



Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee of the New Milton Town Council held on Monday 21 January 2019 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 p A D O'Sullivan  
p A W Rice p R Murrow  
p V E Schooling

In Attendance

Councillors: S J Clarke  
K Craze

Officers: G Flexman Town Clerk  
E Towler Assistant Administrator

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

The Chairman welcomed back Cllr Schooling.

96. APOLOGIES

Cllr Beck

97. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

98. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

99. MINUTES

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2018, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.**

The Minutes were duly signed.



100. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE

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

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
83	Disabled Access Reasonable Adjustments	On-going	Town Clerk
84	Youth Festival	10 August 2019	Youth Co-ordinator
85	Fees & Charges 2019/20	17 December 2018	F&GP
86	Amenities Budget 2019/20	17 December 2018	F&GP
87	Environmental and Sustainability Policy	7 January 2019	Town Council
88	Festive Lighting Working Party	21 January 2019	Amenities Committee
92	Provision of seat along Ashley Road, opposite Warwick Avenue	21 January 2019	Estates & Facilities Manager
94	75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary events	D-Day 2019 VE Day 2020	Lions Club

Referring to Disabled Access, a summary of the requirements of the Disability Act was circulated at the last meeting when it was confirmed that reasonable adjustments will be introduced wherever possible. The Town Clerk confirmed that a public seat will be provided along Ashley Road, opposite Warwick Avenue as previously resolved.

101. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) A letter and card received from local residents, thanking the Town Council for the Christmas Lights Display, describing this year as the 'best yet'.
- b) The gravel pit located off Meadow Way has recently attracted some vandalism, especially to trees. The Town Council are aware, as are the Police, with both taking appropriate action.



- c) An email was received, enquiring about the padlocked gate along Meadow Way, protecting common land. It was requested that the gates be unlocked as this restricts the turning space for local residents. In view of the recent parking on common land and unauthorised removal of dragons teeth, Cllr Hawkins was in favour of keeping the gates locked. The Chairman agreed that it was the appropriate action to take being in mind recent trespass.

102. LAND USE REQUESTS

That the Town Clerk referred to a request from the Round Table to use the Moore Close site on 26 October 2019 for the annual Fireworks Display.

**RESOLVED:**

***The Fireworks Display be permitted at Moore Close on 26 October 2019.***

103. DOE COPSE WAY

The Chairman informed members that the playpark was nearing completion with one piece of replacement equipment causing a two-week delay. It is hoped that a formal opening by the Mayor will take place on Saturday 23 February 2019.

104. ASHLEY PLAY AREA

The Chairman explained the play park is well used by families in Ashley and the surrounding area and that some of the equipment now needs to be replaced after more than 12 years use, as well as the surfacing. The park needs updating, taking the opportunity to improve the range of play equipment. Funding would be through Section 106 monies allocated for play areas in our strategic plan for open spaces. The Chairman suggested this be considered by the existing Play Park Working Party that comprised Cllrs Blunden, Hexter, Reid and Rice-Mundy. Following Cllr Hexter resigning, there is a vacancy on the Working Party, with Cllrs W Davies and Hawkins both expressing interest being local ward members for Ashley.

105. CCTV

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1, noting a need to improve CCTV coverage within the town and suggested a re-deployable camera be administered by NFDC at a cost of up to £10k to be funded from CIL monies. Cllr Clarke voiced his support, noting that the cameras could be attached to most lamp-posts but members of the public will need to be aware that they are there. Several locations were suggested, which would need to be confirmed if a camera is agreed.



The Chairman called for a vote. Cllr O'Sullivan proposed that £10k be used from CIL monies to use a re-deployable CCTV camera provided by NFDC. It was then

**RECOMMENDED:**

***That £10k be used from CIL monies for an NFDC re-deployable CCTV camera.***

106. COMMUNITY HUB

The Chairman went out of session at 6.52pm so that Clive Rigden, Memorial Centre Manager, could provide members with an update on the Community Hub. There had been progress regarding plans for the site, with Working Group meetings recently taking place. A specialist Charity Lawyer is providing advice in conjunction with the Town Council Solicitor. The Chairman went back into session at 6.55pm.

