

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY
18 FEBRUARY 2019 AT 6.30PM IN THE TOWN HALL, ASHLEY ROAD, NEW MILTON,
BH25 6AS

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

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

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, including Cllr M Kendal and Cllr C Ward, and five members of the public.

95. APOLOGIES

Cllrs Beck, Murrow, Tungate and Ward.

96. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS / MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

The Chairman reported on his recent engagements.

18 January 2019 Staff and 8 pre-school children from Little Angels Nursery visited the Town Hall to meet the Mayor.

7 February 2019 Attended a joint meeting of New Milton Town Councillors and Arnewood School Ambassadors held at the Town Hall.

18 February 2019 Attended a football match at the Wessex Pitch, Fawcetts Field, organised by Arnewood students raising funds for the Mayor's nominated charities.

97. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr A Rice, being a trustee of New Milton Memorial Hall, pertaining to Amenities minute 106.

98. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of Council Meeting held on 7 January 2019

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 7 January 2019, having been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The minutes were duly signed.

99. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to three items of correspondence:

- a) An email from Rosemary Rutins of NFDC including information for councillors standing for election on 2 May 2019. A copy of the mail is attached to these meeting minutes.
- b) An email from Sway Parish Council with notification of a £500 grant being processed from HCC Cllr K Mans towards the Cango Bus booking service.

Furthermore, Cllr J England from Lymington is contributing £500 which means the full cost of running the Cango booking service is covered for 2018/19.

Members thanked the Town Clerk and asked about funding for next years' service. The Town Clerk advised that HCC are currently negotiating a new £100k operational contract with operators from 1 April 2019.

- c) An email from Hayward-Fox estate agents requesting an easement in respect of 9 Solent Drive for vehicular access to the rear of that property from Meadow Way. This matter was referred to the Amenities Committee for consideration.

100. QUESTIONS

None

101. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Hampshire County Cllr Mel Kendal gave an update on the proposed refurbishment of New Milton Library which is now delayed until April 2019 due to contract issues.

HCC have agreed a 2.99% rise in Council Tax noting that increased demands on Social, Adult and Children's services would be unsustainable without it.

Cllr Roy Perry will be retiring as Leader of HCC in May but will continue his councillor duties as member for Romsey.

HCC have received a government grant of £175k to go towards preparatory works for Brexit, including looking at lorry parks for vehicles approaching Portsmouth Harbour. The government has promised to maintain farmers subsidies up to 2021 which will honour subsidies currently paid to the farming community from EU funds including HCC tenant farmers.

NFDC Cllr S Clarke had attended PSHDFG (Private Sector Housing Disability Funding Grant) Task & Finish Group and the Health & Leisure Task & Finish Group meetings.

He had also attended a Police Crime Commissioner Panel meeting which had agreed an additional precept of £5 per household which will avoid cutbacks to frontline policing and help provide up to 200 additional police officers for neighbourhood policing throughout Hampshire.

Cllr Clarke had given the remainder of his community grant to ASBOC.

NFDC Cllr G Blunden had attended a meeting regarding Barton Cliff erosion reporting that NFDC had received a grant from the Environment Agency of £250k to enable stabilising preparatory work to be started in the summer.

NFDC Cllr A O'Sullivan reported he had attended a Customer Services Task & Finish group meeting looking at tendering for a new website, and he had given £1,000 from his community grant to the New Milton Dementia Community Allotments for the installation of a new gazebo.

NFDC Cllr S Davies reported on the meeting held with Yellow Buses announcing that a new route will become operational from 8 April 2019, Monday to Saturday, from Sainsbury in Christchurch to Tesco in New Milton, via Highcliffe, Walkford and Gore Road, which it is hoped the A&T will advertise as a highlight feature in a future edition of their newspaper. It will be an extension to the 1a service to/from Bournemouth.

Cllr Davies also referred to the Appletree Housing funding of £2m which will help NFDC purchase properties for housing stock.

Cllr Davies had also given the remainder of his community grant to First Opportunities Playgroup.

102. COMMITTEE REPORTSa) Planning Committee

Cllr S Clarke, Chairman of the Planning Committee, submitted the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 14 February 2019 and moved their adoption.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 183 to 192 inclusive be received.

b) Amenities Committee

Cllr G Blunden, Chairman of the Amenities Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 21 January 2019 and moved their adoption.

It was noted that Minute 102 Land Use Requests should have the word 'That' removed from the beginning of the first sentence.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 96 to 112 inclusive be received, subject to the above amendment.

Cllr Blunden referred to Minute 103 Doe Copse Way and informed members the official play park opening would now take place on Saturday 9 March 2019 from 12 noon.

