

27 Sept 2018 Attended the Macmillan Coffee Morning hosted by New Milton Town Council.

49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

50. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 13 August 2018.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 13 August 2018, having been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Minutes were duly signed.

Cllr Craze referred to minute 39b) and gave an update on the Station Masters house, informing members the asbestos survey revealed a small amount in the roof of the downstairs toilet and is not dangerous nor costly to remove. The National Lottery grant application has been submitted which will allow for work to be completed on the house, garden and café, as well as generous donations from individuals supporting the project. Railway Magazine has expressed interest in attending the opening and further updates will be provided at future meetings.

Cllr Craze also informed members that the Sea Road Post Office in Barton is now due to open early October following postponement in September.

51. CORRESPONDENCE

- i) Having provided us with a 'clean bill of health', external auditors PKF Littlejohn have asked us to publicise a notice of Conclusion of Audit which is on display under Finance on the Town Council website and on the notice board at the Town Hall.
- ii) A letter from the Town Council Solicitor regarding the transfer of Public Open Space at Fernhill to the Town Council from NFDC. The Chairman of F&GP has signed the counterpart lease with the Chairman of the Council. The Town Council have inherited a grazier for the site which the Chairman of Amenities suggested be retained under the current agreement with NFDC.

- iii) An email from Shared Forest Business Group launching a 'Clock Change' campaign this October in which 56 temporary 2ft high animal cut outs will be displayed to represent all the animals killed on the New Forest roads last year. Members were supportive of this campaign.
- iv) An email from Cllr Hawkins commending a homelessness initiative from a trustee of a similar project on the waterside who would like to find a suitable building to provide showers, food and dry clothes for local homeless persons this side of the forest. It was suggested that a small Working Party be set up to support the initiative and this was supported by members. Cllr S Davies stated that there will be an announcement of NFDC Homeless Policy next month and he will provide a further update at the next meeting.
- v) An email regarding the 40th year anniversary of the Town Council taking place next year which will be noted at the Annual Towns meeting on 29th April 2019.

52. QUESTIONS

None

53. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

HCC Cllr Mel Kendal gave an update on the street lighting, supported passenger transport services and the concessionary travel scheme consultation which took place in August, with the aim for the County Council to save £140 million in 2019 and a further £80 million in 2020 on service expenses.

Cllr Kendal also stated that the rise in minimum wage has impacted social care costs and it has been agreed that the County Council are to have their own Agency for recruitment on social care staff, the two main benefits being that it is cost effective and that there is opportunity to personally vet any possible staff. Cllr Craze verbally supported this initiative.

Cllr Beck referred to the Parish and Town Council fund (PTCF) mentioned by HALC in their February budgets and queried whether the figure of £500k was still available. Cllr Kendal confirmed this and informed members that applications are currently being accepted, should the Town Council wish to apply.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Kendal for the update.

District Cllr Beck informed members that he had attended a Corporate and Scrutiny Panel in which a Smarter Working paper was presented, based on seven principals with the aim of transforming and streamlining the District Council. The panel was

also informed of 30 Silent Soldiers within the District, 18 of which are in the parish of Milton.

District Cllr Ward informed members that he had attended several Full Council meetings at District but that no topics were raised directly relating to New Milton.

District Cllr Tungate stated that he had attended the same Full Council meetings but also had nothing to report.

District Cllr S Davies mentioned the Homelessness Task and Finish Group and stated that full updates will be given in due course.

District Cllr Blunden informed members that he had attended a Health and Leisure Scrutiny Panel. Effective CCTV within the town is being investigated with the possibility of portable units. Customer Service within NFDC is being reviewed to offer better service to residents in the District.

District Cllr Clarke informed members that he had attended two Task and Finish Groups. It was explained at the Homelessness Group that there has been a nearly 50% decrease since April 2018 of homelessness in the District. The Health and Leisure Group allowed for Councillors to visit all Centres within the District including one in New Milton with the aim of sustainability for the future. A soft market test will take place just before Christmas which will review management functions and the report will go to District for review. Cllr Clarke also wished to praise the Town Council Estates team for the job that they have carried out on the Crest Estate, the Town Clerk confirming that this is a trial for possible permanent maintenance.

54. COMMITTEE MINUTES

a) Planning Committee

Cllr S Clarke, Chairman of the Planning Committee, submitted the minutes of the Committee Meetings held on 16 and 30 August plus 13 and 27 September 2018 and moved their adoption.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 76 to 116 inclusive be received.

Cllr Craze referred to minute 93ii) and raised his concern over the inconsistency regarding two similar applications for family homes in Milton with different outcomes

and suggested the decision process be made clearer to determine how fair outcomes are made. This was supported by other members.

Cllr Murrow referred to minute 107 regarding the site at Brockwood (18/11146) and concern over the Town Council being significant land owners with a large amount of Common Land around the site. Cllr Clarke informed members that it was recommended at the Planning Committee meeting held 27 September that the Town Council make a comment on the application as a land owner instead of a statutory consultee. Cllr Ward questioned whether two comments can be made to which Cllr Clarke informed this wasn't possible.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Town Council, as an adjacent land owner, OBJECTS to application 18/11146, Brockwood, for the following reasons:

- (1) It lies directly next to adjacent registered Common Land with the unmade track access crossing it;***
- (2) It is contrary to the New Milton Local Distinctiveness Study (page 60) regarding the need to maintain gaps to protect character, and is also considered overdevelopment;***
- (3) It is unsuitable due to the only access being via the unmade track which narrows to 2.8m, therefore impedes use by 2-way traffic and emergency vehicles;***
- (4) The development would require the loss of several trees;***
- (5) There is no information regarding ecology.***

The Town Council is legally obliged to protect its assets, in particular Common Land.

b) Amenities Committee

G Blunden, Chairman of the Amenities Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 3 September 2018 and moved their adoption.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 45 to 60 inclusive be received.

