

**NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 25 JUNE 2018 AT 6.30PM IN THE TOWN HALL, ASHLEY ROAD, NEW MILTON

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

In Attendance: Officers: Graham Flexman - Town Clerk  
Joanna Hayward - Administrator  
Emma Towler - Assistant Administrator

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, 6 members of the public and a press representative to the meeting.

#### 16. APOLOGIES

Cllr J Ward

#### 17. CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported on his recent engagements.

- 11 May 2018 Attended the Lymington Sailability Event at the Pebble Beach restaurant.
- 12 May 2018 Met the French Twinning visitors at the Scout Hut for a presentation of gifts and tea.
- 12 May 2018 Attended the Skate jam at the skate park on the Recreation Ground. This event was also attended by the Vice-Chairman.
- 12 May 2018 Attended the Jubilee Singers Concert at the Memorial Centre.
- 15 May 2018 Opened a Beauty Salon at Hoburne Bashley.
- 20 May 2018 Attended the Musical Youth Concert and Teenage Market at the Performance Pavilion.
- 26 May 2018 Attended the Lions Club Carnival in New Milton.

3 June 2018 Attended the Afternoon of Music at the Performance Pavilion.

9 June 2018 Attended the Ashley Fun Day at Ashley Rugby Club.

16 June 2018 Attended the Family Open Day at New Forest Quaker Home.

20 June 2018 Attended the New Milton Town Partnership Young Person of the year awards at the Memorial Centre.

24 June 2018 Attended the Hampshire County Council Annual County Service at Winchester Cathedral.

The Vice-Chairman reported on his recent engagements.

16 June 2018 Attended the Big Litter pick with over 200 citizens volunteering.

25 June 2018 Attended the Animals in Art Exhibition at Durlston Court School.

#### 18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

#### 19. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 8 May 2018.

It was

#### ***RESOLVED:***

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

The Minutes were duly signed.

#### 20. CORRESPONDENCE

- i) The Town Clerk referred to a letter received from a resident regarding Ballard Lake requesting a replacement footbridge and suggestion of 'No Fishing' signs. The Chairman informed members that the footbridge repairs are in progress and that the signs are in the budget for next year. The Chairman said that they are looking into the eco-structure at Ballard Lake and will reply to the residents' letter in due course.
- ii) The Town Clerk distributed copies of a poster from Hampshire County Council regarding a consultation on street lighting, supported passenger transport services and concessionary travel scheme, noting there is an online consultation that closes midnight on 5 August 2018.

Cllr Hawkins mentioned poor bus services in New Milton and the fact that they only run hourly. He requested the Town Council support the aim for better bus services within the town and would appreciate a prompt response.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Hawkins for his comment and explained the Council will respond to the Hampshire County Council consultation before the closing date of 5 August.

## 21. QUESTIONS

None

## 22. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

HCC Cllr Fran Carpenter informed members that Ashley Common Road is due to be completely resurfaced but works have been delayed until the end of July. Ditch clearance and works to the kerbs need to be completed before the resurfacing can go ahead.

Referring to minute 20ii) above, Cllr Carpenter stated there would be a further £18 million saved from the HCC project. It was mentioned Cllr Perry had gone to Government with the suggestion of a fee of £10 a year to be paid by pensioners for a bus pass to help HCC, but the idea was dismissed. The further suggestion of 50p per bus journey was reported not to be a popular suggestion, and again the idea was declined.

Cllr Carpenter also explained that there is an online consultation for residents to participate in regarding how they would like to see Hampshire develop over the next 30 years. Entitled Vision for Hampshire 2050, it can be found on the HCC website alongside the street lighting and public transport scheme consultation.

It was reported that five new Care Homes have been introduced in Hampshire to care for children with special needs and that various meetings have been held including one with children and families in attendance. Cllr Murrow asked whether there was a policy change for children homes to which Cllr Carpenter said she didn't think so.

HCC are looking for 'hidden gems' in Hampshire to have pictured and hung in HCC buildings across the county. Cllr Carpenter asked anyone who has suggestions to get in touch.

District Cllr D N Tungate gave a verbal update, mentioning that he attended a Coastal Task Meeting and recently attended GDPR training.

