

18 February 2008

**A MEETING OF THE EMERGENCY SUB-BOARD  
WAS HELD ON 18 FEBRUARY 2008**

The Mayor (Councillor Gill) (ex-officio) (P); Councillors Burgess (P), Chegwyn, Cully (P), Hook, Langdon (P) and Smith (P)

It was reported that, in accordance with Standing Orders, Councillors Ms Ballard and Taylor had been nominated to attend the meeting in place of Councillors Chegwyn and Hook respectively.

**6. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Chegwyn and Hook.

**7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**8. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Emergency Sub-Board held on 29 October 2007 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

**PART II**

**9. APPLICATION FOR USE OF STOKES BAY FOR A FOLK FESTIVAL**

Consideration was given to a report of the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager which recommended the Sub-Board to consider an application from Hampshire Festivals Ltd for permission to use Stokes Bay to hold a folk festival between 31 July and 3 August 2008.

The Chief Executive explained that normally the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager would have delegated authority to deal with such a request in consultation with Ward Councillors. In this instance Ward Councillors had voiced concerns and therefore a decision at Board level was required. The matter had been brought before the Emergency Sub-Board as the applicant had indicated the need for an early response from the Council

Councillor Edgar requested, and was granted, permission to address the Sub-Board on the item under discussion. He stated that he had previously commented in his capacity as a Ward Councillor and had also contacted local organisations and asked them to respond to officers. He had heard nothing back so far.

He advised that the next time the matter arose was in the form of a report in The News and notification on 15 February 2008 that the Emergency Sub-Board would be meeting on 18 February 2008.

Councillor Edgar listed a number of comments he had received:

- Strongly object, the area is inappropriate and is used by local people
- Appalled at the underhand way this has been arranged
- There has been no time for formal consultation
- The organiser has the support of friends
- Parking and camping could be problematical
- Camping should preferably be behind the sailing area
- Concerns regarding an invasion by travellers
- The consumption of alcohol on site should finish earlier
- Concerns regarding excessive noise
- How much would the organiser be paid?
- Who would be responsible for reinstating damaged areas and rubbish clearance?
- Concerns regarding traffic noise and litter
- Lack of notice of the proposal
- Not a good idea at the beginning of the school holidays
- Environmental Health Officers should monitor noise levels
- There had been no reference to the set-up time
- Who would be responsible for policing and the cost of policing?
- Is this proposal likely to set a precedent?
- A joint meeting of interested groups should be set up
- It was unlikely that the proposal would attract popular support

The Chairman read out a letter he had received in support of the proposal; indicating the benefits of a folk festival being held.

The Chairman clarified that the Sub-Board was required only to decide, in principle, whether or not to allow the land at Stokes Bay to be used for a folk festival. Timing and noise levels were matters for the Licensing Board and any objections could be made to the Licensing Board. He expected Environmental Health Officers to be on site should the festival go ahead.

The Chairman advised that policing costs would be met by the festival organisers. The cost of hiring the site would be £5,000 and a deposit of £5,000 would also be required. Insurance cover of £10m to £25m would be required.

Members were advised that the application had been received in January 2008 and a request had been made for a response from the Council by 15 February 2008. A report had been drafted for submission to the Community and Environment Board in March 2008. However, as the Emergency Sub-Board meeting had been set up to consider another matter, it had been felt appropriate to use this meeting to also discuss this application and provide an earlier response to the applicant.

In answer to questions from Members, the Chairman stated that, whoever the applicant was, they would be treated in the same way as any other applicant and that no declarations of interest had been made at this meeting.

Members were advised that, before any licence was granted by the Licensing Board,

all necessary checks on the company would be carried out.

In answer to a question, the Borough Solicitor stated that the Sub-Board could, if it wished and there were benefits to the Council, insist on Hampshire Festivals Ltd being a properly registered company. Checks would need to be made on the history and track record of the organisation together with financial stability checks before the land would be hired out to them. Consultation with the Safety Advisory Group would also have to take place.

In answer to questions, Members were advised that the Council, as land owner, would be responsible for evicting any unauthorised visitors remaining on the land. A deposit from the organiser would be required for rubbish clearance and any damage to the site.

Concerns were raised with regard to reported problems between Hampshire Festivals Ltd and Winchester City Council, whether a planned festival at Wickham, for which tickets were still being advertised, was still going ahead and a report in the local newspaper that the idea of a festival at Stokes Bay had been abandoned.

Members were advised that there had been nothing in writing to suggest that the Wickham Festival would not be taking place and that the application did not suggest that this was for a festival to replace the one to be held at Wickham.

Councillor Smith stated that the planned festival at Stokes Bay would be a traditional folk festival with acoustic music and folk dancing. The music and singing would not be loud. The application would have to be considered by both the Licensing Board and the Safety Advisory Group. Should the Sub-Board approve the application as land owners, there would still be a number of other criteria to be satisfied.

The Chairman put to the vote a recommendation to approve, in principle, an application from Hampshire Festivals Ltd for the use of Stokes Bay for holding a folk festival between 31 July and 3 August 2008. Upon the Chairman's casting vote, it was decided that such approval be given.

RESOLVED: That approval in principle be given to an application from Hampshire Festivals Ltd for the use of Stokes Bay for holding a folk festival between 31 July and 3 August 2008.

## **10. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED: That in relation to the following item the public be excluded from the meeting, as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

**11. AGREEMENT OF PROPOSED HEADS OF TERMS FOR DISPOSAL OF PRIDDY'S HARD PHASE II**

The report was exempt from publication as the item under discussion included financial and business information of third parties. Disclosure of such information could prejudice current and future negotiations for the disposal of land that would not be in the interest of the Council Tax Payers of Gosport and therefore, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

Consideration was given to an exempt report of the Chief Executive.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the Heads of Terms, previously approved by the Policy and Organisation Board, be revised as recommended in the Chief Executive's report, and the Chief Executive be instructed to conclude negotiations with Verve Properties Ltd on this basis; and
- b) the Borough Solicitor be authorised to progress the legal work with a view to the grant of a 999 year lease to Verve Properties Ltd for Explosion! Museum together with the grant of a Building Agreement followed by the freehold sale of Priddys Hard Phase 2.

**CHAIRMAN**