Cllr Tungate referred to minute 53 regarding the Fernhill Open Space project and informed members he had received a phone call from a resident expressing their concern over several subjects, stating they only found out about the plans a few days ago.

Cllrs Blunden and Clarke confirmed that the use of the site as an Informal Open Space has been available to the public for several years.

Cllr Blunden referred to minute 56 and gave an update on the Men's Shed and informed members that a meeting took place at the Memorial Centre on 20th September with a large turn out of around 70 people. There is hope that it can progress with the main challenge of finding a suitable venue.

c) Finance and General Purposes Committee

Cllr S Davies, Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 17 September 2018 and moved their adoption.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 38 to 52 inclusive be received.

Cllr Clarke referred to minute 49 and wished to thank the volunteers that had helped with all the Youth events over the summer with thanks also to the Lions Club for providing burgers at the YBall event.

With the permission of the Chairman, Cllr Ward left the meeting at 7.35pm.

55. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Schedule of Payments endorsed by the F&GP Committee on 17 September 2018 was submitted for Council approval.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED:

That the Schedule of Payments S/No 03/18/19 totalling £95,742.38 for the period 1 – 31 July 2018 be approved.

The Schedule was duly signed.

56. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

Cllr Clarke referred to the 13th September Planning meeting and the dates provided for submission of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Unfortunately, this cannot now be completed within the timescale given as, following a recent meeting with NFDC, it was found that a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) was required but cannot be undertaken at present pending further advice from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) regarding a recent European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruling, known as the Sweetman case.

NFDC are not affected by this as they complete their own HRA and will therefore still submit their Local Plan. Cllr Hawkins questioned why we could not use the NFDC HRA as we are within the District, to which Cllr Clarke informed it needs to be specific to New Milton.

57. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON EXTERNAL BODIES

Cllr Beck attended a meeting on 12th September for the Hampshire Playing Fields Association, an organisation that grants support funding for sporting clubs across the county.

Cllr Beck also attended the HALC board meeting on Saturday 15th September at which several changes have resulted in HALC being able to offer an improved service to their membership. Their Annual General Meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn in Winchester on Saturday 10th November 2018.

An email was read by Cllr Beck from the Drews Estate Trustee regarding Co-op occupying Westcliffe Buildings in Barton, confirming that a Project Manager and Leader have been appointed with works aiming to take place in October 2018.

Cllr Craze confirmed that due to the proximity of the works to Christmas and New Year, it is likely that the Co-op will officially open in March 2019.

Cllr Hawkins mentioned the last item not relating to an External Body and that Agenda items should maintain their purpose.

58. TOWN DEVELOPMENT MANAGER REPORT

The report was noted, and it was suggested that the Town Development Manager attend a Town Council meeting to provide a verbal update on her work.

59. ANY ITEMS THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

None

60. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Town Council will take place on **Monday 12 November 2018** in the Town Hall, 2 Ashley Road, New Milton at 6.30 pm.

The Chairman then adjourned the meeting for the democratic Half Hour at 7.45pm.

DEMOCRATIC HALF HOUR

A resident of Ashley raised concerns over Ashley Recreation Ground and the predominant use of the field for the New Milton Rugby Club. It was noted that the sign on Normans Way no longer reads 'Ashley Recreation Ground' and now simply reads 'New Milton Rugby Club'. The Recreation Ground is not shown on maps in the Town Centre or the Railway Station and it was suggested that the ground could be better utilised, with more sports offered and a general tidy up to improve the look of the area.

Cllr Blunden thanked the local resident for his comments and stated that the sign at Normans Way, maps within the town as well as a general tidy up will be reviewed and, whilst acknowledging it is predominantly Rugby that takes place on the field, noted it is still open to other sports. There is currently a Management Plan in place for the lower field.

A resident at Fernhill Lane wished to speak on the Fernhill Open Space project. He raised strong concerns over the single, gravel track leading to the Open Space and the maintenance needed to keep it in good order. It was highlighted that the track is tightly enclosed by vegetation, becomes waterlogged by heavy rainfall and would result in people driving to the site from the South having to turn the corner blindly due to low visibility. The dog exercise area was suggested as unnecessary due to an existing training facility nearby and the need for a fence was proposed to keep dogs away from adjoining fields.

Cllr Blunden thanked this local resident for his comments and confirmed that the track will be adequately maintained under Town Council ownership. The dog exercise area will take up a small amount of this large space, roughly the size of a tennis court, and would provide a fenced off area for individuals to exercise their dogs off the lead. People will be encouraged to walk rather than drive to the site. Cllr Blunden suggested arranging a meeting with himself, Ward members, the Town Clerk and local residents to discuss the Fernhill site further, which was welcomed.

Another resident at Fernhill Lane expressed her concerns over the variety of wildlife currently at the site and stated that the dog walkers could affect the current environmental status. The sign at the bottom of the lane could encourage people to visit this quiet site in the evenings/night and draw attention to the houses tucked away, resulting in a possible security issue. The stated lack of notification over the proposal was also highlighted.

Cllr Clarke informed the local resident that the public have been aware the field would eventually become open space for public use, particularly as there is a need for amenity space within the town. He had in fact spoken to the local resident concerned at some considerable length in the past and recalled what was said.

Alan Watson, representing the New Milton Residents Association, wished to encourage Councillors to attend the Battles Over event taking place on 11th November 2018 at 6pm, a free event at Barton Cliff Top. It was also announced that the 'Pack up your Troubles' Concert taking place on 3rd November 2018 is fully booked, with over 300 tickets sold.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the Meeting at 8.12pm.

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

Mark Jeffries – Estates & Facilities Manager