

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2018 AT 6.30PM IN THE TOWN HALL, ASHLEY ROAD, NEW MILTON, BH25 6AS

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	Mrs V E Schooling	
	p S P Davies	p S P Short	
	W Davies	D N Tungate	
	p D E Hawkins	p J G Ward	
	p R Murrow	C Hexter	

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

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, 2 members of the public and a press representative.

61. APOLOGIES

Cllrs W Davies, V E Schooling, D N Tungate and C Hexter

62. CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported on his recent engagements.

18 October	Attended a presentation at Arnewood School.
20 October	Attended the Lions Club 48 th Charter Dinner at the South Lawns Hotel.
29 October	Attended the Mencap AGM at the Nedderman Centre.
3 November	Attended the Battles Over Concert at the Memorial Centre.
8 November	Attended the IncuHive opening.
11 November	Attended the New Milton Town Council Remembrance Parade at the War Memorial and Memorial Centre.

11 November Attended the Wreath laying at the Indian Obelisk.

11 November Attended the Battles Over event at Barton on Sea.

The Vice-Chairman reported on his recent engagements.

11 November Attended the Royal British Legion Wreath laying and service at the Keyhaven War Memorial.

Cllr Hawkins represented the Council at the Ballard School Remembrance on 9th November 2018.

63. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

64. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 1 October 2018.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 1 October 2018, having been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

65. CORRESPONDENCE

- i) A letter of resignation from Cllr Caroline Hexter stating; 'It is with real regret and sadness that I am resigning from New Milton Town Council...It was a huge privilege to have been co-opted onto the Council and being on the Working Party to improve the children's play areas in the town was a great honour... I will continue to be a huge advocate of the great work the Town Council does in making New Milton a desirable place to live, work and play.'

The Town Clerk was asked to write, thanking her for her service.

- ii) An email received from Ashley Baptist Church informing the Council that church members have knitted over a thousand little angels, labelled with a message wishing everyone a Happy Christmas from Ashley Baptist Church. They will be placed around the community week commencing 10th December 2018 for people to find and take home. Any left will be removed.

- iii) Further correspondence from the Shared Forest Business Group, being an invitation to an exclusive evening for a Commoning Voices exhibition at the New Forest Centre will take place 20th November 2018 from 5.50pm – 7.00pm.

66. QUESTIONS

The below question was put to the Council from Cllr R Murrow;

‘As an active member of the Twinning Association, and having discussed this with the present incumbent, would it be acceptable for me in future to act as Council representative on the Twinning Association instead of the Deputy Town Mayor?’

Cllrs Reid and Hawkins supported this proposal, stating that Cllr Murrow is an active member of the Twinning Association and should be given the position because of his close links.

Cllr O’Sullivan mentioned the current procedure of the Deputy Mayor carrying out this role and queried whether the rule should be changed.

Cllr Clarke suggested amending the rule such that ‘The Twinning Association representative is the Deputy Mayor or a suitable Councillor.’

With a majority of 10 in favour,

It was

RESOLVED:

That Cllr R Murrow be the Council Representative on the Twinning Association until 13th May 2019, being the date of the next annual meeting.

67. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Hampshire County Councillor Mel Kendal congratulated the Town Council on the Remembrance weekend events.

The outcome of the Government’s recent Budget was summarised, particularly referring to Capital Funds available to schools and Councils for Highway Maintenance, noting these are one off payments. The County Council have also been given funding of £4.7m for Adult Social Care and £8.1m for Children’s Social Care.

Shared Service Arrangements were mentioned with Oxford City Council, Westminster City Council, Hammersmith & Fulham London Borough Council and Kensington &

Chelsea London Borough Council. A deliberate strategy to grow shared service platforms will take on what is relevant and best practice for Hampshire County Council.

Cllr Blunden referred to work done by Hampshire Highways on pot holes within the town and noted that the public are not always notified by the new contractors when works will be carried out. This was noted by Cllr Kendal and will be passed on to the Highways department. Cllr Kendal mentioned the two new Dragon Patching machines which are due to be delivered within the next few weeks.

Cllr Clarke referred to the recent work done on the Holmsley Rail Bridge on the A35 and wondered if there was an update on the project. Emergency repair works have been completed at the bridge which carries the A35 Lyndhurst to Christchurch road over the C10 Burley to Sway/Brockenhurst, adjacent to the former Holmsley railway station, now The Old Station Tea Rooms. [*Post meeting note: Attached to the minutes is an article providing further information.*]

District Cllr Ward informed members that he attended the New Forest District Council (NFDC) Audit Committee meeting held on 26th October 2018, nothing was raised affecting the Town Council directly.

District Cllr Clarke attended the Leisure Centre Task & Finish Group, informing members that a meeting is due to take place on Tuesday 20th November 2018 with the recommendation that a partner be introduced to manage the NFDC Leisure Centres in the best way possible. Cllr Clarke also attended a Hampshire Archives Trust meeting on behalf of NFDC on Saturday 3rd November which helps any organisation archiving historic papers. Cllr Clarke spoke to Cllr Craze regarding the Station Masters House seeking a grant from the Trust. Cllr Clarke also attended a Licensing Committee meeting, with animal Legislation being bought under one unified act, resulting in animal licensing being dealt with in a more streamlined manner.

District Cllr Blunden attended a Transport Task & Finish Group to discuss the future of NFDC vehicles, looking at alternative fuel and the infrastructure required to keep the vehicles on the road. Cllr Blunden had also attended the Leisure Centre Task & Finish Group, informing members that if a suitable partner is not found, they will be seeking an arm's length business deal as an alternative measure.