District Cllr S J Clarke also gave a verbal update on the Coastal Task Meeting, stating that it is making progress and that work is to be carried out on Barton Cliff Top.

District Cllr G R Blunden gave an update on the Environment Task and Finish group in which the Health and Well Being agenda was mentioned, stating that it is important to encourage exercise, especially for children when progressing play parks in the town. Cllr Blunden also gave an update on the consultation regarding CCTV and that further discussion will take place at the appropriate committee.

District Cllr S P Davies informed members that he is the Chairman of the Citizens Advice and Community group and that an update from this group is expected in September. Statistics were also read out regarding the issue of people on the waiting list for homes in Hampshire and more specifically, New Milton. Cllr Davies stated that the Homelessness Reduction Act will make a huge impact and highlighted the progress that needs to be made.

District Cllr A D O'Sullivan informed members that he had attended meetings as mentioned by other District Councillors.

District Cllr G C Beck informed members that he had found out through the Corporate Overall Panel that 30 businesses in New Milton would be subject to Mystery Shoppers. Complaints have been made regarding the state of the shopping precinct at Old Milton Road and the issue had been brought to the attention of NFDC and the Town Council Amenities and Planning Committees. NFDC installed dragon's teeth at Old Milton Road which has deterred fly tipping and illicit parking. Cllr Beck also informed the Council that he had spoken to the managers of the shops at Old Milton Green and they had mentioned a marked drop in trade since the 20 minute parking limit had been introduced. An email was read out from a local resident and the question was raised as to whether a customer can leave and return to the car park within the same day. The Town Clerk confirmed that the car park is privately owned and has the name and address of the landowner. A letter had been sent to that person but with no response to date. Cllr Blunden informed members that he had spoken to the landowner on the telephone and that it would be best to try and arrange a face to face meeting to come up with a solution to this ongoing problem.

## 23. COMMITTEE MINUTES

### a) Planning Committee

Cllr S Clarke, Chairman of the Planning Committee, submitted the minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 8, 10 and 24 May, plus 7 and 21 June 2018 and moved their adoption.

It was

#### ***RESOLVED:***

***That the Minutes 1 to 43 inclusive be received.***

Cllr Reid referred to minute 40 and asked for an update on the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Clarke informed members they are in consultation and the plan had been generally well received. The Regulation 14 notice was mentioned, with members of the Neighbourhood Plan analysing feedback from the public consultation process. There are a number of meetings scheduled over the next few weeks including one with Hampshire County Council regarding education within the town. There will also be meetings with Caird Avenue, Sand and Ballast and a meeting about Spencer Road and health care provisions. There was a meeting today with Bradbeers. It was mentioned that the front of the old co-op site will be improved within the next few weeks to enhance the street scene.

Cllr Clarke referred to minute 41i) re the S&P Furnishers trailer that was noticed at Fernhill Roundabout. It has been reported, again to HCC and potential action is being discussed.

To apply for a license to take preventative action would cost the Town Council £450 per site.

b) Amenities Committee

Cllr G R Blunden, Chairman of the Amenities Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee Meetings held on 8 May and 11 June 2018 and moved their adoption.

It was

**RESOLVED:**

***That the Minutes 1 to 20 inclusive be received.***

Cllr Blunden referred to minute 9b), informing members the Council is working towards our South and South East in Bloom entry, and some Councillors will be walking the town with the judges on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

Cllr Blunden also referred to minute 14, there still being no progress on Community Speed Watch. The Chairman suggested writing to the Police which was supported by Cllr Blunden.

c) Finance and General Purposes Committee

Cllr S Davies, Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee Meetings held on 8 May and 18 June 2018 and moved their adoption.

It was

**RESOLVED:**

***That the Minutes 1 to 23 inclusive be received.***

Cllr Schooling referred to minute 18 in which she expressed disappointment at the lack of support regarding funding for the Memorial Centre Concert taking place on 11 November, with £2,000 from Reserves going to another event on the same evening. Cllr Davies expressed the challenge of getting a balance for what's available within the limited budget as more demands are expected later on in the year.