Cllr O'Sullivan voiced his support for the development, proposing that up to £4k be used from the Amenities Budget or reserves for this expert advice. Cllr Hawkins also voiced his support but raised concern about the possibility of the land being sold in the future and suggested that something is in place to prevent this from happening, ensuring it is always a community building. The Chairman confirmed that a legal agreement will be signed before works commence, and that is why we have asked our own Solicitor to oversee.

Cllr Clarke informed members that in the company of the Town Development Manager, he had attended the New Forest Business Partnership Board Meeting on 17 January 2019 at which the TDM presented and received support towards bidding for a share of the Government's £675m Future High Streets Fund. If successful, the Town Council could receive funding of up to £25m to create an enhanced town centre environment. Members were pleased that the town had been recognised in the New Forest district generally.

The Chairman called for a vote. Cllr O'Sullivan proposed that £4k from the Amenities Budget be used towards legal fees for setting up the appropriate vehicle to develop the Memorial Hall. This was supported by the majority. Cllr Hawkins abstained.

It was then

**RECOMMENDED:**

***That £4k from the Amenities Budget be used towards legal fees to assist development of the Memorial Hall.***



107. NO.1 NEW MILTON

Cllr Craze gave an update on the Railway Station Project, informing members that the Lead Paint Survey carried out last week has revealed leaded paint across the internal building. The Estates & Facilities Manager had asked the surveyors for their thoughts on solutions that will meet SWR requirements.

A brochure was presented to members, providing information on how people can help assist with the project by donations or volunteer work. A copy will also be sent to corporate organisations with an accompanying letter. £750 has been raised over the past week towards funding. A £10k bid to Hampshire Archives Trust, with the board meeting taking place tonight, sees a decision made shortly. A £20k bid has been made to the Big Lottery Fund, a decision on that bid will be made on 29 January 2019. There has also been a small bid to the Royal Horticultural Society.

The Working Party are meeting with officers from the National Park Authority to see if there is a link between the building and the New Forest and whether funding could be provided from the NPA. Further updates will be provided at future meetings.

108. YOUTH TRUST

The Chairman updated members, explaining a Working Party had been formed to progress the formation of a Charitable Youth Trust reporting to the F&GP committee, with a small parcel of land at Gore Road being offered for a new Youth Centre. The Youth Co-ordinator is in talks with SPUD for their advice on the building design. The building is planned to be used across the week, with the exterior designed by the youth users themselves. It was suggested that the building side of the project would report back to the Amenities Committee with finances reported to the F&GP Committee. Cllr W Davies wished to highlight the importance of the Community Hub and Youth Centre complementing rather than overlapping each other. The Working Party will oversee this project and report back at future committee meetings.

109. ASHLEY PAVILION

The Chairman explained the proposed improvements to the Pavilion have been the subject of detailed discussion in formulating our 2019/20 budget. The Town Clerk and Chairman met with the President of the Rugby Club last week and a follow up meeting is due to take place on Tuesday 22 January 2019 with the Club's management committee. It was agreed a Working Party would oversee the project comprising Cllrs Blunden, Hawkins, Rice-Mundy and Reid.



110. RISK ASSESSMENTS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2, previously circulated. The Town Clerk highlighted Action Plans and informed members we are awaiting the latest report from the Internal Auditor, recommending investment of funds with CCLA. It was also noted that drainage and flooding problems have not been as bad as previous years, but we remain vigilant. There was recent vandalism and encroachment on common land as we heard earlier in the meeting. Risk assessments are ongoing and reviewed constantly, not just once a year.

111. ANY OTHER UPDATES

Cllr Murrow gave an update on the Dementia Allotments, informing members that a meeting is due with Sue Wiffen on 31 January 2019. Visitors had been affected by extreme heat last year so it was suggested that a temporary gazebo be erected during hot periods for shade. There is a planned Spring Opening to take place on 23 April 2019 and a press release for any potential volunteers. The Dementia Allotment is also expected to take part in SSEiB again this year. Members thanked Cllr Murrow for this initiative.

112. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Monday 4 March 2019 at 6.30 pm** in the Town Hall, Ashley Road, New Milton.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked members and the public for attending and closed the meeting at 7.49pm.

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  
New Milton Police  
Press  
Alan Watson – FOCUS & NMRA