District Cllr O'Sullivan has attended several Task & Finish Groups for Budget, Grants and Customer Servicing and will be going to see IncuHive on 16th November 2018 to see their new centre.

District Cllr Davies informed members that several Housing policies and strategies are in the process of being reviewed with a Scrutiny Panel taking place next week. Cllr Davies referred to the F&GP meeting on 29th October 2018 in which New Forest

Disability were offered £500 from the Grant Aid budget and hopes to be able to find ways to offer longer term contributions from District Councillor community grants.

District Cllr Beck attended the Task & Finish Groups mentioned above as well as a Safer New Forest Conference earlier today (12th November) at Brockenhurst College.

68. COMMITTEE MINUTES

a) Planning Committee

Cllr S Clarke, Chairman of the Planning Committee, submitted the minutes of the Committee Meetings held on 11 & 25 October plus 7 November 2018 and moved their adoption.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 117 to 146 inclusive be received.

Cllr Beck referred to minute 123, and asked for an update on the Neighbourhood Plan, asking what the Town Council has invested in the project. Cllr Clarke informed members that an initial budget of £40k had been assigned and that £17k grants had been secured, being the maximum amount available.

b) Amenities Committee

G Blunden, Chairman of the Amenities Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 16 October 2018 and moved their adoption.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 61 to 77 inclusive be received.

Cllr Clarke referred to minute 63 and whether Hampshire County Council have responded to the Town Council regarding Community Speed Watch, to which the Town Clerk informed members that no reply had been received, as yet.

Cllr Clarke also referred to minute 69, informing members that the Friends of Ballard Water Meadow are happy with the pathway improvement works due to take place.

Cllr Blunden referred to minute 76, informing members that, as part of the Shared Forest project, there are several temporary animal silhouettes installed at Chaucombe Green that will remain there for 2 weeks to raise awareness of animal deaths in the New Forest.

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 29 October 2018 and moved their adoption.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 53 to 66 inclusive be received.

Cllr Reid referred to minute 64 and asked how the Charitable Incorporated Organisation will be set up and who will be involved. The Town Clerk informed members that the recommended way forward will be presented to the next F&GP Committee meeting.

d) Executive Committee

Cllr D A Rice-Mundy, Chairman of the Executives Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 5 November 2018 and moved their adoption.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 20 to 29 inclusive be received.

Cllr Craze mentioned that he attended the Executive Committee meeting on the 5th November and asked that the minutes be amended. The Town Clerk apologised for the oversight and this will be amended.

69. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Schedule of Payments endorsed by the F&GP Committee on 29 October 2018 was submitted for Council approval.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED:

That the Schedule of Payments S/No 04/18/19 totalling £165,089.36 for the period 1 August – 30 September 2018 be approved.

The Schedule was duly signed.

70. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1, previously circulated. Cllr Clarke gave an update on the Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) and, upon receiving advice, AECOM have been contacted to commence the process. NFDC submitted their Local Plan on 1st November 2018.

71. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2, previously circulated.

The Internal Audit Report including recommendations and responses was endorsed by the F&GP Committee at its last meeting.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That the First Interim Audit Report for 2018/19 be approved and accepted.

72. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON EXTERNAL BODIES

Cllr Beck informed members that he had attended the recent HALC board meeting at which they discussed the appointment of a new Chief Executive. Applications are in the process of being reviewed and a decision will be announced in January 2019.

73. TOWN DEVELOPMENT MANAGER REPORT

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

Cllr Craze referred to the Station Masters House and informed members that a spreadsheet of accounts has been submitted to the National Lottery and will receive a response in January 2019.

74. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Town Council will take place on **Monday 7 January 2019** 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 7.34pm.

DEMOCRATIC HALF HOUR

Bashley resident Keith Bloodworth thanked members for their ongoing support regarding the Bashley Speed Reduction Campaign, with a meeting due to take place with Hampshire County Council (HCC) in the near future. It was asked that on the agenda for the HCC meeting, there is a request for an SLR along Bashley Crossroads, a westerly extension of the 30 limit along the road to Beehive Hill, re-siting of the former Fernhill roundabout 'Bashley Welcome' sign on the County boundary, a gravelled extension of the Veals Corner footpath and a horse rider warning sign at the Rising Sun southbound.

The Chairman thanked Mr Bloodworth and agreed that Bashley Common Road can be a dangerous place for overtaking.

Cllr Clarke supported the suggestion that SLR cameras are deployed at Bashley Crossroads, noting it is an issue. Due to the amount of road entrances along Sway Road, it is not deemed necessary to carry on the 30 limit to Beehive Hill. It was asked that this item be put on the next agenda, as well as asking for an SLR outside Ferndene Farm shop.

Cllr Blunden mentioned the Dragons Teeth which are due to arrive in the next 14 days.

The Chairman thanked members of the public and press for attending, and members agreed to go into private session for one item.

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.

75. **PROPOSAL FOR AWARD**

Members were very appreciative of the efforts made by Alan Watson in arranging various events, including the Battles Over yesterday at Barton on Sea. It was proposed by Cllr Reid that an award be made at the next Town Council meeting to Alan Watson for this service to the town.

Cllr Reid's proposal form was signed by 11 Councillors.

It was

RESOLVED

That an award be made to Alan Watson at the next Town Council meeting on Monday 7th January 2019 in recognition of his service to the Town.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the Meeting at 7.44pm.

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