

MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF
HYTHE TOWN COUNCIL'S
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2008

Present: Councillor J A Schoner (In the Chair)

Councillors Mrs K T Belcourt, R H Carroll, A J Ewart-James,
D Owen, A Smith and R Watson

Also Present: Councillors R Belcourt, M J Dearden, M J Lyons and the Town
Clerk

Apologies: Councillors Mrs Z Harris, S W Hayward and Mrs A Mayne

**280/08 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6TH NOVEMBER 2008**

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor R H Carroll
SECONDED BY: Councillor R Watson and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 6th November 2008, having been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

281/08 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor J A Schoner declared a prejudicial interest in Min No 295/08 – Folkestone & Hythe Scouts free use of the Green – Vice-President & Trustee of the Hythe Branch of the Folkestone & Hythe Scouts.

Councillor J A Schoner declared a prejudicial interest in Min No 287/08 – Annual Revenue Budget 2009/10 – Venetian Fete Payment – Chairman of the Hythe Venetian Fete Society.

Councillor M J Dearden and the Town Clerk declared prejudicial interests in Min No 297/08 - Application to the Arts, Culture & Leisure Fund – St Augustine's Catholic Primary School – Practising Roman Catholic's and office holders.

**282/08 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING FOR PUBLIC INCLUSION IN
ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO. 70**

There were no written or verbal questions from the public.

**283/08 APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS FOR THE PERIOD TO 30TH
NOVEMBER 2008**

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor R H Carroll
SECONDED BY: Councillor D Owen and

RESOLVED – That the payments for the period to 30th November 2008, covering cheque numbers 011157 - 011216 be authorised, as appended to these Minutes.

284/08 APPROVAL OF BUDGET STATEMENT TO 30TH NOVEMBER 2008

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor A Smith
SECONDED BY: Councillor D Owen and

RESOLVED – That the Budget Statement to 30th November 2008 be approved.

285/08 APPROVAL OF BALANCE SHEET & INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT TO 30TH NOVEMBER 2008

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor D Owen
SECONDED BY: Councillor R Watson and

RESOLVED – That the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account to 30th November 2008 be approved.

286/08 REPORT OF RECEIPTS TO 30TH NOVEMBER 2008

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor R H Carroll
SECONDED BY: Councillor A Smith and

RESOLVED - That the Receipts for the period to 30th November 2008 be accepted.

287/08 ANNUAL REVENUE BUDGET FOR 2009/10

Members considered the previously circulated proposals for the Revenue Budget 2009/10 and the accompanying Town Clerk's Report 09/08) and recommendations which refer. The Chairman then went through the report and the proposals. The item was then opened up for discussion.

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor J A Schoner
SECONDED BY: Councillor R H Carroll and

RESOLVED – That the Annual Revenue Budget for 2009/10 and the Town Clerk's recommendations be approved as follows:

- 1 The contents of the Town Clerk's 09/08 report be received and the recommendations as outlined within it be adopted.
- 2 The expenditure items as contained within Paragraphs 26 (i) and (ii) to be as in accordance with the provisions of S137 of the Local Government Act 1972 and be identified in the budget accordingly.
- 3 The proposed base draft revenue budget be approved as contained within the draft budget statement - representing an increase of 11.99% and a commensurate Precept level of £290,545.00 which equates to £5.20 per year on Band D, ie 10 pence per week.

- 4 Appropriate changes, as they impact upon the Draft Capital Budget statement, be incorporated into the Capital programme for approval at the January meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

It was further

PROPOSED BY: Councillor A J Ewart-James
SECONDED BY: Councillor A Smith and

RECOMMENDED – That Councillors/volunteers be initially sought and then Mr H Newland (of the Three Mariners Public House) be written to in regard to the setting up a Fireworks Society to facilitate the organisation of any future fireworks event on Hythe Green.

288/08 TRANSFER OF FUNDS

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor K T Belcourt
SECONDED BY: Councillor R H Carroll and

RESOLVED – That:

- (i) The transfer of £2,419.00 from SEEDA funds from the Sports Pavilion Sinking Fund to Revenue be authorised in respect of Project No 24.
- (ii) The transfer of £2,874.04 from the Eaton Lands (Breathing Places) to Revenue be authorised.

289/08 CONTRACT FOR JUNIOR PITCHES

The Town Clerk reported on progress to date and advised Members of the cost for the production of the tender documents (£1,500).

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor R H Carroll
SECONDED BY: Councillor R Watson and

RECOMMENDED – That the Town Clerk commence tender proceedings in respect of the development of junior football pitches and the appointment of a Contract Administrator be authorised.

