members for his appointment.

4. VOTE OF THANKS TO CLLR F R HARRISON.

It was moved by the Chairman of the Council, seconded by Cllr Robinson and unanimously

RESOLVED:

That the thanks and best wishes of the Council be accorded to Cllr F R Harrison for his hard work and service during his term of Office as Vice-Chairman of the Council.

The Chairman presented Cllr F R Harrison with a paperknife.

5. RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT (REPORT A).

Members were advised that the following Councillors had been elected to serve on the New Forest District Council at the elections held on 6 May 1999, and that each had made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

WARD NAME	CANDIDATE ELECTED
Barton	K E Austin J A G Hutchins JP
Bashley	A W Rice TD D Wilson
Becton	M C Kidman P R Woods
Blackfield and Langley	A M Howe B M Maynard
Boldre	C A Wise
Bransgore and Sopley	R L Frampton
Brockenhurst	M D Holding
Colbury	G Spikins
Copythorne South	D B Tipp
Dibden and Hythe North	C F Gradidge M J Robinson S S Wade
Dibden Purlieu	B Smith
Downlands	G N D Locock
Fawley and Holbury	J E Coles L T Dunsdon M H G Fidler
Fordingbridge	R C H Hale M J Shand
Forest North	D Scott
Forest North West	W H Dow
Forest South	S M Abernethy

WARD NAME	CANDIDATE ELECTED
Forest West	P A Drake P C Greenfield
Hordle	E R Bowring J M Hoy
Hythe South	B D Dash M McLean M S Wade
Lymington Town	K F Ault S A Hayes T M Russell
Lyndhurst	P A Wyeth
Marchwood	G K Richardson
Milford	T J Droogleever M J Kendal
Milton	B C Earwicker B Rule
Netley Marsh	D S Burdle
Pennington	P H Cummings M Powell
Ringwood North	M H Thierry J Waddington
Ringwood South	D E Cracknell J D Heron
Sway	B Rickman
Totton Central	L E Harris F R Harrison S A Shepherd
Totton North	F J Bright D M Brooks J J Dawson
Totton South	W R Catt L P Snashall

6. VOTE OF THANKS TO FORMER COUNCILLORS.

The Chairman of the Council moved, it was seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED:

That the best wishes of the Council for their services to Local Government in this District be accorded to the following who are no longer members of this Council:-

Mrs O A M Badland
S Bailey
P A Baker
Mrs P D Baker
Major C Beeton MBE
Mrs C Bianchi
M R Cox
Miss S A Cooke
W F Croydon
K W Drew
A S Emery
R K Goodridge
W J Greer
D Harrison
M R Jones
N D M McGeorge
S M Noel
R F Orton
P G Pearce-Smith
Miss G M Rickus CBE
Mrs J K Vernon-Jackson
Dr M N Whitehead

7. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 1999, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

8. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

(a) New Members

As her first announcement the Chairman warmly welcomed all new members of the New Forest District Council and hoped that they would enjoy their work here. The Chairman commented that many members were faced with a heavy programme of intensive member training which might seem quite daunting. However, she was sure that everyone appreciated the

need to carry out their duties effectively and in the proper manner. Indeed, the Council meeting itself was a good example of what members were faced with only days after they had been elected.

(b) **25 Years of New Forest District Council**

The Chairman was pleased to report that, to celebrate 25 years of New Forest District Council, a successful dinner had been held on Friday, 14 May at Dibden Golf Centre for members and officers who had served the Council throughout its existence. Those who attended the event had been very appreciative. The Chairman also reported that another very important function had been attended the previous week by nearly all members of the former Council and their partners. Presentations had been made to those who were no longer members of the Council. This was also a very successful event and members seemed very pleased with their gifts.

9. POLITICAL REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES.

In accordance with Section 15(1)(b) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Council reviewed the representation of Political Groups on Committees and

RESOLVED:

That appointments be made to Committees in accordance with the principles for the allocation of seats to political parties as set out in Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, except in those cases where it was decided without any member voting against, not to apply the principles of proportionality.

10. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, AMBASSADORS AND PANEL.

Members considered the amendment of Standing Order 35 – Constitution of Committees in order to permit 20 members to be appointed to the Planning and Transportation Committee.

Some members considered that there was no justification for this increase and the workload would not be reduced as a result. It was suggested that it may even lengthen the time of Planning Committee meetings. Other members felt that it was in the interest of the Council to revert to 20 members to achieve a well balanced district wide membership. Some members expressed concern over the cost of appointing additional members to the Planning and Transportation Committee and suggested that this may be in the region of £20,000 which, in their view, was a significant amount and therefore in accordance with Standing Orders 22 and 49 should stand referred to the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

It was moved by Cllr Kendal and seconded by Cllr Austin that under Standing Order 50 (Suspension of Standing Orders) Standing Orders 22 and 49 be suspended. On a vote it was

RESOLVED:

That Standing Orders 22 and 49 be suspended.

It was moved by Cllr Kendal and seconded by Cllr Scott that Standing Order 35 be amended to permit 20 members to be appointed to the Planning and Transportation Committee.

