

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee of the New Milton Town Council held on Monday 4 September 2017 at 6.30 pm in the Town Hall, Ashley Road, New Milton.

Chairman	p	G R Blunden
Vice Chairman	p	D E Hawkins

Councillors:	G C Beck	W B Davies
p	D A Rice Mundy	p A D O'Sullivan
p	A W Rice	R Murrow
p	V E Schooling	

In Attendance:	Officers:	G P Flexman	Town Clerk
		J Hayward	Administrator
		Cllr S Clarke	

The Chairman opened the meeting welcoming councillors, a member of public and a press representative.

Mr Alan Watson, representing New Milton Residents Association (NMRA) informed councillors that he has received many emails from residents voicing their concerns about the degeneration of the weekly market. Alan Watson asked if the market traders could be accommodated on the pavement.

41. **APOLOGIES**

Cllrs Murrow, W Davies and Beck

42. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

43. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

To be discussed under Matters Arising.

44. **MINUTES**

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2017 previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Minutes were duly signed.

45. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

The Town Clerk confirmed that all items have been or are being addressed.

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
28	Repeater Signs Bashley	24 July 2017	F&GP
30	ASBOC use of Recreation Ground	24 July 2017	Administrator
31	Deck chairs for Recreation Ground	24 July 2017	F&GP
32	Britain in Bloom awards	20 September 2017	Town Clerk
34	Skate Park competition	19 August 2017	Youth Coordinator
35	Play Parks Working Party	TBA	Administrator
36	Specialist Markets on Recreation Ground	4 September 2017	Amenities
37	Red Telephone Box	4 September 2017	Assistant Town Clerk / BT
38	Moore Close parking	4 September 2017	Amenities
38	Old Milton Green shopping precinct	4 September 2017	Amenities

The Chairman noted that the deck chairs would be ordered in time to be used next year, subject to £2k sponsorship from New Milton Sand & Ballast.

46. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) The Town Clerk referred to correspondence received from residents at Inglewood Drive and their observation of the mess and mayhem created by Virgin Media. This matter will be brought to their attention.
- b) The Town Clerk referred to an email from Dr Robert Gordon thanking the council for the improvements to the Recreation Ground but voicing his concerns about the littering around the skate-park.

Cllr Clarke said he has raised this issue before and perhaps now is a good time to consider by-laws as well as public consultation.

Cllr Schooling suggested contact with schools to share awareness of littering and having respect for the War Memorial Recreation Ground.

Cllrs Rice-Mundy and O'Sullivan were in agreement about the consideration of by-laws but questioned how they would be enforced and how it would work in practice. Members suggested that council staff could issue FPN's following training.

The Chairman said it is timely opportunity to review and the Town Clerk will research by-laws and other enforcement action for littering, no drinking in public places and dog fouling.

- c) The Town Clerk referred to a letter received from Mr & Mrs Ormond regarding the weekly market asking if the market made financial sense.

The Chairman referred to the small number of traders and that it is viable and the Town Clerk confirmed that income for the market is on budget.

The Chairman suggested that the Street Market Working Party arrange to meet to review viability and propose a plan for the way forward.

Cllr Hawkins suggested that consideration also be given to the idea of permanent pedestrianisation of Station Road south allowing the creation of an artisan area to encourage greater community use.

Members agreed that the pedestrian areas need looking at as part of the Neighbourhood Plan and being part of the bigger picture to reinvent New Milton town centre.

47. LAND USE REQUESTS

- a) The Town Clerk referred to an email from Circus Ginnett with a provisional booking for the circus to return next year.
- b) Patricia Goddard from Forest Scoops had emailed to ask if they could sell ice-creams on the Recreation Ground offering 20% of their profit back to NMTC.

The Chairman suggested that catering should only be provided on the Recreation Ground when there is an event happening which was agreed by members

48. BASHLEY GATEWAY SIGNS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1, Bashley Gateway Signs, previously circulated.

The Town Clerk informed members about the meeting with Mandy Ware from HCC and the subsequent email from PCSO Stuart Readhead from Lymington Neighbourhood Police Team noting traffic signs regulations.

Cllr Clarke mentioned he had attended a meeting at Lymington Police Station and the local police are very supportive of speed reduction measures for Bashley. The Chairman asked if there had been any further support from HCC.

Current positives are that Tier 1 training is being done and therefore NMTC staff could support and maintain lower speed signage. The Chairman reminded members that our staff doing such extra work would impact on the budget.

49. WAYLEAVE FOR SCOTTISH & SOUTHERN

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2 and the letter and map from Scottish & Southern noting that the address is in New Milton and not Poole as indicated on the plan. The Town Clerk was asked to obtain £250 capital sum in respect of wayleave, from either SSE or Virgin Media.

