

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee of the New Milton Town Council held on Monday 27 November 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	p	W B Davies
p	D A Rice Mundy		A D O'Sullivan
p	A W Rice	p	R Murrow
	V E Schooling		

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

The Chairman opened the meeting welcoming 5 councillors, 1 member of public and a press representative.

Mr Alan Watson, on behalf of New Milton Christmas Festival thanked New Milton Town Council for all its support. The Christmas Festival was very successful and a record bucket collection of nearly £500 was made.

76. APOLOGIES

Cllrs G Beck, Mrs V Schooling and A O'Sullivan

77. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members have a dispensation to discuss the precept.

Members noted the new declarations form recently introduced.

78. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To be discussed under Agenda Item 11, Christmas Event.

79. MINUTES

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2017 previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Minutes were duly signed.

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

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

A letter from Virgin Media confirming that the high street cabling works would take place in the new year following further discussions between Virgin and HCC, using existing ducting where possible.

The Town Clerk explained Cango use figures totalled 14,000 passengers last year, equating to 7 passengers per route, noting usage figures are not identified for New Milton. Cango funding is not included in next year's budget because HCC cannot tell which services will be cut until the end of February, but our precept has to be submitted to NFDC mid-January.

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
64	Contact Virgin Media & HCC	27 November 2017	Town Clerk
65 a	Peter Cole Funfair 2018	27 November 2017	Administrator
65 b	Lions Carnival 2018	27 November 2017	Administrator
67	Donated seats	27 November 2017	Estates Manager
68	Salt/grit bins	27 November 2017	Estates Manager
72	Cango use figures	27 November 2017	Town Clerk

81. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) The Town Clerk informed members that the single point of contact at HCC is Emily Cockle who is liaising with Network Rail regarding the new passenger footbridge with works expected to start next year.
- b) The Town Clerk confirmed that the new Estates & Facilities Supervisor starts on 2 January 2018.

82. LAND USE REQUESTS

- a) The Chairman referred to appendices relating to the Junior Parkrun and said this subject requires further clarification and a presentation from Parkrun representatives and would therefore be deferred to the next meeting on 22 January 2018.
- b) The Town Clerk stated that R T Cole Funfair had requested use of the Moore Close site from 16-23 July 2018.

RESOLVED:

That permission be granted to R T Cole Funfair to use the Moore Close site 16-23 July 2018.

- c) Circus Ginnett had asked to visit again from 7-27 August 2018.

RESOLVED:

That permission be granted to Circus Ginnett to use the Moore Close site from 7-27 August 2018.

- d) Also, a request from the National Netherlands Circus to visit in August but this is already booked and they have been asked for other dates.

83. FEES & CHARGES 2018/19

The Chairman referred to Annex A, previously circulated, and reviewed it page by page.

New Milton Town Football Club lease is due for renewal after 25 years and we will be meeting the club Chairman to discuss this further.

A bench-marking exercise comparing rentals of other similar sized league football teams would be useful.

Ashley Rugby Pavilion lease has its rent fixed at 3 yearly intervals.

Fernhill Cricket Pavilion lease is due for review from 1 April 2018 with the rent being reviewed by 4% compounded over 3 years.

The Chairman stated the importance of flower bed sponsorship ensuring the quality of floral displays is maintained and improved subject to more sponsorship take-up. It was then

RECOMMENDED:

That the Fees & Charges for 2018/19 be endorsed by the Finance & General Purposes Committee at its meeting on 18 December 2017.

84. AMENITIES COMMITTEE BUDGET 2018/19

The Chairman referred to Annex B, previously circulated, and reviewed it page by page.

The budget had already been through the Executive Committee at two meetings.

Wages reflect a cost of living rise of 2%, plus an increase in pension contributions and the appointment of a new Estates & Facilities Supervisor.

The Chairman referred to the new tree-planting budget in line with council policy.

The reduction of skip hire costs is being pursued with research into on-site composting and chipping, in conjunction with NFDC refuse collection and HCC waste disposal.

A new ventilation system is required in the changing rooms at Ashley Rugby Club with £35k earmarked reserves for this item of capital expenditure.

