

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF NEW MILTON ANNUAL TOWN'S MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 29 APRIL 2019 AT 6.30PM IN THE TOWN HALL, ASHLEY ROAD, NEW MILTON

<u>CHAIRMAN</u>	Councillor David Rice-Mundy
<u>TOWN CLERK</u>	G P Flexman
<u>IN ATTENDANCE</u>	Town Councillors, 60 members of the public and press representative Joanna Hayward (Administrator) Emma Towler (Admin Assistant)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 40th Annual Town's meeting since 1979; and announced that prior to the commencement of formal business he would present accolades to local community-spirited individuals as well as announce the annual "Citizen of the Year" award, and present cheques to his nominated charities.

The Chairman then presented the New Milton Citizen of the Year award to Mr Bev Scott-Johns for his long-term dedication and commitment to the sport of table tennis and as a volunteer at New Milton Table Tennis Club.

Mrs Phyllis Inglis BEM, was awarded a Special Accolade of Gratitude by the Mayor in recognition of her long and loyal service to the local community of New Milton.

Following successful fund-raising activities in this and previous years, Noah Andrew, Seth Woodcraft, Alex Brash and John Devlin were acknowledged for their efforts and the Mayor was delighted to applaud their community spirit and award them a small token of gratitude.

The Mayor's nominated charities, Scarf New Forest and New Forest Young Carers, were presented cheques from the Mayor's community fund and donations from FITC.

The Chairman also thanked Cllr Goff Beck, giving a summary of his achievements during his twenty-years town council service and for his consistent hard work for and on behalf of the residents of the town.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Cllr J Ward and Cllr Mrs V Schooling

2. **MINUTES**

It was

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2018 , having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The minutes were duly signed.

3. TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Chairman expressed gratitude to his fellow Councillors for their support during his Mayoral year and thanked Deputy Mayor, Cllr Alvin Reid for his continued efforts. The Chairman also thanked the Town Clerk for his support and advice during his Mayoral term of office, and all the staff and other members of the Council.

The Chairman summarised his year in office, particularly recalling 2018 as the year that New Milton remembered the 100th anniversary of the Armistice at the end of WW1, the Beacon lighting ceremony on the cliff top and the commemoration at the Indian Memorial in the Summer. All events in partnership between the town and the community which were overwhelmingly attended.

The Chairman extended his gratitude to all those generous donors for their efforts fund-raising for the Mayor's nominated charities and highlighted the excellent and vital services that Scarf New Forest and New Forest Young Carers provide for young people.

A copy of the Chairman's report and those of the Amenities, F&GP and Planning Committees, together with a report on the War Memorial Recreation Ground and NFALC are attached.

The Mayor thanked the Administrator for arranging various civic events during the year.

4. ANNUAL REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRMEN OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Amenities

Cllr G Blunden as Chairman of the Amenities Committee had enjoyed working with members of the committee and thanked the Town Clerk and his staff for their support.

He highlighted the hard work put in by the Estates team and summarised achievements particularly the Dementia Community Allotment, New Milton in Bloom being awarded Silver Gilt and being nominated for Britain in Bloom 2019, as well as the outstanding festive lights display and opening of the Doe Copse Way play park.

He thanked especially the Estates & Facilities ground staff team for their work.

Finance & General Purposes

Cllr S Davies as Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee said that the remit of the Finance & General Purposes committee is broad with overall responsibility for Council finance and personnel functions, plus grant aid.

He referred to budget discussions that began in October 2018 with the precept of £994,529 being agreed and which was endorsed by full Council on 7 January 2019.

Overseeing Youth Work in the town is key with the task of setting up a suitable charity to help the project achieve a replacement youth centre facility.

He thanked the Youth Services Manager for all her hard work.

Planning

Cllr S Clarke as Chairman of the Planning Committee said his committee makes recommendations on all planning applications and issues related to development and tree works at meetings which are held fortnightly.

The Neighbourhood Planning team have considered 199 planning applications from NFDC, 32 from the National Park Authority and 68 tree works in the last year with the committee having also considered issues related to highways, utilities and infrastructure in the town.

He confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan submission document is almost ready having undergone public consultation last year.

In particular, he thanked the Planning Clerks and TDM for their help.

5. WAR MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND - (CHARITY NO. 301891)

The Town Clerk presented the Annual Report of the Trustees proudly noting the history of the War Memorial Recreation Ground bequeathed to the residents of the Parish of New Milton by the Reverend Kelsall in 1920.

The War Memorial witnessed the 100th commemoration of Armistice Day on Sunday 11 November 2018 when the townsfolk gathered to remember all 223 local servicemen who lost their lives in the two world wars. 83 in WW1 and 140 in WW2, in addition 26 civilians died as a result of WW2 bombings in the town.

In total, 249 local residents lost their lives.

The Chairman also mentioned the New Milton Remembers event at the Memorial Clock in Station Road south held on 23 August when the town remembers those civilians who died during the WW2 bombings.

6. TO CONSIDER ANY MOTION OF WHICH WRITTEN NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

No written notice had been received of any motions to be considered.

7. GUEST SPEAKER

The Chairman introduced Keith Betton, Chairman of Hampshire Ornithological Society, who gave an outstanding illustrated talk on the Return of the Peregrine Falcon and in particular information regarding the pair of Peregrine Falcons that have made the Water Tower their home, thanks to working closely with Bournemouth Water who have constructed a nesting box in one of the turrets. The presentation included amazing images of this powerful avian predator, accompanied by facts and information on the species that was once endangered.

8. QUESTIONS

- a) Local resident, and former town councillor, Mr Roy 'Tink' Snudden, referred to the condition of the grave of Col Wheeler at St Mary Magdalene and asked for this to be attended to and tidied up.
- b) Mr Snudden also passed on a request from Mr Keith Bloodworth of Bashley to review the deployment of the SID and asked when the wildflower seeds would be sown at the Bashley roundabout. Cllr Blunden responded that public utility services had been found close to the surface and it was unsafe to dig the ground to prepare for seeds.
- c) Local resident, Sylvia Smith, suggested more promotion of New Milton be undertaken to encourage tourism into the town as we have many attractions and areas of interest.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next Annual Towns' Meeting will be held on Monday 20 April 2020 at 6.30 pm in the Town Hall, Ashley Road, New Milton.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and there being no further business to discuss, closed the Meeting at 8 pm.

Chairman _____

Date _____

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District Councillors

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