

MINUTESOF THE MEETING OFHYTHE TOWN COUNCILHELD ON THURSDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2007

Present: The Right Worshipful Mayor of Hythe
A J Ewart-James (In the Chair)

Councillors Mrs K T Belcourt, R Belcourt, R H Carroll,
M J Dearden, Mrs Z Harris, S W Hayward, M J Lyons,
Mrs A Mayne, D Owen, J A Schoner, A Smith and R Watson

Also Present: The Town Clerk, Reverend B Barnes, Mr T Ellames (SDC), Mr
R Smith, Mr M Smith (Kent Highways), Ms P Waring, Mr M
Mortimer (Environment Agency), Mr N Doyle (Cofton) and Mr
S Griffiths (Kent Fire & Rescue Service)

Apologies: Councillors J Oliver, Mrs L Oliver and A Mayne

The Mayor called for a minute's silence to be observed in memory of the late Mr Arthur Kensett, Past Mayor and Speaker and also for Mr S Griggs who had recently died. The Mayor then invited Reverend B Barnes to open the meeting with prayers.

224/07 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 27TH SEPTEMBER 2007

It was

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

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 27th September 2007, having been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

225/07 REGISTRATION OF DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor R Belcourt declared a prejudicial interest in Min No 228/07 – Nickolls Quarry – parents-in-law's property backed onto the site of the application.

Councillor R Belcourt declared a prejudicial interest in Min No 197/07 – Businesses on Hythe High Street – his wife owned a business in the High Street.

Councillors R Belcourt, Mrs K T Belcourt and A J Ewart-James declared prejudicial interests in Min No 215/07 (ii) CCTV – Members of Hythe Against Crime.

Councillor M J Dearden declared a personal interest in the Town Clerk's report 05/07 – his business traded in the High Street.

Councillor Mrs K T Belcourt declared a prejudicial interest in Min No 197/07 and the Town Clerk's report 05/07 – owned a business in the High Street.

Councillor Mrs K T Belcourt declared a prejudicial interest in Min No 228/07 – Nickolls Quarry – parent's property backed onto the site of the application.

Councillors K T Belcourt and R Belcourt left the Chamber for the public session.

226/07 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING FOR PUBLIC INCLUSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO.70

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor R H Carroll

SECONDED BY: Councillor J A Schoner and

RESOLVED – That the meeting stand adjourned.

Mr N Matthews, Mr White and Mr Meek 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 J A Schoner

SECONDED BY: Councillor R H Carroll and

RESOLVED – That the Meeting be reconvened.

Councillors Mrs K T Belcourt and R Belcourt returned to the Chamber.

227/07 KENT FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE – POSSIBLE CHANGES TO THE SERVICE IN FOLKESTONE

The Mayor introduced Mr Griffiths who then gave an account of the possible changes to the service in Folkestone (from his previously circulated letter to Members). He stated that a Risk Plan was to be published this week with the consultation period running until the 14th January 2008. A Questionnaire was available online for the public to complete.

The Mayor thanked Mr Griffiths for his attending the meeting.

It was then

PROPOSED BY: Councillor M Lyons
SECONDED BY: Councillor D Owen and

RESOLVED – That the meeting stand adjourned to allow further public inclusion in accordance with Standing Order No. 70 on the following item:

Councillors Mrs K T Belcourt and R Belcourt left the Chamber for the subsequent item and vote thereon.

228/07 PLANNING APPLICATION Y06/1079/SH - NICKOLLS QUARRY, DYMCHURCH ROAD, HYTHE, KENT – RESOLVED MIN NO 196/07 REFERS

Outline application for mixed use development comprising residential development (1050 dwellings); employment development (use class B1, 15,000 sq m); local centre (500 sq m use classes A1/A2, 500 sq m use class D1); public open space (8.5 ha), structural open space (10.3 ha); retention and alteration of water bodies (retained area 15.5 ha); provision of two new access points to Dymchurch Road, and site restoration including raising land levels.

Applicant: Nickolls Quarry Ltd & Cofton Ltd

The developers and representatives from statutory bodies were available to take and answer questions. Members had been previously circulated with related correspondence from the MOD.

It was then

PROPOSED BY: Councillor M Lyons
SECONDED BY: Councillor J A Schoner and

RESOLVED – That the Meeting be reconvened.

It was

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

RESOLVED – That Hythe Town Council does not support this application on the grounds of:

1. It most certainly did not have a road infrastructure that could cope with a development of this size.
2. It would add to the water restrictions that are already experienced.
3. It was on a “significant” flood plain.
4. It would have an adverse effect on wildlife and plants.
5. It would jeopardise the security and operational function of one of the world’s leading military training areas – Hythe Ranges.
6. It would most certainly destroy an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

A recorded vote was called for in accordance with Standing Order No. 10A.