Reference was made to ongoing maintenance required at the Recreation Ground, including Performance Pavilion and Skate-park.

A new heating system is required at Fawcetts Field and £30k is earmarked from reserves for this item of capital expenditure.

It was then

RECOMMENDED:

That the Amenities Committee Budget for 2018/19 be endorsed by the Finance & General Purposes Committee at its meeting on 18 December 2017.

85. FESTIVE LIGHTING PROJECT

The Chairman provided an update and said it has been a challenge this year involving more lamp-testing, enhanced bracket testing and replacement festoons and thanked the Assistant Town Clerk for her hard work in maintaining existing displays.

There have been fewer donations from local businesses with a £3k shortfall this year, resulting in an increased budget next year of £18k. If main sponsorship arrangements are not in place for next year the extent of the display may have to be reduced.

Unfortunately, the Town Council cannot keep going over budget for the festive lighting displays, and without more sponsorship, further display extensions will not happen.

86. CHRISTMAS EVENT

The Chairman thanked the New Milton Town Partnership and other community groups for all their efforts in arranging a very successful Christmas Festival and noted the feedback received from Ros Bowles and Alan Watson, which was read out by the Town Clerk.

The Chairman reminded members that we provided grant aid of £2,500 for the Festival and highlighted the "hidden costs" of £1,500 covering our labour and vehicle costs assisting the festival organisers on the day.

Cllr Hawkins referred to the issues with the public toilets becoming blocked and unable to cope with high volume of use at such events. It was suggested that temporary toilets be ordered for future public events.

87. BASHLEY SPEED SIGNS

The Chairman gave an update on the gateway signs to be installed shortly. It is anticipated the councillor jointed funded SLR for dedicated use in the Bashley area will be operational next month

88. SPEED AWARENESS

Whilst the Bashley speeding issues have recently been highlighted it is recognised other areas of the town have the same problem which should be addressed. It was suggested the purchase of an additional Speed Limit Reminder (SLR) at a cost of £2,625 be funded from CIL monies. Also, the repair of an existing SLR at a cost of £501. These two units will be deployed at various locations throughout the town.

It was then

RECOMMENDED

That the Town Council purchase an additional Speed Limit Reminder (SLR) at a cost of £2,625 to be funded from CIL monies. Also, the repair of an existing SLR at a cost of £501 to enable use of two SLRs around the town.

89. ANY OTHER MATTERS

Cllr Rice-Mundy suggested that the cleared wooded area at Ballard Lake needs protecting with a bank around it to stop unwanted vehicles from entering following recent contractors work at the site.

90. ANY ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

None

91. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting Monday 22 January 2018 at 6.30 pm in the Town Hall, Ashley Road, New Milton

The Chairman closed the public meeting at 7.25 pm and thanked those attending.

The Chairman asked for the matter of NFDC Protocols be discussed in private session and members agreed.

PRIVATE SESSION**PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960**

The Chairman moved that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business pursuant to section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reasons of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

92. NFDC PROTOCOLS

Following receipt of protocols from New Forest District Council, members discussed what New Milton Town Council would do in the event of a death of a member of the Royal Family. It was suggested :

- Purchase new Union Flags to be clean and ironed and ready to fly half-mast.
- Purchase black armbands for front line staff and councillors to wear.
- Signs indicating where to lay floral tributes on the Recreation Ground.
- Follow the lead of the District Council who will open books of condolence
- Make known the protocols and procedures to other interested parties.

It was then

RECOMMENDED:

That this matter be referred to Full Town Council for final approval.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the private session of the meeting at 7.40 pm and wished members a Happy Christmas.

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

Alan Watson – FOCUS & NMRA

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
82 a)	Junior Parkrun	22 January 2018	Town Clerk
82 b)	R T Cole Funfair	18 December 2017	Administrator
82 c)	Circus Ginnett	18 December 2017	Administrator
83	New Milton Town Football Club lease renewal	18 December 2017	Town Clerk
84	Reduction of skip hire costs	22 January 2018	Estates Manager
88	Purchase of 2 SLR's	18 December 2017	Town Clerk
89	Bunded area Ballard Lake	18 December 2017	Estates Manager
92	Purchase new flags and armbands	22 January 2018	Estates Manager