Cllr Davies referred to minute 21 and his support for the project on the Station Masters house and explained the opportunity it gives the town to work alongside Network Rail on a community project. Cllr Craze gave a verbal update, informing members the Heads of Agreement had been received but not yet signed and the term of lease has gone up from 6 to 12 years on peppercorn rent and there would be no review of the rent during the term of the lease. The building and garden area is currently being assessed and there will be a presentation at the Amenities Committee on 16 July 2018.

d) Cllr Rice-Mundy, Chairman of the Executive Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 4 June 2018 and moved their adoption.

It was

**RESOLVED:**

***That the Minutes 1 to 10 inclusive be received.***

24. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Schedule of Payments endorsed by the F&GP Committee on 18 June 2018 was submitted for Council approval.

It was unanimously

**RESOLVED:**

***That the Schedule of Payments S/No 10/17/18 totalling £71,275.41 for the period 1-31 March 2018 and 01/18/19 totalling £97,043.61 for the period 1-30 April 2018 be approved in the total sum of £168,319.02***

The Schedule was duly signed.

25. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2017/18

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1, Financial Statements, previously circulated.

The Town Clerk referred to note 9 - Pensions Costs on page 14 that had been amended following a review by F&GP, being reference to HCC Pension Scheme rather than HCC.

It was then

**RESOLVED:**

***That the Financial Statements for 2017-18 be approved.***

The document was duly signed on page 4 by the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) and the Chairman and Town Clerk / RFO both signed the Balance Sheet on page 10.

26. ANNUAL RETURN

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2, Annual Return, previously circulated.

- a) The Town Clerk referred to Page 4 of the Annual Return - Annual Governance Statement.

It was

**RESOLVED:**

***That the Annual Governance Statement for 2017/18 be approved and signed by the Chairman and Town Clerk.***

The Annual Governance Statement was duly signed by the Chairman and Town Clerk.

- b) The Town Clerk then referred to Page 5 of the Annual Return - Accounting Statements noting Boxes 1, 6 and 7 for 2016-17 had been restated, as agreed between accountants / internal auditors.

Members of the Council considered the accounts for the year, noting Boxes 8 and 9.

It was then

**RESOLVED:**

***That the Accounting Statements for 2017/178 be approved and signed by the Chairman and Town Clerk.***

The Accounting Statements for 2017-18 was duly signed by the Chairman and Town Clerk.

27. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3, Internal Audit Report 2017-18, previously circulated.

The Town Clerk highlighted the conclusion on page 7 under Budgetary Control & Reserves, noting that while the Council holds healthy balances in its Earmarked Reserves, the level of General Reserve is beneath the lower level specified in CiPFA guidelines.

Members noted the comments and approved the Final Internal Audit Report for 2017-18.

It was then

**RESOLVED:**

***That the Final Report from the Internal Auditor for 2017-18 be accepted and approved***

28. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON EXTERNAL BODIES

Cllr Beck gave a verbal update on HALC, informing members he attended a board meeting on 23 May regarding the future of their Company Secretary. On 16 June, Cllr Beck attended another HALC meeting in which the Councillor Commission was discussed. It was also reported that the Company Secretary was subsequently dismissed from her post. On 29 May, Cllr Beck attended the National Parks South West Quadrant Meeting in which awareness was raised for commuting in the New Forest. Community Speed Watch was discussed and Cllr Beck informed the meeting of the situation in New Milton. On 20 June, Cllr Beck and the Town Clerk attended a meeting with the CEO of NFDC and the Deputy CEO of the NPA to discuss NFALC.

29. 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.

30. ANY ITEMS THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

None

31. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Town Council will take place on Monday 13 August 2018 in the Town Hall, 2 Ashley Road, New Milton at 6.30 pm.

DEMOCRATIC HALF HOUR

A Shop Owner from the Old Milton Green Parade of shops raised concerns on the 20 minute car parking limit recently imposed by the landowner, mentioning that business had been affected by 20-30% since the limit had been introduced. It was suggested that a ticket machine would be more useful for customers in that area. The Chairman thanked the shop owner for her comments and stated the Town Council will do what they can to help with the issue, but the car park is privately-owned.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the Meeting at 8.07 pm.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution:

Town Councillors

District Councillors Mrs C V Ward, Mrs J L Cleary

County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter, K Mans

New Milton Library

New Milton Police

Press

Alan Watson – Focus & NMRA