Some members again commented that the increase in number would allow greater representation on the Committee, whilst, other members expressed concern over the costs of this increase. A member commented that the public participation period at the beginning of a Committee enabled a wider involvement and it may be more appropriate to look at Area Committees rather than appointing additional members to Planning and Transportation Committee. Another member commented that there had been concerns when the number of seats on the Planning and Transportation Committee had previously been cut to 16 however, these concerns were shown to be unfounded and the current 16 members did a very worthwhile job. Another member commented that the increase in membership of the Planning and Transportation Committee would fulfil election promises to widen the representation particularly in view of the need to agree a new District Plan in the near future.

An amendment was then moved by Cllr Coles and seconded by Cllr Maynard that the debate should be suspended until a report could be submitted to Planning and Transportation Committee detailing the implications and associated costings of increasing the membership from 16 to 20. Cllr Kendal commented that the four extra seats were being shared between parties and this increase was not for political advantage but simply to provide greater representation.

Cllr Coles commented that a decision to increase the number of members on a Committee was not good practice without the relevant facts.

The amendment was voted on and was lost.

The motion to amend Standing Order 35 was then voted on and was carried. It was then:

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Standing Order 35 – Constitution of Committees – be amended to permit 20 members to be appointed to the Planning and Transportation Committee;
- (b) That Committees be appointed with the membership shown, as set out in Annex 1 to these minutes.

In considering the appointment of Ambassadors some members commented that they were disappointed that it was proposed that these roles should discontinue. Ambassadors had originated through the Council's Ten Point Action Plan and this process had not yet been completed or evaluated.

It was proposed by Cllr Robinson and seconded by Cllr Smith that the Council should continue with the posts of Council Ambassadors until such time as they had been properly evaluated. A member commented that Ambassadors were an important part of Best Value and she was very sorry that these were regarded as marginal issues. Another member, who was currently appointed a Council Ambassador, was concerned that his opinion had not been sought on what had been achieved so far. He commented that the actual role of Ambassador was difficult but was very advantageous as a cross Committee position. Another member commented that Council Ambassadors covered the particular area of Social Isolation and brought outside agencies together in a Committee Forum which it was hoped would still continue.

Other members commented that the work of the Ambassadors was a repeat of Councillors' committee work and was not the most appropriate or effective vehicle to be used.

The motion to continue with the appointment of Council Ambassadors was voted on and lost. It was then:

RESOLVED:

That the role of Council Ambassador be discontinued.

11. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE.

It was proposed by Cllr Kendal seconded by Cllr Wilson and

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Hayes be elected Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee to hold Office until the annual meeting in 2000.

12. TIME OF MEETINGS.

RESOLVED:

That for the 1999/2000 Municipal Year Council meetings commence at 6.30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

Attachments: Minute 10 – Annex 1

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APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND PANEL

BUSINESS SERVICES CONTRACTS (8 members)

Councillors:

Cummings
Frampton
Hale
Hayes
Heron
Hutchins
Rickman
Shepherd

CENTRAL SERVICES (16 members)

Councillors:

Austin
Brooks
Dawson
Dunsdon
Greenfield
Hoy
Kendal
Kidman
Locock
Maynard
Powell
Shand
Snashall
Thierry
Tipp
Wise

DIRECT SERVICES CONTRACTS (8 members)

Councillors:

Austin
Bright
Drake
Fidler
Hale
Rice
Russell
Scott

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND LICENSING (16 members)

Councillors:

Abernethy
Ault
Brooks
Cummings
Dow
Harris
Howe
Hoy
McLean
Shepherd
Smith
Spikins
Thierry
M S Wade
Waddington
Woods

HOUSING (16 members)

Councillors:

Abernethy
Dash
Droogleever
Earwicker
Harrison
Holding
Kendal
Kidman
Locock
Powell
Richardson
Robinson
Rule
Tipp
Wilson
Wyeth

LEISURE SERVICES (16 members)

Councillors:

Brooks
Catt
Cracknell
Cummings
Dunsdon
Frampton
Greenfield
Hayes
Heron
Howe
Hutchins
Richardson
Rickman
Snashall
S S Wade
Wise

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION (20 members)

Councillors:

Ault
Bowring
Bright
Burdle
Catt
Coles
Dow
Drake
Droogleever
Earwicker
Fidler
Frampton
Gradidge
Hale
Harrison
Holding
Russell
Scott
Woods
Wyeth

POLICY AND RESOURCES (20 members)

Councillors:

Burdle
Coles
Dash
Dawson
Drake
Hale
Hayes
Heron
Hutchins
Kendal
Rice
Rickman
Robinson
Scott
Shepherd
Smith
M S Wade
S S Wade
Waddington
Wilson

BENEFIT REVIEW BOARD PANEL (15 members)

Councillors:

Abernethy
Drake
Droogleever
Hale
Harrison
Hoy
Maynard
Powell
Rickman
Robinson
Scott
Shand
Spikins
Tipp
Wyeth

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