

MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF
HYTHE TOWN COUNCIL'S
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY 6TH MARCH 2008

Present: Councillor R H Carroll (In the Chair)

Councillors A J Ewart-James, Mrs Z Harris, S W Hayward,
A Mayne, Mrs A Mayne, D Owen, A Smith and R Watson

Also Present: The Town Clerk

Apologies: Councillors Mrs K T Belcourt, Mrs L Oliver, J Oliver and
J A Schoner

**339/07 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7TH FEBRUARY 2008**

**Councillor S W Hayward gave his apologies for the Finance and General
Purposes Meeting held on the 7th February 2008.**

It was then

PROPOSED BY: Councillor A J Ewart-James
SECONDED BY: Councillor D Owen and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th February
2008, having been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by
the Chairman.

340/07 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillors A J Ewart-James, S W Hayward and D Owen declared prejudicial
interests in Min No 357/07 – Town Green Legal Costs – Shepway District
Councillors.

Councillor A J Ewart-James declared a personal interest in Min No 350/07 –
Mayoress Chain of Office – Mayor of Hythe.

**341/07 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING FOR PUBLIC INCLUSION IN
ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO. 70**

There were no written or verbal questions from the public.

**342/07 APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS FOR THE PERIOD TO 29TH FEBRUARY
2008**

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor S W Hayward
SECONDED BY: Councillor A Smith and

RESOLVED – That the payments for the period to 29th February 2008, covering cheque numbers 010836 – 010863 be authorised, as appended to these Minutes.

343/07 APPROVAL OF BUDGET STATEMENT TO 29TH FEBRUARY 2008

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mrs Z Harris
SECONDED BY: Councillor R Watson and

RESOLVED – That the Budget Statement to 29th February 2008 be approved.

344/07 APPROVAL OF BALANCE SHEET & INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT TO 29TH FEBRUARY 2008

It was

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

RESOLVED – That the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account to 29th February 2008 be approved.

345/07 REPORT OF RECEIPTS TO 29TH FEBRUARY 2008

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mrs Z Harris
SECONDED BY: Councillor Mrs A Mayne and

RESOLVED - That the Receipts for the period to 29th February 2008 be accepted.

346/07 TO AUTHORISE THE TRANSFER FROM CAPITAL TO REVENUE – RESOLVED MIN NOS 272/07 & 290/07 REFERS

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mrs Z Harris
SECONDED BY: Councillor A Smith and

RESOLVED – That:

- (i) The transfer of approximately £3,000 from Capital to Revenue in respect of Playground R/R be authorised.
- (ii) The transfer of approximately £1,500 from Capital to Revenue in respect of works to Eaton Lands in 2007/08 be authorised.
- (iii) The transfer of approximately £800 from Capital to Revenue in respect of works undertaken at the Skatepark be authorised.
- (iv) The transfer of approximately £1,500 from Capital to Revenue in respect of works undertaken at the Green be authorised.

347/07 BORROWING APPROVAL

It was

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

RECOMMENDED – That the borrowing approval application to the Department of Communities and Local Government be amended to 50 years from 60 years, as the maximum period for such matters, as prescribed by the Department of Communities and Local Government was 50 years.

348/07 APPLICATION TO THE ARTS, CULTURE & LEISURE FUND

Members discussed the previously circulated application in respect of the Hythe Art Society.

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor D Owen
SECONDED BY: Councillor S W Hayward and

RECOMMENDED – That £200.00 be granted to the Hythe Art Society in respect of its Annual Summer Exhibition 2008 in the Town Hall, subject to the usual conditions' being met.

349/07 HYTHE & SALTWOOD SAILING CLUB

Members discussed the previously circulated request from the Hythe & Saltwood Sailing Club to utilise the grass area to the east of the Tennis Courts on South Road Recreation Ground whilst its boat parking area was resurfaced. The Town Clerk had prepared a draft licence agreement.

