

80. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 13 November 2017 and it was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 13 November 2017 having been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The minutes were duly signed.

81. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) The Town Clerk read out an email from HH & DE Drew inviting councillors to attend a tour of the Downton quarry. Councillors expressed an interest and available dates will be circulated.
- b) The Town Clerk referred to a letter received from Teresa Walker of Woodpecker Training which had been emailed to councillors prior to the meeting and Cllr S Clarke will refer to this later in the meeting.
- c) The Town Clerk informed the meeting of a forthcoming 75th anniversary of the third and final bombing raid of New Milton, when five residents lost their lives on 22 January 1943.

82. QUESTIONS

None

83. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Councillors Fran Carpenter and Mel Kendal had tendered their apologies.

District Councillor Beck reported that he had been appointed to the NFDC Coastal Erosion Task and Finish Group. He voiced concerns about the parking penalties recently introduced at the private car park adjacent to Old Milton Green shopping parade.

Cllrs Tungate, S Davies, J Ward and O'Sullivan had nothing to report.

Cllr Blunden had attended, with the Town Clerk, an annual meeting of Town and Parish Councils organised by Hampshire Highways and referred to their new contractor, Skanska. HCC expressed an interest in working more closely with local councils on strategic transport matters.

Cllr S Clarke confirmed that he had provided grants to the Bashley speed device fund and also £300 to the Asboc Youth Café.

84. COMMITTEE REPORTSa) Planning Committee

Cllr S J Clarke, Chairman of the Planning Committee submitted the minutes of three Planning Committee Meetings held on 23 November, 7 and 21 December 2017.

Cllr Clarke said the Administration Apprentice, Emma Towler, had presented the Planning meeting on 21 December 2017 and thanked her for her assistance.

Cllr Alan Rice referred to minute 175 and asked if there was any resolution to the S&P Furnishers issue and Cllr Clarke responded that the situation is a work in progress.

Cllr Clarke referred to item 181 c) and confirmed that a letter had been sent to the landowner operating the private car park at Old Milton Green.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 151-182 inclusive be received.

b) Amenities Committee

Cllr G Blunden, Chairman of the Amenities Committee, submitted the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 27 November 2017 and moved their adoption.

Cllr A Reid read out excellent feedback that had just been received from a resident with compliments on the wonderful playpark and civic pride, asking the Town Clerk to convey this to the Estates Team.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 76-92 inclusive be received.

c) Finance and General Purposes Committee

Cllr S Davies, Chairman of the F&GP Committee, submitted the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Meeting held on 18 December 2017 and moved their adoption.

Cllr Beck referred to the schedule of payments and suggested that rather than continue with repairs to the heating system at Fawcetts Field, the whole system should be renovated. It was pointed out this is in next year's budget.

Cllr S Davies confirmed that a new heating system would be installed at Fawcetts Field and a ventilation system at Ashley Sports Ground was also budgeted as it was deemed essential works.

Cllr Beck also referred to the £10,000 awarded by a national newspaper to the Byron Road residents for their Christmas lights and fund raising efforts suggesting the Town Council forward a letter of congratulations.

Referring to minute 81, Cllr S Clarke provided an update on Youth Work confirming he and Cllr Blunden had joined the Youth Coordinator on 2 January 2018 and visited the Recreation Ground talking to young people. He referred to the article in the Advertiser & Times about drugs and was pleased this had raised the profile about the drugs issue locally.

Cllr Clarke referred to the letter from Teresa Walker at Woodpecker Training and suggested the hard-hitting video be shown to young people and their families.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the video will be shown at the Amenities Committee meeting on 22 January 2018.

Cllr O'Sullivan had a query in respect to minute 79 and the responsibility for CIL and Cllr Blunden responded that CIL will be considered by the relevant committees following Executive Committee recommendations.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 68-85 inclusive be received.

d) Executive Committee

Cllr K Craze, Deputy Chairman of the Executive Committee, submitted the minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 17 November 2017, and moved their adoption.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 35-44 inclusive be received.

85. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Schedule of Payments endorsed by the F&GP Committee on 18 December 2017 was submitted for Council approval.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED:

That the Schedule of Payments No 06/17/18 for the period 1 October to 30 November 2017 be approved in the total sum of £168,369.76.

The Schedule was duly signed.

86. RISK ASSESSMENTS

The Town Clerk referred to the Risk Assessments Report which councillors supported.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED :

That the Risk Assessments for 2017/18 be approved and signed off by the Chairman.

87. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

Cllr Beck informed councillors that the next NFALC meeting is on 18 January 2018 at Appletree Court, the meeting papers having already been circulated. There will be presentations from Stephen Lugg, CEO of HALC, as well as representatives from the New Forest National Park Authority and UK Cycling Events.

88. COUNCIL BUDGET FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2018/19

The Chairman referred to the budget papers endorsed by the F&GP Committee.

Cllr O'Sullivan voiced his concerns that the budget for the festive lights was increased whereas New Milton shopkeepers and traders donated only £200. Cllr O'Sullivan suggested that the budget be rejected and referred back to F&GP.

Cllr J Ward voiced his concerns about the council spending when everyone else is saving money. Cllr Beck endorsed Cllr Ward's comments.

Cllr D Hawkins said that we are increasing our budgets as a result of reduced services from NFDC and HCC. Cllr Craze asserted it was essential that New Milton invest for the future with a view to improving the town.

Cllr Blunden added that we must continue to invest in New Milton and work towards enhancing the town, and commended the budget to the council.

Cllr O'Sullivan's proposed amendment to refer the matter back to F&GP was lost by 14 votes to 3.

It was then

RESOLVED :

That the 2018/19 budget be accepted and a precept of £825,234 was approved for next year.

89. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1 and councillors noted the calendar of meetings for this calendar year.

90. CHARITY COMMISSION – ANNUAL RETURN

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2 and councillors agreed the Annual Return for the War Memorial Recreation Ground for the year 2016/17 be submitted to the Charity Commission by the end of the month.

91. STANDING ORDERS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3, Standing Orders annual review, previously circulated.

It was noted that this had not yet been reviewed by F&GP and was referred back to them for consideration before the end of the financial year.

92. DATA PROTECTION BILL

The Chairman referred to Appendix 4, Data Protection Bill, previously circulated.

The Town Clerk had attended a GDPR meeting and asked councillors to note the summary prepared by the Asst Town Clerk.

93. REPORT FROM TOWN DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

The Chairman referred to the written report from the TDM, previously circulated.

There were no comments forthcoming and it was duly noted by members.

94. ANY ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

None

95. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 19 February 2018 commencing 6.30 pm in the Town Hall, 2 Ashley Road, New Milton.

DEMOCRATIC HALF HOUR

Mr Kelvin Witt, resident of Hilton Road, spoke to the meeting with his concerns about various vehicles parking in Manor Road creating difficulties affecting through traffic including buses. Mr Witt asked if yellow lines could be considered.

Cllr J Ward responded that he was aware of this problem and working to resolve it without success so far but would continue to pursue the matter.

The Chairman then closed the public session of the meeting at 8 pm and proposed going into private session to discuss one matter with members agreement.

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.

96. EAGLEWOOD SCHOOL

Cllr Beck asked for an update regarding the school and Cllr O’Sullivan provided information, noting extension of temporary buildings permission has been requested until 31 August 2019.

The Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the private session of the meeting at 8.10 pm.

Chairman _____ Date _____

Distribution:

Town Councillors
District Councillors Mrs C V Ward, Mrs J L Cleary
County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter and K Mans
New Milton Library
New Milton Police
Press
Focus & NMRA - Alan Watson