



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY
19 FEBRUARY 2018 AT 6.30 PM IN THE TOWN HALL, ASHLEY ROAD, NEW MILTON**

Councillors:	G C Beck	p	R A Reid
	p G R Blunden		A W Rice
	p S J Clarke	p	D A Rice-Mundy – Chair
	p K E Craze – Vice Chair	p	A D O’Sullivan
	R B Dagnall	p	Mrs V E Schooling
	p S P Davies	p	S P Short
	p W Davies	p	D N Tungate
	D E Hawkins	p	J G Ward
	p B Murrow	p	Mrs C Hexter

In Attendance: Officers: G P Flexman - Town Clerk
Joanna Hayward – Administrator

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

97. APOLOGIES

Cllrs G Beck, R Dagnall, D Hawkins and A Rice.

98. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS/MAYOR’S ENGAGEMENTS

The Mayor shared the engagements he had attended since the last meeting.

18 January 2018 – visited Hoburne Bashley to confirm arrangements for the Mayors Ball taking place on 16 March 2018, encouraging all councillors to participate and book their tickets as soon as possible.

23 January 2018 – visited Downton Quarry and had a tour of the site.

12 February 2018 – attended the New Milton Lions Club presentation event at New Milton Rugby Club mentioning that the Youth Co-ordinator had received a cheque for £1,000 for youth projects in the town.

The Chairman asked councillors to note the Great Spring Clean taking place in New Milton on Saturday / Sunday 3-4 March 2018, encouraging their participation in this community event.

The Chairman also reminded members about the Mayors Charity Ball on the 16th March 2018 at Hoburne Bashley Holiday Park, and asked members to let Joanna have their menu options asap.

99. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

100. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 8 January 2018 and it was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 8 January 2018 having been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The minutes were duly signed.

101. CORRESPONDENCE

None

102. QUESTIONS

None

103. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Councillor Fran Carpenter referred to the HCC cabinet proposal for a 'super council' combined authority including Southampton, Portsmouth and Gosport.

HCC Cllr Carpenter also informed members that no waste, crossing patrols or transport services were being lost. A new waste recycling centre is being discussed during the next few months.

Residents had asked for a crossing to be installed at the Ballard Lake/Brook Avenue junction and this would have to be a community funded project with £3/5K in total required and become a Town Council initiative.

Residents in Miller Close had voiced their concerns about cars parking on pavements and cars being advertised for sale. Cllr Carpenter asked if by-laws could be implemented in respect of these (Highways) matters.

Cllr Bob Murrow mentioned the recent article in the New Milton Advertiser & Times regarding White Rock nursing home and asked about changes in the care discharge system initiated by HCC and whether this could be reviewed. Cllr Carpenter agreed to bring it to the portfolio holder's attention.

Cllr Mel Kendal reported on council tax increases with adult social care ring-fenced. HCC has an increase in "looked-after" children, including asylum seekers, and the provision of special facilities for severe learning disabilities, as well as recruitment of more social workers to support this increase.



A new materials recycling facility would be able to deal with recycling more effectively and ensure our incinerators can handle it more efficiently as there is no return to landfill. If a charge of £1 per vehicle visiting the facility was levied this would generate £4m more income per year.

Cllr Kendal also referred to the proposed repairs to the road bridge on the A35 Holmsley costing £6m and the Redbridge junction as these were important routes affecting New Milton and Southampton respectively.

Cllr Mrs Valya Schooling asked about HCC's policy on discouraging the use of plastics. Cllr Kendal confirmed that HCC has incinerators which produce energy from waste disposal and suggested that commercial producers and supermarkets should be doing more to reduce plastic usage.

Cllr David Rice-Mundy asked about the Cango bus service and Cllr Kendal replied that nothing has changed for 2018/19, but there was low customer numbers which would be reviewed for 2019/20, requesting passenger transport group and Town Council feedback.

NFDC Cllr John Ward reported that the Electoral Review Task and Finish Group had made a recommendation which would be ratified at full council with any parish boundary changes not taking effect until 2023.

NFDC Cllr S Clarke referred to the Coastal Protection Task and Finish Group which was looking at protection measures, funding and priorities.

NFDC Cllr G Blunden had attended the same Coastal Protection Task and Finish Group and noted that Barton was the most challenging scheme requiring £12m investment and it was important to get funding underway.

NFDC Cllr A O'Sullivan had nothing to report.

NFDC Cllr N Tungate had also attended the Coastal Protection Task and Finish Meeting.

