

27 OCTOBER 2008

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 27 October 2008.

- p Cllr P R Woods - Chairman
- e Cllr L R Puttock - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

- p G C Beck
- e D A Britton
- p Mrs D M Brooks
- Mrs F Carpenter
- p Mrs J L Cleary
- p G F Dart
- p S P Davies
- p W H Dow
- p L T Dunsdon
- p Ms L C Ford
- p H F Forse
- p P C Greenfield
- p C J Harrison
- p D Harrison
- p E J Heron
- p J D Heron
- e P E Hickman
- p Mrs J A Hoare
- e Mrs M D Holding
- p J A G Hutchins
- p Mrs P Jackman
- e M J Kendal
- p C Lagdon
- p Mrs M E Lewis
- p Mrs K J Lord
- p Mrs P J Lovelace
- p B D Lucas
- p Mrs A E McEvoy
- p Mrs M McLean

Councillors:

- p G J Parkes
- p Sqn Ldr B M F Pemberton
- p J Penwarden
- p M P Reid
- p A W Rice
- p B Rickman
- p W S Rippon-Swaine
- p Mrs M J Robinson
- e Mrs A M Rostand
- p D J Russell
- p R F Scrivens
- p Lt Col M J Shand
- p A E J Shotter
- p Mrs B Smith
- p Mrs S I Snowden
- p A J Swain
- p M H Thierry
- e A R Tinsley
- p D B Tipp
- p C R Treleaven
- p F P Vickers
- p M S Wade
- p S S Wade
- e R A Wappet
- p J G Ward
- p A Weeks
- p Dr M N Whitehead
- p C A Wise
- p Mrs P A Wyeth

Officers Attending:

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

35. MINUTES (REPORT A).

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2008, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr Rice in Minute No. 40.

37. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Chairman reported that since the last Council meeting he had been very busy attending a varied selection of events in the counties of Hampshire and Dorset. He and his consort had enjoyed five Civic Days and had had the benefit of being shown the different aspects of each area they had visited. They had also been regular visitors to Winchester at different events held in the Great Hall and at Winchester Cathedral.

The Chairman was also pleased to announce that he had attended the opening of two Rest Homes in the New Forest, both of which would be of immediate benefit to the elderly.

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE AWARD

The Chairman was pleased to announce that the Council continued to hold the prestigious Investors in People Accreditation following reassessment earlier this month. The accreditation was awarded to organisations that demonstrated a commitment to improving performance and realising objectives through the management and development of their people.

The reaccreditation was particularly encouraging as the standard had recently been raised, so much so that over 35% of organisations had not managed to retain accreditation. Also, the assessors found many areas where the Council exceeded the requirements. They found that the Council's real strengths were in the underlying culture of the organisation, for example the extent to which employees felt ownership and responsibility for what they did, and for the real pride they felt in their work.

Some areas for improvement had been identified and plans to address these were already in place.

The Chairman congratulated employees on their commitment.

HALLOWEEN – FRIDAY 31 OCTOBER

The Chairman announced that he would be hosting a Halloween get-together for youngsters, and their parents, at Appletree Court on Friday, 31 October. Any profits would go to the Chairman's charities.

The tricks and treats 'spooktacular' would start at 6 pm and for a couple of hours young guests would get the opportunity to meet some owls and bats; bob for apples; meet some ghosts; join the 816 gym; and find out more about the work of the Council. The event would finish at 8 pm and there was an entry fee of £2 per child.

38. APPOINTMENT OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Rickman be appointed Leader of the Council with effect from 1 November 2008 for the remainder of the municipal year.

39. ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE.

Members praised Cllr Rickman for his work as the Leisure, Culture and Youth Matters Portfolio Holder and expressed their confidence in him in his new role as Leader of the Council. They recognised that he was a lifelong resident of the area and always had the best interests of the forest and its residents at heart. He would bring his own style of leadership to the council which members were sure would be of benefit to the Council and its residents.

Cllr Rickman thanked his fellow members for his election and their support.

He promised to undertake the role to the best of his ability. He acknowledged that the uncertainty of the current economic climate might mean that some residents would face financial difficulty and felt that it was the duty of councillors and the Council as a whole to work together to support citizens through these turbulent times. He would work to achieve this support wherever he could.