For: Councillors R H Carroll, M J Dearden, Mrs Z Harris, S W Hayward, M J Lyons, Mrs A Mayne, D Owen, J A Schoner, A Smith and R Watson

Carried unanimously.

It was then

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

That the meeting stand adjourned for five minutes.

Councillors Mrs K T Belcourt and R Belcourt returned to the Chamber.

It was then

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

RESOLVED – That the Meeting be re-convened.

229/07 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

1. The Mayor informed Members that the visit of HMS Kent which had been due to take place between the 2nd – 4th November had been cancelled. It was hoped that she would be able to visit in the New Year.
2. The Mayor referred to the good firework display on 5th November.
3. The Mayor requested volunteers to assist Councillor Schoner to count the proceeds from the Poppy Appeal on the 13th and 17th November 2007.
4. The Mayor gave details of the funeral arrangements for Mr S Griggs.

230/07 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 24(2)

There were none received.

231/07 MINUTES OF THE PLANS & WORKS COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THE 25TH SEPTEMBER, 9TH & 30TH OCTOBER 2007
Min No. 197/07 – Town Clerk's Report 05/07

Councillors K T Belcourt and R Belcourt left the Chamber.

It was

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

RESOLVED – That The Town Clerk’s report and recommendations contained therein be accepted as follows:

That a Working Group be established comprising Members of the Hythe Town Council, the Channel Chamber and Hythe Chamber of Commerce to examine the practicalities of issuing an appropriate business survey in Hythe High Street.

Councillors Mrs K T Belcourt and R Belcourt returned to the Chamber.

It was then

PROPOSED BY: Councillor R Belcourt
SECONDED BY: Councillor M Lyons and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Plans & Works Committee Meetings held on the 25th September, 9th and 30th October 2007 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted, subject to the above amendment’s being incorporated.

232/07 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 4TH OCTOBER AND 1ST NOVEMBER 2007

It was

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

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meetings held on the 4th October and 1st November 2007 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

233/07 MINUTES OF THE SEEDA PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD ON THE 30TH OCTOBER 2007

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor M Lyons
SECONDED BY: Councillor S W Hayward and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the SEEDA Partnership Meeting held on the 30th October 2007 be received.

234/07 HYTHE TOURISM FORUM, SHEPWAY ACTION GROUP & KAPC AREA COMMITTEE

Members discussed the appointment of a Hythe Town Council representative to serve on the above bodies following the resignation of Councillor Mrs L Oliver from these positions.

It was

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

RESOLVED – That Councillor D Owen be appointed as the Hythe Town Council representative to service on the Hythe Tourism Forum, the Shepway Action Group and the KAPC Area Committee for the remainder of the current Civic Year.

235/07 CIVIC WORKING GROUP – RESOLVED MIN NO 71/07 REFERS

1. The outcomes from the Civic Working Group Meeting held on the 11th October 2007 were received.
2. Civic Sunday was to be set as the 22nd June 2008.

236/07 SEALING OF ORDER – STANDING ORDER NO 41 (c)

The various Licences re Eaton Lands (HB59 access arrangements) – Seal No. 20, were duly noted by Members.

Meeting closed at 8.41 pm.

Dated the: Day of: 2007

..... CHAIRMAN

Mr Neil Matthews
Fire & Rescue Service

Mr Matthews expressed his concerns over the proposal to remove two fire appliances from Folkestone. He referred to the 2008/9 Risk Management Plan and suggested that any cuts that were made in Folkestone would have a “knock on” effect in Hythe.

Nickolls Quarry

Mr Matthews expressed his concerns in respect of drainage, flood risk, sewerage and traffic generation. He felt that the “tweaking” of the traffic light timings would not be sufficient. He further stated that the application was too large for the infrastructure and a maximum of 500 dwellings had been recommended in the Local Plan.

Mr White
Nickolls Quarry

Mr White spoke on behalf of family and neighbours who resided in Botolphs Bridge Road. He expressed their concerns over the proposed calming scheme and felt it would have difficulty in working. He further stated the concerns over car fumes and congestion on the road into Hythe. His neighbours had suffered flooding in the past and there were no flood defences in place. The application was far too big and the infrastructure would not be able to cope with a development of this size.

Mr Meek
Nickolls Quarry

Mr Meek questioned who was going to live in these homes. He stated that Shepway District Council could not balance its budget now and asked what 30% affordable housing meant. He further stated his concerns in respect of flooding, the noise from lorries and he felt that the value of adjoining property would go down.