

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 7 JANUARY 2019 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	p	D N Tungate
	p	D E Hawkins	p	J G Ward
	p	R Murrow		

In Attendance: Officers: Graham Flexman - Town Clerk
 Joanna Hayward - Administrator
 Emma Towler - Assistant Administrator
 Silma Ramsaywack – Youth Coordinator
 Suna King – Town Development Manager

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

The Chairman introduced James Knight, CCTV Manager at NFDC, whose presentation highlighted the seven cameras in New Milton; their background, purpose, location and effectiveness. Statistics were also produced, informing members of key data since 2017.

Cllr Clarke suggested more cameras be placed within New Milton, being the largest town in the District. Cllr Hawkins raised concerns over trees being cut down to help camera visibility and asked that consideration be given to this aspect upon camera installation. Mr Knight noted the point and suggested regular meetings take place to ensure everyone is communicating efficiently when cameras, trees and advertising boards are installed.

Brian Byrne, Service Manager for Housing Estates Management and Support at NFDC, explained plans for remote cameras to be trialled to benefit towns throughout the District.

Nikki Swift, the newly-appointed Community Safety Manager at NFDC, was also in attendance and is the main point of contact regarding ASB locally.

76. APOLOGIES

Cllrs W Davies and V E Schooling.

Cllrs expressed their best wishes to Cllr Schooling.

77. PRESENTATION OF AWARD

The Chairman was pleased and honoured to present Alan Watson with an award for arranging numerous community events and inspiring others with his enthusiasm. He also presented Mrs Jean Watson with a basket of flowers for ably supporting Alan.

Mr Watson expressed his gratitude to several community groups, the Mayor and Town Clerk and said £4.5k recently raised will be donated to 3 charities which the New Milton Lions Club raised from events hosted throughout the World War 1 Centenary.

78. CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported on his recent engagements.

18 November	Attended the 2018 Tapathon at the Memorial Hall
24 November	Attended the New Milton Rotary final dinner at South Lawn Hotel
24 November	Attended the Christmas Festival & Light Switch on in the Town
1 December	Attended the New Milton Town Council Annual Carol Service at St Mary Magdalene Parish Church
5 December	Attended the Barton Lunch Club at Barton Methodist Church
14 December	Gave an interview with Talking Newspaper
14 December	Attended the Ballard School Carol Service at Christchurch Priory
15 December	Attended the Jubilee Singers Concert
18 December	Attended the Darby and Joan Club at New Milton Baptist Church
21 December	Attended the New Milton Town Council Christmas Drinks
21 December	Attended the Ocean Breeze Christmas Party

79. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted, Members have a dispensation and a duty to discuss and set a precept.

80. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of Council Meeting held on 12 November 2018.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 12 November 2018, having been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The minutes were duly signed.

81. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to two items of correspondence:

- i) A letter from New Forest Nightstop thanking the Town Council for the donation of £100 in lieu of the Council not sending Christmas cards.
- ii) An email from Rosemary Rutins of NFDC Democratic Services explaining that where a vacancy occurs within six months of the day on which a Councillor (Cllr Hexter) would normally have retired, the Town Council may co-opt.

Any person co-opted now would have to stand for election in May 2019 if they wished to continue on the Town Council. The Town Clerk said there had been no enquiries following advertisement of the vacancy.

82. QUESTIONS

None

83. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Hampshire County Cllr Mel Kendal gave an update on the Holmsley Bridge repairs, informing members the programme for the replacement bridge is due to start Spring/Summer 2020, which will be built alongside the existing to minimise disruption.

On another matter, Cllr Kendal reported the acting Chair of New Milton Infant School has left, leaving the position open should a local Councillor wish to apply.

Hampshire County Cllr Fran Carpenter informed members of the Library light touch refurbishment due to take place from February to April this year.

District Cllr O'Sullivan attended a Grants Task and Finish Group in which it was noted NFDC had cut grants provided by 38% since 2015/16.

Cllr Davies attended a Homelessness Forum and will report back on anything involving New Milton at future meetings.

Cllr Beck referred to Westcliffe Buildings and that, after speaking to Drews Trustees, the feasibility of the project is being reviewed.

District Cllrs Ward, Clarke, Blunden and Tungate had nothing to report.

84. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Planning Committee

Cllr S Clarke, Chairman of the Planning Committee, submitted the minutes of the Committee Meetings held on 22 November, 6 and 20 December 2018 and 3 January 2019 and moved their adoption.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 147 to 182 inclusive be received.

