

MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF
HYTHE TOWN COUNCIL'S
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2006

- Present:** Councillor J A Schoner (In the Chair)
- Councillors R L Bryan, A J Ewart-James, A H Farmer, Mrs W D Harris, S W Hayward, Mrs C Moran, N A Matthews and Mrs J M Nolan
- Also Present:** The Town Clerk
- Apologies:** Councillor R H Carroll

159/06 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24TH AUGUST 2006

The Chairman informed Members that the omission of the Press and Public exclusion for Minute Numbers 128/06 and 129/06 had been corrected and entered in the Minute Book.

It was then

- PROPOSED BY:** Councillor N A Matthews
SECONDED BY: Councillor R L Bryan and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 24th August 2006, having been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the above amendment.

Councillor S W Hayward entered the Committee Room.

160/06 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillors R L Bryan, Mrs J M Nolan, Mrs C Moran, S W Hayward, Mrs W D Harris, J A Schoner and the Town Clerk declared personal interests in Minute No. 171/06 – Members of Hythe Twinning Association.

Councillor Mrs W D Harris declared a prejudicial interest in Minute No. 171/06 – Hythe Chamber of Commerce.

Councillor N A Matthews declared a prejudicial interest in Minute No. 171/06 – Hythe Twinning Association – Member.

Councillor J A Schoner declared a personal interest in Minute No. 168/06 – Age Concern – Private Member.

Councillor S W Hayward declared a personal interest in Minute No. 168/06 – Age Concern – Voluntary Worker.

Councillor A J Ewart-James declared a prejudicial interest in Minute No. 171/06 – Hythe Chamber of Commerce – Treasurer.

The Town Clerk declared a prejudicial interest in Minute No. 171/06 – Hythe Chamber of Commerce – SEEDA Project upon which she was engaged.

161/06 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING FOR PUBLIC INCLUSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO. 70

There were no verbal or written questions from the public.

162/06 APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS FOR THE PERIOD 1ST AUGUST – 31ST AUGUST 2006

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mrs W D Harris
SECONDED BY: Councillor S W Hayward and

RESOLVED – That the payments for the period 1st August – 31st August 2006, covering cheque numbers 010142 to 010182 be authorised, as appended to these Minutes.

163/06 APPROVAL OF BUDGET STATEMENT TO 31ST AUGUST 2006

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor A J Ewart-James
SECONDED BY: Councillor Mrs W D Harris and

RESOLVED – That the Budget Statement to 31st August 2006 be approved.

164/06 APPROVAL OF BALANCE SHEET & INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT TO 31ST AUGUST 2006

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mrs W D Harris
SECONDED BY: Councillor S W Hayward and

RESOLVED – That the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account to 31st August 2006 be approved.

165/06 REPORT OF RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD TO 31ST AUGUST 2006

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor A J Ewart-James
SECONDED BY: Councillor N A Matthews and

RESOLVED - That the Receipts for the period to 31st August 2006 be accepted.

166/06 TO AUTHORISE THE TRANSFER FROM THE GREEN CAPITAL TO REVENUE – RESOLVED MINUTE NO. 332/05 REFERS

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mrs W D Harris
SECONDED BY: Councillor A J Ewart-James and

RESOLVED – That the transfer of £3,850 from The Green Capital to Revenue, in respect of the Revenue Budget 2006/7 and St Nicholas Terrace works, be approved.

167/06 FIREWORKS/BONFIRE EVENT – RESOLVED MINUTE NO. 150/06**REFERS**

The Chairman informed Members that a reply had been received from the Chairman of the Hythe Green Preservation Society declining the invitation to manage the whole bonfire aspect of the above event, due to the limited time available.

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor N A Matthews
SECONDED BY: Councillor A H Farmer and

RESOLVED – That:

1. No bonfire be permitted this year on the Green.
2. A Bonfire Society and/or other interested bodies were to be encouraged to organise an event for 2007.
3. A Firework Display in the sum of £1,650, as per the recommendation No 1 of the Town Clerk's Report 04/06, be organised, viz:
 That Universal Fireworks be requested to provide a fireworks display in the sum of £1,650, on a date early in November 2006, to be mutually agreed.

168/06 PALMARSH RECREATION GROUND – REFERRED BY THE CHARITY TRUSTEES ON 21ST SEPTEMBER 2006

Members discussed the installation of new basket ball nets and posts at Palmarsh Recreation Ground and the financial implications contained therein.

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor S W Hayward
SECONDED BY: Councillor Mrs C Moran and

RECOMMENDED – That a Sureshot basketball be installed at Palmarsh Recreation Ground in the sum of £500.00.