40. REPORT OF CABINET.

Cllr Rice declared a personal interest as a member of Hampshire County Council and the National Park Authority in item 6 of the Report of the Cabinet. He did not consider his interest to be prejudicial and he remained in the meeting for the discussion and voting.

Cllr Rickman announced that when he took office as Leader of the Council on 1 November he would appoint Cllr Mrs Brooks as the Leisure, Culture and Youth Matters Portfolio Holder.

Cllr Rickman presented the report of the Cabinet meeting held on 1 October 2008.

(a) Local Development Framework: Core Strategy – Submission Document

Cllr Rice moved an amendment to the recommendation that a new paragraph (d) be inserted to read “That the Council expresses its regret that the New Forest National Park Authority did not consider it practicable to have jointly produced core strategies covering with whole of the District and the National Park”.

The amendment was seconded.

Upon a vote the amendment proposed by Cllr Rice was carried.

(b) Totton College Campus Redevelopment

Members congratulated officers on the work undertaken to progress the College redevelopment. Members acknowledged that the redevelopment would bring great benefits to users and local residents. However, some members expressed their reservations as to the availability of the Government funding for this project.

(c) Corporate Asset Management Strategy 2008/2012

Cllr Rickman moved an amendment that the first paragraph under the heading "Members' Role" on page 5 of appendix 2 be deleted and be substituted with the following: –

"The Cabinet will be responsible for decisions relating to the strategic management of the Council's land and property holdings. The Council will approve the Asset Management Strategy and Asset Management Plans."

The amendment was seconded.

Upon a vote the amendment proposed by Cllr Rickman was carried.

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

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the recommendations adopted subject to the following amendments: -

Item 6 – Local Development Framework: Core Strategy – Submission Document

That a new paragraph (d) be inserted to read "That the Council expresses its regret that the New Forest National Park Authority did not consider it practicable to have jointly produced core strategies covering with whole of the District and the National Park".

Item 8 – Corporate Asset Management Strategy 2008/2012 - Appendix 2 Paragraph 3.3 – Members' Role (Page 5 of Appendix 2)

That the first paragraph under the heading "Members' Role" be deleted and be substituted with the following: –

"The Cabinet will be responsible for decisions relating to the strategic management of the Council's land and property holdings. The Council will approve the Asset Management Strategy and Asset Management Plans."

41. NFDC/TVBC COMMERCIAL SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE

Cllr E Heron, Vice-Chairman of the Joint Committee, presented the report of the meeting held on 9 September 2008.

On the motion that the report be received, it was

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

42. STANDARDS COMMITTEE.

Cllr Hutchins, Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee, presented the report of the meeting held on 26 September 2008.

Cllr Mrs Robinson questioned why the Standards Committee's decision to continue undertaking the audit functions had not been submitted to the Council as a recommendation. The Vice-Chairman agreed that we would raise the motion with the Committee.

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

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the recommendation adopted.

43. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22.

There were none.

44. NOTICE OF MOTION – SPEED LIMIT ON A31.

Cllr Thierry moved the following motion standing in his name: -

“That in consideration of the high number of recorded motor accidents from minor to fatal, reported on the A31 section at Ringwood, and as a result of public concern and demand, this Council requests the Highways Agency to implement a 50 mph speed limit on the A31 from Picket Post to link up with the 50 mph speed limit already in operation on the A31 at St Leonards.”

The motion was seconded.

RESOLVED:

That under the provisions of Standing Order 41, the motion be referred to the Planning and Transportation Review Panel and then to the Cabinet.

45. PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S QUESTION TIME.

There were no questions.

46. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Cllr J Heron be appointed to serve on the Employment, Health and Well-being Review Panel in place of Cllr Lucas;

- (b) That Cllr Wappet be appointed to serve on the Housing Review Panel in place of Cllr Lucas;
- (c) That Cllr Lagdon be appointed to serve on the Leisure, Culture and Youth Matters Review Panel in place of Cllr Mrs Brooks; and
- (d) That Cllrs Rickman and Wise be appointed to serve on the Pay Panel in place of Cllrs Kendal and Mrs Holding.

CHAIRMAN

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