Cllr Beck referred to minute 145e and asked for an update on Old Milton Shopping Parade. The Town Clerk confirmed that the matter was brought up at a meeting with Mandy Ware of HCC at the end of November (who has since registered it on-line).

Cllr Beck reiterated his concerns regarding the decision on The Dome, minute 181, as it appeared not representative of local resident's and members views or efforts. Please see the Planning minutes and action points for further information regarding NFDC expediency decision.

b) Amenities Committee

Cllr G Blunden, Chairman of the Amenities Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 26 November 2018 and moved their adoption.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 78 to 95 inclusive be received.

Cllr Clarke referred to minute 90 and thanked the contractors involved with the Doe Copse Way playpark project for their work and public interaction.

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 December 2018 and moved their adoption.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 67 to 86 inclusive be received.

d) Executive Committee

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr A Reid, Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 16 November 2018 and moved their adoption.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 30 to 37 inclusive be received.

85. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

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

It was unanimously

RESOLVED:

That the Schedule of Payments S/No 05/18/19 totalling £199,321.19 for the period 1 October to 30 November 2018 be approved.

The Schedule was duly signed.

86. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON EXTERNAL BODIES

Cllr Beck informed members that a new Chief Executive had been appointed to HALC. There is a NFALC meeting on 17 January 2019. It was previously agreed that NFALC would stay in its existing format until April/May 2019.

Cllr Murrow gave a report on the Twinning Association. There was a meeting with Chris Douglas and the NMTC Administrator regarding membership and it was decided that an article would be arranged to promote the Association. An invitation has been extended for the Mayor to attend the Tall Ships Armada in Canteleu mid-June.

87. CCTV

The Town Clerk introduced this item to consider enhancements and improvements following the presentation by NFDC. Cllr Clarke suggested the Town Council purchase a remote camera to provide more coverage within the town.

This suggestion was supported by Cllr Blunden and it was agreed that this item be discussed at the next Amenities Committee meeting on 21 January 2019.

88. COUNCIL BUDGET FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2019/20

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

Cllr O'Sullivan voiced his concerns over the budget increase in the last three years. Cllr Ward endorsed Cllr O'Sullivan's comment. Cllr Craze was concerned that there was no defined 5-year maintenance plan for Town Council-owned properties yet.

Cllr Hawkins referred to the assets of the Town Council, requiring funds for improvements to be made to ensure these sites are suitable and safe for members of the public to use. Cllr Hawkin's comments were supported by Cllr Blunden who referred to the Ashley Rugby Pavilion, having provided detailed costings for high priority maintenance there. A prudent amount of £120k had been budgeted.

Cllr Beck asked the Town Clerk how much was paid for previous works undertaken at Ashley Rugby Pavilion. The Town Clerk informed members that in 2007/08 the Town Council paid a contribution of £25k towards overall building costs of £333k.

The Town Clerk said the Council's budget for 2019/20 must be approved, and the precept determined, at a full Council meeting.

The Chairman called for a vote. Cllr O'Sullivan's proposed amendment to remove £120k from the budget was defeated by 9 votes to 5.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That the 2019/20 budget be accepted and a precept of £994,529 was approved.

[The Town Council element of Council Tax will be £94.84 next year for average Band "D" properties in New Milton. This equates to £1.82 per week per household and compares favourably with other town and parish councils in the district. The majority of Council Tax goes to the District (NFDC) and County Council (HCC) plus Hampshire Police and Fire & Rescue Services]

89. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1, previously circulated, and Councillors noted the Calendar of Meetings for this calendar year.

The Town Clerk highlighted the Amenities Committee meeting to be held on 15 October 2019 pointing out it is a Tuesday, rather than the usual Monday due to an NFDC meeting scheduled for Monday 14 October 2019 at 6.30pm.

90. CHARITY COMMISSION – ANNUAL RETURN

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2, previously circulated, and councillors approved the Annual Return for the War Memorial Recreation Ground for the year 2017/18 be submitted to the Charity Commission by the end of the month.

91. RISK ASSESSMENTS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3, Risk Assessments for 2018/19 which was endorsed by the Finance & General Purposes Committee for Town Council approval.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED:

That the Risk Assessments for 2018/19 be approved and signed off.

92. TOWN DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

The Town Development Manager gave a verbal update on the report distributed which was noted by Councillors. Cllr Clarke thanked the TDM for her report and other office staff for their contributions. The Chairman thanked the Town Clerk as team leader.

93. ANY ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

None, and there was no Public Participation requiring a Democratic Half-Hour.

94. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Town Council will take place on **Monday 18 February 2019** in the Town Hall, 2 Ashley Road, New Milton at 6.30 pm.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the Meeting at 8.45pm.

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