It was

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

RESOLVED – That the Hythe & Saltwood Sailing Club be granted permission to utilise the grass area to the east of the Tennis Courts on South Road Recreation Ground whilst the boat parking area was resurfaced, subject to the agreement of the prepared licence agreement and usual conditions' being met.

350/07 MAYORESS/ESCORT CHAIN OF OFFICE

Members discussed the previously circulated correspondence from the Mayoress in regard to a replacement Chain of Office. An alternative jewel for wearing with evening wear was circulated for Members' inspection. The Town Clerk advised that the cost would be in the order of £150.00.

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor S W Hayward
SECONDED BY: Councillor Mrs A Mayne and

RECOMMENDED – That the jewel be mounted as a brooch attachment for use by both future Mayoresses/Escorts, as an alternative to the main medallion.

351/07 EATON LANDS, TENT

Members discussed the authorisation of the Town Clerk expending funds in the pursuit of legal action in regard to the removal of the tent, if deemed to be appropriate.

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mrs Z Harris
SECONDED BY: Councillor A Mayne and

RECOMMENDED – That this item be deferred until the next Finance & General Purposes Meeting to allow Shepway District Council time to seek accommodation solutions for the alleged occupant of the tent.

352/07 BUILDINGS SURVEY – RESOLVED MIN NO 114/07 REFERS

Members discussed the previously circulated schedules from the Town Council's Surveyor as to the priority of the first year's programme. The Town Clerk provided a summary for *a priori* works.

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor D Owen
SECONDED BY: Councillor S W Hayward and

RECOMMENDED – That:

1. Priority be given to the Library (external decorations and windows) and Sanford House (external decorations and repairs) for the financial year 2008/9.
2. These works to be put out for tender as soon as possible.

353/07 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

Members discussed the previously circulated letter from the current Internal Auditor.

It was

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

RECOMMENDED – That the appointment of an Internal Auditor be put out for tender for the 2008/9 audit.

354/07 EDF ENERGY – 2 METRE WIDE EASEMENT FOR THE CABLE ROUTE ON THE GREEN

The Town Clerk reported on the previously circulated Solicitor's letter and updated Members arising therefrom.

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor S W Hayward
SECONDED BY: Councillor A Smith and

RECOMMENDED – That this item be deferred until the next Finance & General Purposes Meeting to await the advice from the Town Council's solicitor in regard to valuation fees.

355/07 TOWN GREEN INQUIRY REPORT

The Chairman gave a brief summation of the recommendations of the Town Green Inspector. It was emphasised that these were recommendations at his stage; the actual decision was to be made by Kent County Council at its regulation panel meeting on the 7th April 2008.

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor S W Hayward
SECONDED BY: Councillor D Owen and

RECOMMENDED – That the Town Green Inquiry report be noted.

It was then

PROPOSED BY: Councillor R H Carroll
SECONDED BY: Councillor A J Ewart-James 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 items:

356/07 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT – TOWN CLERK'S REPORT 11/07 REFERS

Members discussed the previously circulated Town Clerk's 11/07 report and the recommendations contained therein.

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor S W Hayward
SECONDED BY: Councillor D Owen and

RECOMMENDED – That the Town Clerk's report be accepted and the recommendations contained therein be adopted as follows:

1. In the light of the uncertainty surrounding the outcome from the Town Green application and the accompanying TUPE issues which pertain the existing grounds maintenance contract be extended for a period of three months, ie from 1st April 2008 – 30th June 2008, on the basis of a 3.9% uplift, the current contract's representing an amount of £43,173.16 exc VAT per annum.
2. In the meantime, following on from the outcome of the Town Green application, the contract details for South Road be re-appraised for consideration by the F & GP Committee in May.

Councillors A J Ewart-James, S W Hayward and D Owen left the Chamber at this juncture.

357/07 TOWN GREEN LEGAL COSTS

The Town Clerk reported on the draft letter which had been received from the Town Council's solicitor for transmission to Shepway District Council.

It was

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

RECOMMENDED – That the letter be approved for dispatch to Shepway District Council, subject to suitable amendments being made in respect of the wording.

Meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.

Dated the Day of 2008

.....CHAIRMAN