



Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee of the New Milton Town Council held on Monday 2 September 2019 at 6.30 pm in the Town Hall, Ashley Road, New Milton.

Chairman	p	G R Blunden		
Vice Chairman	p	D E Hawkins		
<u>Councillors</u>	p	M Craze	p	C V Ward
	p	D A Rice-Mundy	p	A D O'Sullivan
	p	A W Rice	p	R Murrow
		V E Schooling		
<u>In Attendance</u>				
Councillors:		R A Reid		S Clarke
		N Tungate		M Levitt
		K Craze		
Officers:		G Flexman		Town Clerk
		J Hayward		Administrator
		M Jeffries		Estates & Facilities Manager

The Chairman welcomed councillors, eleven members of the public and a press representative.

The Chairman then invited members of the public to speak on any items appearing on the public agenda, or relevant to this Committee.

Mr Bob Lord, a local resident, referred to the Neighbourhood Plan and one key objective “*To protect and enhance the natural environment supporting net gains in biodiversity*” and proposed a change of name from Amenities Committee to Amenities & Biodiversity Committee. Another suggestion made was to install bird and bat boxes on the Recreation Ground as well as include areas of wildflowers and other plant species perfect for butterflies and pollinators and Mr Lord provided a map to illustrate his suggestions.

Mr Terry Antell, representing the New Milton Men’s Shed announced the official opening event of the Men’s Shed on Thursday 5 September at 10.30 am. He also referred to the public access gates at Ballard Water Meadow that needed attention which the Men’s Shed would be willing to repair.

Mr Colin Townsend, representing New Milton Healthy Walks initiative who use the Ballard site for their weekly walks referred to access issues encountered at some of the gates and asked for additional benches to be installed.

Professor Anthony Watson, a resident of Bashley referred to his email dated 22 August 2019, Appendix 5, concerning SLR’s and the issue of the Bashley Residents funded SLR and its deployment.

Mr Keith Bloodworth, a resident of Bashley, also spoke on the matter of SLR deployment in Bashley.

The Chairman then opened the Committee meeting at 6.50pm.

47. APOLOGIES

Cllr Mrs V Schooling

48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

49. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- a) The Chairman thanked Mr Lord for his suggestions and said that the Terms of Reference for the Amenities Committee and its standing orders are reviewed annually.

Referring to the planting suggestions these would be considered separately and in keeping with the Recreation Ground as a fully utilised and popular public space.

The Chairman added that the council as a responsible authority and landowner would shortly be considering an action plan in response to the climate emergency declarations made by other councils, and this will be an agenda item at the next Amenities Committee meeting.

- b) The Chairman responded to Mr Antell noting that the Men's Shed Lease was an agenda item and would be discussed later in the meeting.
Referring to the gates issue, this would be looked at separately and referred to the Estates Manager as appropriate.
- c) Referring to the gates and benches request from Mr Townsend, again this would be looked at further, noting that these gates were DDA compliant when installed approximately 5 years ago.
- d) The Chairman responded to Prof Watson and Mr Bloodworth, referring to agenda item 17 and appendix 5 that would be discussed later on at the meeting.

50. MINUTES

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2019, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Minutes were duly signed.

51. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE

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



Minute 36 – Disabled Access Milford Road Cemetery was an ongoing project as well as Minute 40 – Initial Funding Community Hub.

Minute 43 – In Bloom Regional judging results would be announced next week at the SSEIB Awards Ceremony in Brighton.

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
34a)	Defibrillators	3 Sept 2019	Estates Manager
34b)	Last Straw Solent siting of cage	19 July 2019	Admin Assistant
34c)	NFDC Polling review	18 August 2019	Members
35	ASBOC Summer Programme on Rec	19 July 2019	Admin Assistant
36	Disabled Access Milford Road Cemetery	29 July 2019	F&GP Committee/ Town Clerk
40	Initial funding Community Hub	29 July 2019	F&GP Committee/ Town Clerk
41	ASB Meeting	19 July 2019	NFDC/ Town Clerk
43	In Bloom judging	29 July 2019	Estates Manager / Town Clerk

52. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following item of correspondence:

An email from NFDC regarding support and information about Brexit for local businesses as attached.

53. LAND USE REQUESTS

a) **Thai Katina Ceremony on 20 October 2019**

A request from Wat Pa Tesarangsee Temple to use the field at Moore Close for the annual Katina ceremony on Sunday 20 October 2019. The Town Clerk confirmed that the terms and conditions had been updated to include a condition regarding public address system use after 9am and these had been sent to the organisers.

RESOLVED:

That Wat Pa Tesarangsee be permitted use of the Moore Close field for the Katina Ceremony on Sunday 20 October 2019, subject to terms and conditions.



b) VE75 Commemorations 8 May 2020

An email request from Mr Goff Beck on behalf of the VE75 committee to use the Recreation Ground on Bank Holiday Friday 8 May 2020 to host a Veterans Tea Party as part of the VE75 event as well as access to set up on the day before.

RESOLVED:

That the VE75 Committee be permitted to use the Recreation Ground and Performance Pavilion for the VE75 event on 8 May with set up on 7 May 2020.

c) VJ75 Event on 15 August 2020

An email from Alan Watson on behalf of the VE75 Steering Group planning an event to honour VJ75 on 15 August 2020 requesting the use of New Milton Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED:

That the VE75 Committee be permitted use of the Recreation Ground and Performance Pavilion for the VJ75 event on 15 August 2020.

The email from Alan Watson also included the dates for the proposed events taking place in honour of VE75, as follows.