50. INDIAN MEMORIAL

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3 and asked councillors to note and comment on the proposal by Historic England (formerly English Heritage) to redesignate the Grade II Indian Memorial in their list of buildings.

Members agreed that we should enthusiastically support and promote the listing of this monument for posterity because it is unique and part of this town's history.

It was then

RECOMMENDED:

That New Milton Town Council supports the listing of the Grade II Indian Memorial at Barton on Sea on the Historic England List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest.

Cllr O'Sullivan suggested that we involve Nick Saunders and the Town Clerk will contact him at the Milton Heritage Society.

(Post Meeting Note: Further information about listing of War Memorials is attached).

51. BE INVOLVED EVENT

The Chairman provided an update on the Be Involved event on 16-17 September which is an NMTC event supported by the community that received £10k lottery funding.

The Chairman encouraged councillors to attend over that weekend to support the Town Development Manager and Be Involved team.

52. SKATE-PARK JAM

The Chairman invited the Youth Coordinator to give an update on the successful skate-park jam event held on 19 August. There was a wide age range attending the jam with professionals and young people taking part. The young people asked Silma to pass on their thanks to the council for supporting this event and they were keen to have this as an annual event and would be happy to do fund-raising.

The Youth Coordinator also gave an update on the initial meeting with the aim of forming a Youth Council noting that 30 young people attended with 12 agreeing to commit to a further meeting. Members were very pleased with all the positive comments and that we are engaging with our young citizens.

The Chairman asked about the Teenage Market unfortunately 3 were cancelled due to bad weather. The Youth Coordinator reported on a couple of issues that had happened at recent markets, in particular one of the shopkeeper's aggressive tirade towards one of the buskers and the Youth Coordinator. The meeting agreed that this was appalling and unacceptable behaviour.

Arrangements for future Teenage Markets will form part of the brief for the Market Working Party.

53. PERFORMANCE PAVILION

The Chairman was pleased to report that the Afternoon of Music events had been very successful being well attended by local residents and visitors to the area on holiday. The weather for the entertainment afternoons had been good with the exception of the event on 3 September which had to be cancelled.

The Chairman asked members to give any ideas for next year to the Town Clerk; we would also be seeking the public's views on our web site.

54. HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Chairman referred to Appendix 4, and concerns were reiterated about safety implications for residents due to the cut backs in highways maintenance by HCC.

These policy changes i.e. the reduction in the frequency of grass cutting, weed killing and general highway maintenance are now generating many complaints from pedestrians and road users.

They are highlighting overgrown verges, road signs that are illegible due to growth and lack of cleaning, weeds in the footways which are causing trip hazards and weeds in the carriageway channels. Many of the weeds have strong root structures and are extensively damaging the surface which will lead to costly repairs. It was felt these repairs would far outweigh any short term savings.

The Town Clerk read out the response received so far from HCC Highways. Members agreed that we should lobby HCC, the HCC Leader and local county councillors to express our concerns.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That the Town Clerk would write to the Leader of HCC and local County Councillors expressing concerns about the ongoing reduction in Highways maintenance.

55. BALLARD LAKE

The Chairman referred to an update circulated by the Town Clerk at the meeting regarding the works to be undertaken at Pond Copse. As previously discussed, this would involve invasive plant removal to enable better access around the lake. It was suggested that we inform local residents of this prior to works commencing.

56. ANY OTHER MATTERS

The Chairman invited Cllr Clarke to share his views about an incident at Deer Park Close where a local landscaping contractor had worked across council land without permission, removing hedgerows and also possibly damaging TPO trees roots in the area which would need to be monitored over the next two years.

The Chairman noted concern for the lack of regard on council land and for TPO's and that firm action should be taken asking our solicitor to write a letter to the landscaping contractor.

Cllr O'Sullivan voiced his concerns about the Bradbeers Car Park and the recent bad press stating it is was not good for visitors to the town to receive incorrect parking tickets. Members hoped that Bradbeers will consider better use of the car park.

57. ANY ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

None

58. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting Tuesday 17 October 2017 at 6.30 pm in the Town Hall, Ashley Road, New Milton

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the public session of the meeting at 7.45 pm.

CHAIRMAN _____

DATE _____

Distribution:

Town Councillors

Estates & Facilities Manager

District Councillors C V Ward, J L Cleary

County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter and K Mans

New Milton Library

Press

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
46 A	Virgin Media	5 September 2017	Town Development Manager
46 B	By-laws & enforcement	17 October 2017	Town Clerk
46 C	Street Market Working Party	TBA	Administrator
47 A	Circus Ginnett	17 October 2017	Administrator
47 B	Forest Scoops	17 October 2017	Administrator
49	Scottish & Southern Wayleave	7 September 2017	Town Clerk
50	Indian Memorial	5 September 2017	Town Clerk
56	Deer Park Close	8 September 2017	Town Clerk