

MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF
HYTHE TOWN COUNCIL'S
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2008

Present: Councillor J A Schoner (In the Chair)

Councillors Mrs K T Belcourt, R H Carroll, Mrs Z Harris,
S W Hayward, A Smith, D Owen and R Watson

Also Present: The Deputy Town Clerk

Apologies: Councillors A J Ewart-James, A Mayne and Mrs A Mayne

163/08 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7TH AUGUST 2008

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor R Watson
SECONDED BY: Councillor S W Hayward and

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

164/08 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Mrs K T Belcourt declared a personal interest in Min No 175/08 – Arts, Culture & Leisure Fund – Hythe Chamber of Commerce/Tourism – Member of the Chamber of Commerce.

165/08 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING FOR PUBLIC INCLUSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO. 70

There were no written or verbal questions from the public.

166/08 APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS FOR THE PERIOD TO 31 AUGUST 2008

It was

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

RESOLVED – That the payments for the period to 31st August 2008, covering cheque numbers 011051 - 011085 be authorised, as appended to these Minutes.

167/08 APPROVAL OF BUDGET STATEMENT TO 31 AUGUST 2008

It was

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

RESOLVED – That the Budget Statement to 31st August 2008 be approved.

168/08 APPROVAL OF BALANCE SHEET & INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT TO 31 AUGUST 2008

It was

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

RESOLVED – That the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account to 31st August 2008 be approved.

169/08 REPORT OF RECEIPTS TO 31 AUGUST 2008

It was

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

RESOLVED - That the Receipts for the period to 31st August 2008 be accepted.

170/08 PLAY AREA FENCING, HYTHE GREEN PLAY AREA – RESOLVED MIN NO 148/08 REFERS

Members discussed the previously circulated Town Clerk's report 07/08 and the recommendations contained therein.

It was

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

RESOLVED – That this item be deferred to allow for further investigation as to the condition of the fencing within the Hythe Green play area.

171/08 NEW PLANT TROUGHS, HYTHE HIGH STREET

The Chairman withdrew this item, following an email from Mrs Sally Chesters informing him that the closing date for applications had been the 31st August 2008 and this date had now passed.

172/08 LEGAL FUND TRANSFER OF FUNDS

It was

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

RECOMMENDED – That the transfer of £6,350.00 being the balance of funds received from Shepway District Council’s contribution in respect of the Town Green application costs to a Capital Legal Sinking Fund, together with any surpluses within the legal fees budget at year end be authorised.

173/08 VEGETATION CLEARANCE ON LAND OWNED AND LEASED BY HYTHE TOWN COUNCIL

The Chairman informed Members about spoil that had been left on Hythe Town Council owned land, the condition of the scrubland adjacent to the northern and southern boundaries of the Hythe Lawn Tennis Club and the mound of weeded topsoil on land leased to Hythe Cricket Club. He circulated photographs of the area to Members.

It was

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

RECOMMENDED – That:

1. Hythe Lawn Tennis Club be instructed to clear the spoil and grass cuttings that had been left by the Tennis Club’s contractors and Hythe Town Council would remove the rest of the scrubland adjacent to the northern and southern boundaries of the Hythe Lawn Tennis Club.
2. Hythe Cricket Club and Hythe Tennis Club be approached to “tidy up” the mound of weeded topsoil on land leased to Hythe Cricket Club.

174/08 REPLACEMENT SPORTS PAVILION UPDATE – TOWN CLERK’S REPORT 08/08 REFERS

(i) Football Development Plan Working Group of the 1st September 2008
 Councillor R H Carroll reported on the Football Development Meeting held on the 1st September. A detailed matrix of submission material required for the Football Foundation bid had been circulated at the meeting.

(ii) Shepway District Council’s Cabinet Decision
 Councillor Mrs K T Belcourt reported to Members on the Cabinet recommendations of the 3rd September 2008 as follows:

1. To receive and note Report C/08/31A.
2. To agree the principle of a one off capital funding contribution, to a maximum of £150,000, be included as part of the capital programme for 2009/10. This should be subject to all funding being in place, approval of a Business Case by the Programme Board and a legal agreement between the District and the Town Council.
3. To request that Hythe Town Council provides an annual report detailing the District wide benefits of the new facility.

Councillor Mrs Belcourt congratulated the Town Clerk on her excellent application for funding submitted to the District Council.

(iii) Tender Process, Replacement Sports Pavilion – Town Clerk’s Report 08/08 Refers

Members discussed the Town Clerk’s Report 08/08 in respect of the tender process for the replacement Sports Pavilion.

It was

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

RECOMMENDED – That the Town Clerk’s Report 08/08 be accepted.

(iv) Application to HMCE in respect of “Opt to Tax”

It was

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

RESOLVED – That Hythe Town Council resolves to “Opt to Tax” the area covered by the attached plan, so as to include all land and buildings within the areas outlined in red, as from the 5th September 2008.

(v) Renewal of Borrowing Approval

It was

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

RECOMMENDED – That an application for the renewal of borrowing approval in respect of the £180k for a period of 50 years be approved and the first year’s cost be included in the 2009/10 budget.

The Chairman congratulated the Football Plan Working Group on their support and commitment on behalf of the Town Council.

175/08 ARTS CULTURE & LEISURE FUND – HYTHE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/TOURISM

Members considered the previously circulated application and supporting material in respect of “Ladder” Business Town Signs.

It was

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

RECOMMENDED – That £200 be granted to the Hythe Chamber of Commerce/Tourism in respect of “ladder” business town signs, subject to the usual conditions’ being met.

176/08 HYTHE LIBRARY/OAKLANDS SHARED ALARM SYSTEM

The Chairman reported on the preliminary costings of the two systems having been obtained and informed Members that he would be including 50% of the costs in the Revenue Budget 2009/10 as a growth item.

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:

177/08 HYTHE TOWN COUNCIL’S WEBSITES

Members consider the previously circulated report from the Finance Clerk in respect of the Town Council’s website.

It was

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

RECOMMENDED – That:

1. The Hythe Town Council website be brought back “in-house” and to be maintained by Mr A Wilson during his normal working hours and he be granted an ex-gracia payment of £600 p.a. for this work.
2. Mr A Wilson to investigate setting up a new website using the Kent County Council model and report back to Council.
3. The Licence Agreement with Mr John Gabris be terminated by giving one month’s notice.

Meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.

Dated the Day of 2008

.....CHAIRMAN