NFDC Cllr S Davies referred to a constituent who reported that SW Railway had disbanded the community consultation committee (of which he was chairman) and that customer engagement was lacking and had also heard a rumour evening rail services were to be reduced. Councillors supported the suggestion that the Town Clerk write to the train operator requesting a reinstatement of the community consultation group.

Post meeting note: There is still a Passenger Panel in operation which was transferred as good practice from SWT, the last franchise holder. There is also an on-line Customer Consultation Panel South Western Railway Forum www.forum.southwesternrailway.com
See also <https://www.southwesternrailway.com/contact-and-help/online-customer-forum>

Cllr Davies reported that he had donated a small grant to HOPE befriending service following their recent grant application, which had been deferred to the April F&GP.

Cllr Davies said there is to be a Task and Finish Group to look at homelessness in the New Forest and respond to its needs which could take about a year to research and report back.

104. COMMITTEE REPORTSa) Planning Committee

Cllr S J Clarke, Chairman of the Planning Committee submitted the minutes of Planning Committee Meetings held on 4 and 18 January, 1 and 15 February 2018.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 183-224 inclusive be received.

b) Amenities Committee

Cllr G Blunden, Chairman of the Amenities Committee, submitted the minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting held on 22 January 2018 and moved their adoption.

Cllr Blunden referred to minute 103, the Indian Army Obelisk, and further details about the 10 July event will be provided at the Amenities Committee on 5 March 2018.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 93-109 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 5 February 2018 and moved their adoption.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 86-100 inclusive be received.

d) Executive Committee

Cllr David Rice-Mundy, Chairman of the Executive Committee, submitted the minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 9 February 2018 and moved their adoption.

Cllr Blunden referred to minute 51 supporting the Youth Foundation Charity as it is necessary to protect youth services in the town and this will provide an opportunity for funding of projects and facilities.

Recently, it was noted the Youth Co-ordinator had successfully applied for £10K grant money to invest in young people.

Cllr Clarke referred to minute 52 and the recommendation to reduce NMTC ward members from 18 to 14.

Cllr J Ward confirmed that the NFDC electoral review recommended a reduction of 12 district councillors, from 60 to 48 members.

Cllr O'Sullivan asked about the process and Cllr Clarke said that this was in line with the NFDC review and documented in committee minutes which should be read by every councillor.

Cllr Mrs Schooling was concerned about the reduction in councillors and if we are unable to recruit young people. It was agreed this matter would be considered by F&GP and referred back to Town Council for decision on 3 April 2018.

Cllr O'Sullivan referred to minute 56 Investments, and asked for clarification. Cllr Craze responded that further discussions were proposed and no decisions had been made. A conversation with Bob Jackson at NFDC and representatives from HCC would take place on Friday 23 February 2018 to garner further information.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 45-57 inclusive be received, pending further discussion of Electoral Amendments proposed at Minute 52.

105. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Schedule of Payments endorsed by the F&GP Committee on 5 February 2018 was submitted for Council approval.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED:

That the Schedule of Payments No 07/17/18 for the period 1 – 31 December 2017 be approved in the total sum of £100,742.88.

The Schedule was duly signed.

106. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

None

107. REPORT FROM TOWN DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

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

Cllr O'Sullivan asked about Smart Parking and Cllr Blunden suggested that the Town Development Manager attend the next meeting, noting Smart Parking was referred to at the end of the recently circulated Town Centre Study.

108. ANY ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

None

109. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 3 April 2018 commencing 6.30 pm in the Town Hall, 2 Ashley Road, New Milton.

DEMOCRATIC HALF HOUR

Cllr Fran Carpenter referred to the issue of plastics and how HCC will be dealing with this as they are currently looking at the recently published 25-year Environmental Plan issued by the Government.

The Chairman then closed the public session of the meeting at 7.30 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.

110. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr A Reid provided a current overview and proposed activity to bring the Neighbourhood Plan document to the next Extraordinary Town Council meeting to be arranged shortly. (Subsequently arranged for Monday 12 March 2018 at 6.30pm)

An updated Neighbourhood Plan document will be made available for all councillors to review prior to that meeting, with Cllr Blunden asking for a preamble with bullet points.

Cllr Schooling voiced her concerns about the validity of the Town Centre Study and some of the important things it lacked which are important to the town's economy. She was also concerned about the costs incurred to date with this project and would it produce results for the town. Cllr Craze responded that this is a long-term and ongoing process that will go out to public consultation at the beginning of April.

The Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 8.00 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