

MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF
HYTHE TOWN COUNCIL'S
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY 31ST MAY 2007

Present: Councillor J A Schoner (In the Chair)

Councillors K T Belcourt, R H Carroll, A J Ewart – James, Mrs Z Harris, S W Hayward, Mrs A Mayne, A Mayne, Mrs L Oliver, J Oliver, D Owen, A Smith and R Watson.

Also Present: The Town Clerk

Apologies: None

30/07 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 22ND MARCH & 10TH MAY 2007

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor R H Carroll
SECONDED BY: Councillor S W Hayward and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd March having been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor S W Hayward
SECONDED BY: Councillor Mrs L Oliver and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 10th May 2007, having been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor R Watson entered the Chamber at this juncture.

31/07 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillors A Mayne and Mrs A Mayne declared prejudicial interests in Minute No. 39/07 – Members of the Green Preservation Society.
Councillor D Owen declared a prejudicial interest in Minute No. 44/07 – Hon. Treasurer of St Leonard's Church.

32/07 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING FOR PUBLIC INCLUSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO. 70

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor S W Hayward
SECONDED BY: Councillor R H Carroll and

RESOLVED – That the meeting stand adjourned.

Mrs B Garfield and Miss D Rayner addressed the Meeting. *

Please see attachment for public comments which are attached but do not constitute part of the Minutes.

It was then

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

RESOLVED – That the meeting be reconvened.

33/07 APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS FOR THE PERIOD TO 30TH APRIL 2007

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor S W Hayward
SECONDED BY: Councillor R H Carroll and

RESOLVED – That the payments for the period to 30th April 2007, covering cheque numbers 010408 – 010493 be authorised, as appended to these Minutes.

34/07 APPROVAL OF BUDGET STATEMENT TO 30TH APRIL 2007

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor R H Carroll
SECONDED BY: Councillor S W Hayward and

RESOLVED – That the Budget Statement to 30th April 2007 be approved.

35/07 APPROVAL OF BALANCE SHEET & INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT TO 30TH APRIL 2007

It was

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

RESOLVED – That the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account to 30th April 2007 be approved.

36/07 REPORT OF RECEIPTS TO 30TH APRIL 2007

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor J Oliver
SECONDED BY: Councillor D Owen and

RESOLVED - That the Receipts for the period to 30th April 2007 be accepted.

37/07 INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2006/7

All the associated papers had been previously circulated to Members and had been made available for perusal.

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor R H Carroll
SECONDED BY: Councillor S W Hayward and

RECOMMENDED – That:

1. The Income & Expenditure accounts and all requisite documents for the financial year 2006/7 be approved.
2. Thanks were given to the Chairman, the Town Clerk and the Finance Officer for the well managed and presented accounts.

38/07 MINUTES OF THE CRIME REDUCTION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 24TH APRIL 2007

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor S W Hayward
SECONDED BY: Councillor Mrs K T Belcourt and

RECOMMENDED – That the Minutes of the Crime Reduction Committee Meeting held on the 24th April 2007 be received.

Councillors A and Mrs A Mayne left the Chamber for the discussion and vote on the next item.

Councillor M J Lyons entered the Chamber at this juncture.

39/07 5TH NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS – RESOLVED MIN NO 370/06 REFERS

Members discussed the organisation of the above event.

It was

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

RECOMMENDED – That:

1. A fireworks display and funfair be arranged on the Green, with no bonfire.
2. Other organisations be requested to ascertain if they wished to attend the event.
3. Further sponsorship be sought for the fireworks event.

Councillors A and Mrs A Mayne returned to the Chamber.

40/07 CONCURRENT FUNCTIONS – FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCIL – TOWN CLERK’S REPORT 01/07 REFERS

Members discussed the previously circulated Town Clerk’s Report 01/07 and the recommendations contained therein.

It was

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

RECOMMENDED – That all Parish Councils which had received the concurrent grant in the past be contacted to ascertain if they would be willing to support Hythe Town Council’s request to Shepway District Council for the re-instatement of the concurrent grant.

41/07 APPOINTMENTS TO SUB-COMMITTEES

(i) Crime Reduction Sub-Committee

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor J A Schoner
SECONDED BY: Councillor Mrs K T Belcourt and

RECOMMENDED – That the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chairman of Finance & General Purposes, Chairman of Plans & Works and Councillors Mrs Z Harris, R Watson and D Owen be appointed to serve on the Crime Reduction Sub-Committee.

(ii) Personnel Sub-Committee

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor J A Schoner
SECONDED BY: Councillor Mrs K T Belcourt and

RECOMMENDED – That Councillors J Oliver, Mrs L Oliver and S W Hayward be appointed to serve on the Personnel Sub-Committee.