169/06 AGE CONCERN WINDOWS

Members discussed the previously circulated letter from Age Concern in respect of its windows. The Town Clerk reported on two quotations received to date, as follows:

Quote 1 - £2,592.00
 Quote 2 - £1,999.00

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor J A Schoner
SECONDED BY: Councillor S W Hayward and

RECOMMENDED – That:

1. The Town Clerk obtain a third quote for the repair of the windows.
2. The lowest quote of the three estimated then be accepted.

170/06 TOWN HALL WEDDINGS

Members were updated on the response from Web Site enquiries in respect of Town Hall Weddings.

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mrs W D Harris
SECONDED BY: Councillor N A Matthews and

RECOMMENDED – That:

1. This matter be deferred for six months.
2. Monitoring of enquiries to continue via the website.
3. Councillor Mrs W D Harris refer the matter to the Chamber of Commerce and other local organisations be contacted to ascertain the level of local support.

171/06 NEW SPORTS FACILITIES, SOUTH ROAD

- (i) Proposed Hythe Sports Centre
The Chairman gave a brief synopsis on the current status of the proposed Sports Centre.
- (ii) Contingency Plan – Sports Pavilion Replacement
The Chairman reported on progress since the last Meeting and that the planning application was currently being determined.
- (iii) Opt to Tax – Replacement Sports Pavilion
The Town Clerk reported on the tax implication in regard to the replacement Sports Pavilion and the possibility of VAT's having to be charged on supplies from the Pavilion in order to claim the VAT back on the building's construction.

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor N A Matthews
SECONDED BY: Councillor S W Hayward and

RECOMMENDED – That investigations continue into the tax implications in regard to the replacement Sports Pavilion.

172/06 ARTS, CULTURE & LEISURE FUND FOR 2006/2007

Councillor N A Matthews left the Committee Room for the discussion and vote on the following item:

- (i) Hythe Twinning Association
The previously circulated application from the Hythe Twinning Association was considered by Members.

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor S W Hayward
SECONDED BY: Councillor C Moran and

RECOMMENDED – That £160.00 be granted to the Hythe Twinning Association in respect of the schoolchildren's visit to Berck to attend Armistice Day.

The Mayor returned to the Committee Room.

Councillors A J Ewart-James, Mrs W D Harris and the Town Clerk left the Committee Room for the discussion and vote on the following item:

(ii) Hythe Chamber of Commerce

The previously circulated application from the Hythe Chamber of Commerce was considered by Members.

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor S W Hayward

SECONDED BY: Councillor N A Matthews and

RECOMMENDED – That £200.00 be granted to the Hythe Chamber of Commerce in respect of Christmas lighting in the Town Square.

Councillors A J Ewart-James, Mrs W D Harris and the Town Clerk returned to the Committee Room.

173/06 HYTHE YOUTH COUNCIL FUNDS

The Chairman advised Members that correspondence and bank statements had been received from the former Treasurer of the Hythe Youth Council. The statement related to 22nd August to 21st September 2003 and an amount of £193.97 was shown to be in the account for that period.

174/06 TOWN HALL WORKS

The Chairman reported that dry rot had been found in the northern toilet area at the Town Hall. Once the extent of the works had been determined, the Town Hall would need to be closed for a few weeks whilst repairs were carried out.HallHall

It was then

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mrs W D Harris

SECONDED BY: Councillor S W Hayward and

AGREED - That the financial implications of the surveyor's report be taken at the end of the meeting in closed session.

175/06 CHRISTMAS LIGHTING

Members considered the erection of a Christmas tree in the Town Square and associated lighting on Hythe Town Hall. The Town Clerk reported on costings (approx. £600.00).

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor S W Hayward

SECONDED BY: Councillor A H Farmer and

RECOMMENDED – That a Christmas light banner be erected on the Town

Hall.

It was further

PROPOSED BY: Councillor N A Matthews
SECONDED BY: Councillor Mrs C Moran and

RECOMMENDED – That the County Member be requested to offer financial assistance but if he declined, the funding was to be drawn from miscellaneous establishment costs.

It was then

PROPOSED BY: Councillor J A Schoner
SECONDED BY: Councillor N A Matthews and

RESOLVED: That the Press and Public be excluded due to the confidential nature of the business under Section 1 Sub Section (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 from the following item:

176/06 TOWN HALL WORKS – SEE MINUTE NO. 173/06 ABOVE

The Chairman gave details of the Surveyor's fees to Members.

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor S W Hayward
SECONDED BY: Councillor A H Farmer and

RECOMMENDED – That:

1. The Surveyor's fees be agreed as set out in his letter dated 29th September 2006.
2. A Schedule of Works and tendering process be pursued as a matter of urgency.

The Meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

Dated the Day of 2006

.....CHAIRMAN