290/08 (i) EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT

The External Auditor's Report had been previously circulated and which had been issued without qualification.

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mrs K T Belcourt
SECONDED BY: Councillor R H Carroll and

RECOMMENDED – That the External Auditor's Report be received and his recommendations regarding the uplift in the Fidelity Guarantee to £655,000 be enacted.

(ii) **INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT – MID 2008/9**

The Internal Auditor's half-year report – mid 2008/9 had been previously circulated, together with related emails.

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mrs K T Belcourt
SECONDED BY: Councillor D Owen and

RECOMMENDED – That the Internal Auditor's Report be received and his comments noted.

291/08 DRY ROT – HYTHE TOWN HALL

The Chairman reported on progress to date.

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor D Owen
SECONDED BY: Councillor R H Carroll and

RECOMMENDED – That the Town Clerk be authorised to institute the tender process for the dry rot works and external maintenance works at the Town Hall, to be undertaken concurrently.

292/08 HYTHE FESTIVAL 2010 – RESOLVED MIN NO 220/08 REFERS

Members discussed the previously circulated request from the Hythe Festival Company for the use of Hythe Town Council property and land dated 24th November 2008.

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor R H Carroll
SECONDED BY: Councillor Mrs K T Belcourt and

RECOMMENDED – That the request by the Hythe Festival Company for the use of Hythe Town Council property and land as set out in its letter of the 24th November 2008 be acceded to.

293/08 HYTHE SKATEPARK

Members discussed obtaining permanent signage for the Skatepark site in accordance with the recommendations of the Zurich report of examination of play equipment.

Proposed Amendment

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor J A Schoner
SECONDED BY: Councillor R H Carroll and

That the Skatepark notice be amended to read as follows: "You should always wear your protective gear, including a properly fastened helmet when skating".

Additional Proposed Amendment

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor J A Schoner
SECONDED BY: Councillor R H Carroll and

That the Skatepark notice be amended to read as follows: “No fooling around. The Skatepark is an active sports area”.

It was then

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mrs K T Belcourt
SECONDED BY: Councillor R H Carroll and

RECOMMENDED – That:

1. The Town Clerk be authorised to obtain permanent signage for the Skatepark, incorporating the above amendments.
2. The necessary funds to be drawn down from the Skatepark R & R Fund.

The substantive motion was put and carried.

294/08 HYTHE LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Members discussed the Hythe Lawn Tennis Club’s planned new brick Pavilion which lay on a similar footprint to the present structure. A photograph of the proposed new structure had been made available in the office for Members’ perusal.

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mrs K T Belcourt
SECONDED BY: Councillor D Owen and

RECOMMENDED – That the Hythe Lawn Tennis Club’s planned new brick Pavilion be supported and welcomed by the Town Council and that the Club be advised accordingly.

Councillor J A Schoner left the Chamber at this juncture.

Councillor R H Carroll in the Chair.

295/08 FOLKESTONE & HYTHE SCOUTS – FREE USE OF THE GREEN

Members discussed the previously circulated request from the Folkestone & Hythe Scouts for free use of the Green on Sunday 26th April 2009 in respect of its St George’s Day Celebrations 2009.

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor R H Carroll
SECONDED BY: Councillor A Smith and

RECOMMENDED – That:

The Folkestone & Hythe Scouts be granted permission for free use of the Green on Sunday 26th April 2009 in respect of its St George’s Day Celebrations 2009, subject to the usual conditions’ being met.

Councillor R H Carroll left the Chair.

Councillor J A Schoner resumed the Chair.

296/08 TREE WORK – HORN STREET RECREATION GROUND/EATON LANDS

The Town Clerk reported to Members on the current state of play.

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mrs K T Belcourt
SECONDED BY: Councillor A Smith and

RECOMMENDED – That the Town Clerk be authorised to obtain three quotes in respect of the tree works required at both Horn Street Recreation Ground/Eaton Lands.

Councillor M J Dearden and the Town Clerk left the Chamber at this juncture.

297/08 APPLICATION TO THE ARTS, CULTURE & LEISURE FUND

Members discussed the previously circulated application by St Augustine’s Catholic Primary School.

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor A J Ewart-James
SECONDED BY: Councillor Mrs K T Belcourt and

RECOMMENDED – That a grant of £200.00 be granted to St Augustine’s Catholic Primary School to assist in the development of a school garden and sensory garden, subject to the usual conditions’ being met.

Councillor M J Dearden and the Town Clerk returned to the Chamber.

Meeting closed at 7.12 p.m.

Dated the Day of 2009

.....CHAIRMAN