(iii) Personnel (Appeals) Sub-Committee

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mrs L Oliver
SECONDED BY: Councillor J Oliver and

RECOMMENDED – That Councillors J A Schoner, Mrs K T Belcourt, R H Carroll, S W Hayward and A Smith be appointed to serve on the Personnel (Appeals) Sub-Committee.

(iv) Sports Pavilion Sub-Committee

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor S W Hayward
SECONDED BY: Councillor R H Carroll and

RECOMMENDED – That Councillors A J Ewart-James, A Mayne, J Oliver, Mrs L Oliver and J A Schoner be appointed to serve on the Sports Pavilion Sub-Committee.

42/07 HYTHE SPORTS PAVILION

- (i) The Chairman updated Members on developments on this matter. Members had been previously circulated with the surveyor's letter regarding the current structural state of the building, together with a report on wiring works, which indicated that the Pavilion required complete re-wiring.
- (ii) Members discussed the previously circulated application to Shepway District Council in respect of financial assistance towards the costs of a replacement Sports Pavilion.

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor R H Carroll
SECONDED BY: Councillor S W Hayward and

RESOLVED – That the application, as circulated, in respect of financial assistance towards the costs of a replacement Pavilion be approved and forwarded to Shepway District Council.

43/07 HYTHE CRICKET & SQUASH CLUB – TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**02/07 REFERS**

Members discussed the previously circulated correspondence, together with the Town Clerk's Report 02/07 in respect of the Hythe Cricket & Squash Club's request to utilise the land north of the Skatepark.

Councillor M J Lyons left the Chamber at this juncture.

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mrs L Oliver
SECONDED BY: Councillor Mrs K T Belcourt and

RECOMMENDED – That the Town Council enter into negotiations regarding the feasibility of the Hythe Cricket & Squash Club's utilising the land north of the Skatepark.

Councillor D Owen left the Chamber for the discussion and vote on the following item:

44/07 APPLICATION TO THE ARTS, CULTURE & LEISURE FUND

Members discussed the previously circulated application in respect of St Leonard's Church heritage events on the 8th September and 28th October 2007.

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor S W Hayward
SECONDED BY: Councillor Mrs K T Belcourt and

RECOMMENDED – That £105.00 be granted to St Leonard’s Church heritage events, subject to the usual conditions’ being met.

Councillor D Owen returned to the Chamber.

45/07 APPLICATION UNDER S 31(6) OF THE HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

Members considered making representation to register all Town Council land in respect of the above legislation and any commensurate land registration.

It was

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

RECOMMENDED – That the Town Clerk register all Town Council land in respect of the above legislation and that any commensurate land registration be undertaken.

46/07 APPLICATION FOR GATE ONTO LONGBRIDGE ALLOTMENTS

Members discussed the previously circulated correspondence in respect of two requests for gates. The Town Clerk reported on the legal implications and potential licence agreements.

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor R H Carroll
SECONDED BY: Councillor S W Hayward and

RECOMMENDED – That a licence agreement be drawn up and brought back to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for consideration to provide the granting of access.

47/07 REMOVAL OF LETTER BOOKS TO WHITFIELD ARCHIVES

Members discussed the removal of letter books from Oaklands to Whitfield archives.

It was

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

RECOMMENDED – That the removal of letter books from Oaklands to Whitfield archives be approved.

48/07 FORMER ALLOTMENT LAND AT TWISS ROAD – TOWN CLERK’S REPORT 03/07 REFERS

Members discussed the previously circulated correspondence and Town Clerk’s Report 03/07.

It was

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

RECOMMENDED – That the Town Clerk’s report and the recommendation contained therein be adopted as follows:

- 1 That the land to the west of the current Twiss Road allotments site be appraised by the Sports Pavilion (Sub) Committee, with a view to determining land use options for future usage.

49/07 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT 2007/8

The Town Clerk reported on progress in respect of the current negotiations and this was noted by Members.

It was then

PROPOSED BY: Councillor J A Schoner
SECONDED BY: Councillor Mrs K T Belcourt 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:

50/07 BEQUEST TO THE TOWN – RESOLVED MIN NO 399/06 REFERS

The Town Clerk reported on progress in this matter.

It was

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

RECOMMENDED – That the Town Clerk sends a letter explaining the position.

The Meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Dated the Day of 2007

.....CHAIRMAN

Mrs B Garfield

Mrs Garfield addressed the meeting in respect of the Hythe Green Preservation Society's wishes to seek help in returning the Annual 5th November bonfire to Hythe Green. She further reported that many residents and visitors had informed the HGPS of their disappointment at the lack of a bonfire last year. Mrs Garfield further expressed the concerns of local residents not being unable to burn the rubbish that they were desperate to dispose of.

Miss D Rayner

Miss Rayner then addressed the meeting supporting all that Mrs Garfield had said and added it was asking too much of any Society to organise a bonfire event. She further stated that two Councillors had organised the bonfire for several years successfully.