Friday 1 & Saturday 2 May 2020 We'll Meet Again Concerts at the Memorial Centre

Friday 8 May 2020 Veterans Tea-Party and entertainments on Recreation Ground

Saturday 9 May 2020 Picnic on the Clifftop with exhibitions, displays, parade etc.

Sunday 10 May 2020 Thanksgiving Service at St Mary Magdalene Parish Church

54. BASHLEY SPEEDING

The Chairman brought forward this agenda item and summarised the issue of SLRs. The purchase of one SLR had been funded from District Cllr grants, the other SLR had been purchased from Bashley Residents donations and the third SLR was purchased by NMTC. There were operational costs amounting to approximately £2k per unit per annum which included maintenance, movements, battery care and associated labour costs. The SLRs are considered an educational method to make drivers aware of their speeding as well as encourage slower speeds with research showing that SLRs are less effective if they stay in situ for more than 2 weeks and benefit from being moved around a wider area on a regular basis.

Cllr S Clarke referred to his email proposing deployments throughout the Bashley area and Cllr D Hawkins commented on the Speedwatch initiative that had made an impact.

Cllr A O'Sullivan asked about the Welcome to Bashley sign at the Rising Sun which was not luminous in the dark. This matter would be looked at by the Estates Manager.



Cllr M Levitt referred to speed signs in Dorset and if they could be adopted in the New Forest with the Chairman responding that HCC are the Highways Authority and there had been long and torturous discussions with them regarding speeding and signage, with a lot of time and effort put into this matter.

Referring to the 30mph roundels, the Chairman advised that HCC will be re-installing them soon at Bashley, as well as continuing to press for a police camera at Bashley.

The Chairman referred to Cllr Clarke's previous suggestion which councillors supported, and the Town Council would continue to monitor SLR deployments at the most appropriate locations throughout Bashley and surrounding areas.

55. NO.1 NEW MILTON

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1, previously circulated, which was noted by members, being a press release, resulting in an article in the Daily Echo. Cllr K Craze referred to the funding and stated it was not solely funded by NMTC but from CIL monies, SWR grant and contributions from Cllrs, NMRA, individual residents and local businesses.

The opening date is expected to be in April 2020.

56. CCTV & PSPO

The Chairman advised that another meeting with NFDC regarding CCTV and PSPO would take place on Tuesday 3 September.

57. ASHLEY PAVILION

The Chairman asked the Estates & Facilities Manager to provide an update which is being managed in accordance with the programme and within budget.

58. MEN'S SHED

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2, previously circulated, being the proposed agreement between NMTC and New Milton Men's Shed to occupy premises off Fernhill Lane. Members agreed the revised wording, including opening times.

59. BUS SHELTERS

The Chairman referred to replacement bus shelters in New Milton in Station Road and Whitefield Road. This would involve working with partners to enable more modern facilities with electronic timetables hopefully.

A small working party would be formed to consider further actions and councillors were invited to express their interest in being Working Party members to the Town Clerk.



60. BALLARD WATER MEADOW

The Chairman referred to an upcoming meeting with the volunteer group, Friends of Ballard Water Meadow, which Julie Melin-Stubbs of NFLAS would be chairing, with operational issues being discussed.

Cllr Clarke recorded his thanks to the Friends Group for all their hard work and their efforts including the surveys and recording which is both valuable and encouraging.

It was suggested that the terms of reference would be discussed following this meeting at the next Amenities Committee meeting on Tuesday 15 October.

61. HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP

The Chairman provided a verbal update on HLS having passed the midpoint of our 10-year agreement with Natural England. Referring to HLS sites at Barton Common and Ballard Water Meadow, grazing and woodland areas, we needed to assess these in line with our management plans for the next 4 years. The NFLAS would look at our HLS sites and advise if our objectives have been achieved.

62. STREET TRADING

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3, an email from Respect for Animals which the Town Clerk had responded to following confirmation from the Street Trading Supervisor that no fur is sold on the market.

63. NAISH ESTATE

The Chairman referred to Appendix 4, a letter from Persimmon Homes, regarding the transfer of POS off Ellingham Road, which councillors supported in principle, subject to Developers Contributions having been handed over.

64. ANY OTHER UPDATES

Cllr Reid referred to an article released by NFDC regarding the wildflowers, Chamomile and Ladies Autumn Tresses growing on Barton cliff top.

Cllr Tungate referred to research of play areas with 400 being closed nationally but was pleased to note we are doing the right thing improving play areas in the town, with new ones earmarked for Danesbury Meadows and Fernhill plus upgrades of those at Ashley and Longmeadow.

Cllr O'Sullivan had noted the bin was missing from the War Memorial Recreation Ground and the Estates & Facilities Manager confirmed that it had recently been burnt out and would be replaced shortly.

65. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 15 October 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 7.55pm.

CHAIRMAN _____

DATE _____

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
53 a	Thai Katina Ceremony	20 October 2019	Administrator
53 b	VE75 Commemorations	8 May 2020	VE75 Steering Group
53 c	VJ75 Commemoration	15 August 2020	VJ75 Steering Group
54	Non-luminous 30mph at Bashley	15 October 2019	Estates Manager
54	SLR deployment	October 2019 – March 2020	Town Council
58	Men's Shed Lease	5 September 2019	Town Clerk
59	Bus Shelters Working Party	15 October 2019	Working Party
60	Terms of Reference Ballard Water Meadow	15 October 2019	Friends Group
61	Public Open Space off Ellingham Road	15 October 2019	Town Clerk

Distribution:

Town Councillors

Estates & Facilities Manager

District Councillors J L Cleary

County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter and K Mans

New Milton Police

Press

Alan Watson – FOCUS & NMRA