Reference Minute 105 CCTV, Cllr Blunden advised that the recommendation had been referred to the Police Liaison Meeting and was well received.

Cllr Hawkins referred to the Recommendation highlighted at Minute 106 and was concerned that £4k professional fees be paid from the Amenities budget when it's not budgeted for and that this should be a split cost between both parties.

He was also concerned about protecting current users of Indoor Bowls Club and ASBOC. It was agreed this item would be discussed further under review of F&GP Committee Minutes.

Cllr K Craze gave an update on Minute 107 No. 1 New Milton advising on funding applied for and what had been successful to date as well as continuing to apply for grants from other organisations.

c) Finance and General Purposes Committee

Noting the absence of Cllr Tungate at this meeting, and his own absence from the last F&GP meeting, Cllr S Davies, Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, introduced the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 4 February 2019. Cllr Clarke moved their adoption, which was seconded by Cllr O'Sullivan.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 87 to 100 inclusive be received.

Cllr Hawkins referred to minute 95 (b) and proposed that the £4k professional fees referred to be taken from Reserves and not from the Amenities budget.

There was a show of hands with 7 for the proposal, 2 against and 2 abstaining.

Cllr Clarke referred to minute 96 Youth Work advising that there was a Youth Services Conference held on 13 February which was well-attended by over 40 people. He thanked the Youth Co-ordinator for organising this successful event.

d) Executive Committee

Cllr A Reid, Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee Meetings held on 11 January and 4 February 2019 and moved their adoption.

Noting that the text 'subject to the above amendment' be removed from the end of the Resolution under Minute 41.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 38 to 57 inclusive be received, subject to the above amendment.

103. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Schedule of Payments endorsed by the F&GP Committee on 4 February 2019 was submitted for Council approval.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED:

That the Schedule of Payments S/No 06/18/19 totalling £76,869.49 for the period 1 – 31 December 2018 be approved.

The Schedule was duly signed.

104. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON EXTERNAL BODIES

None

105. CASUAL VACANCY

The Chairman asked Cllr Hawkins to speak in support of Cllr Christine Ward as he had proposed she fill the casual vacancy in the Becton Ward until the next ordinary election of councillors on Thursday 2 May 2019.

Cllr Hawkins said Cllr Christine Ward is a hard-working individual who always shows up at and supports local events and would be a great addition to the team. She previously acted as Deputy Mayor / Vice Chairman during part of Cllr Hawkins' tenure as Mayor / Chairman of this Town Council and he commended her to other members.

Members voted unanimously in support of Cllr C Ward who said it felt like the right time to return to the town council, and she looked forward to working with members and standing for election in May.

It was then unanimously

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Christine Ward be co-opted to the office of Town Councillor for the Becton Ward of the Town Council with immediate effect, until the next ordinary election of councillors on Thursday 2 May 2019.

106. POLICE LIAISON

The Chairman referred to the Police Liaison Meeting notes, circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Cllr Clarke provided an overview of the recent Police Liaison meeting noting in future they would be held quarterly.

Cllr A Rice asked if cycling on the pavement could be discussed at the next meeting.

Cllr Hawkins requested that Mobility Scooters on pavements also be considered.

The Town Clerk made a note of these items.

107. TOWN DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

The Chairman referred to the TDM report, circulated to members prior to the meeting, and invited the Town Development Manager to give a verbal update which was noted by Councillors. A copy of the TDM report is attached to these minutes.

108. ANY OTHER UPDATES

The Chairman asked Clive Rigden to update members on the Community Hub.

The Chairman took the meeting out of session at 7.35pm.

Mr Rigden confirmed that the ASBOC facility would be included in any redevelopment and that the £4k professional fees was the upper limit of legal costs in helping to get the project off the ground.

The Chairman returned to session at 7.37pm.

109. NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Town Council will take place on **Monday 1 April 2019** in the Town Hall, 2 Ashley Road, New Milton at 6.30 pm.

The Chairman then adjourned the meeting at 7.38pm to allow the Democratic Half Hour.

DEMOCRATIC HALF HOUR

Mr Alan Watson informed the meeting of the proposed community litter-picking events planned to take place on the weekend of 13/14 April led by the Lions Club, and the NMRA litter-pick taking place on 6/7 July before the Britain in Bloom judging.

Mr Clive Rigden advised members that there was a fund-raising 'Craft Ales Festival' event at the Memorial Hall taking place on 6 April being run in conjunction with the Hourglass Micropub and commended it to those present.

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 7.40pm and invited members to watch a short video entitled ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) which had been recommended by Cllr Clarke following his attendance at the Youth Services Conference.

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