

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 1
APRIL 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		Mrs V E Schooling
	S P Davies		S P Short
	W Davies	p	D N Tungate
	D E Hawkins	p	J G Ward
	R Murrow		

In Attendance: Officers: G Flexman - Town Clerk
E Towler - Assistant Administrator

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, including County Cllr F Carpenter, 1 member of the public and a press representative.

The Chairman introduced Alison Talbot, Chief Officer at Citizens Advice New Forest, whose presentation highlighted the main services provided by the charity. The New Milton office is currently based at 16 Whitefield Road and is open 16 hours a week Monday-Thursday. A fundraising event is taking place at Highcliffe Castle on the 9th May, which members were invited to attend. Also in attendance was Helen White, Services Manager for the New Milton office who provided examples of the type of work undertaken.

Cllr Hawkins asked whether volunteers could be based at Ashley Hub. Ms Talbot informed members that it could be an option in the future as information stored on the cloud means volunteers laptops can be taken with them to different sites.

[Attached are the slides of the presentation and a Ward dashboard].

110. APOLOGIES

Cllrs Beck, Murrow, Schooling and Short.

111. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS / MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

The Chairman reported on his recent engagements.

8th March 2019 Attended the Christchurch Gala Dinner at the Captains Club.

- 9th March 2019 Attended the Residents Association AGM at the Community Centre, along with several Cllrs and the Town Clerk
- 9th March 2019 Attended the Doe Copse Way playground opening.
- 10th March 2019 Attended the Annual Civic Service at New Milton Baptist Church.
- 12th March 2019 Met with the Ballard School Italian Exchange Students.
- 23rd March 2019 Attended the Mayors Charity Ball at Hoburne Bashley, which was well-supported, raising £600.
- 24th March 2019 Attended the New Milton Music Festival at Arnewood School.

The Vice-Chairman reported on his recent engagements:

- 23rd March 2019 Attended the Lions Prostate Screening Session day with around 300 other local men. (Results:12 amber, 22 red).

112. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members have a dispensation to discuss Members Allowances.

113. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 18 February 2019

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 18 February 2019, having been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The minutes were duly signed.

114. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to two items of correspondence:

- a) A letter received from the charity SCOPE, registered with the Fundraising Regulator, providing dates for house to house collections in 2019/20, operating under an Exemption Order granted by the Home Office, from:
- 1st April 2019 to 21 April 2019
 - 6 April 2020 to 26 April 2020
- b) A letter received from Jake Berry MP, Minister for the Northern Powerhouse & Local Growth, on behalf of the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, replying to a letter from our Planning Committee about Planning Enforcement. Cllr Clarke raised concerns about people not being asked to submit a planning application for retrospective applications.
[Copy of MHCLG response attached to these minutes].

115. QUESTIONS - None

116. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Hampshire County Cllr Fran Carpenter provided an update on recent meetings attended including Deputising the Parenting Board in which two Care Ambassadors left care under HCC and reported on the issues they experienced and what can be done to improve the system.

Cllr Carpenter also thanked the Town Clerk and Estates & Facilities Manager for the newly-installed warning signs on roads around Ballard School. District Cllr J Ward recently attended an initial meeting such that New Forest are looking at reducing the number of District Councillors in 2023. District Cllrs Blunden, Clarke, Davies, O'Sullivan, Tungate and C Ward had nothing to report during the Purdah period.

117. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Planning Committee

Cllr S Clarke, Chairman of the Planning Committee, submitted the minutes of the Committee Meetings held on 28 February, 14 and 28 March 2019 and moved their adoption.

Cllr Clarke referred to minute 220a) highlighting change of date for the next Planning Committee meeting to Wednesday 10 April 2019, due to exceptional circumstances.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 193 to 221 inclusive be received.

b) Amenities Committee

Cllr G Blunden, Chairman of the Amenities Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 4 March 2019 and moved their adoption.

Cllr Craze referred to minute 121 and gave an update on the Station Masters House, informing members that the halfway figure for funding has been reached and thanked Alan Watson for the four-page article in April's edition of Focus.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 113 to 132 inclusive be received.

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 18 March 2019 and moved their adoption.

Cllr Davies noted duplication of minute number 119. The first one should read 117 and asked that this be amended.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 101 to 119 inclusive be received, subject to the above amendment.

118. 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 07/18/19 totalling £82,922.67 for the period 1 – 31 January 2019 be approved.

The Schedule was duly signed.

119. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON EXTERNAL BODIES - None

120. STANDING ORDERS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1, previously circulated. Members were happy with the amendments proposed at F&GP on the 18th March 2019.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That the amended Standing Orders be approved and issued accordingly.

121. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY POLICY

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2, previously circulated, which was noted by members.

After discussion, it was

RESOLVED:

That the amended Equality & Diversity Policy be adopted and issued accordingly.

122. DIGNITY AT WORK POLICY

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3, previously circulated, being a new policy, which was noted by members.

After discussion, it was

RESOLVED:

That the new Dignity at Work Policy be adopted and issued accordingly.

123. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The Chairman referred to Appendix 4, previously circulated, which was noted, and the proposed responses were agreed by members.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That the 2nd Interim Audit Report for 2018/19 be noted with agreed responses.

124. MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

The Chairman referred to Appendix 5, previously circulated, with a recommendation of £963.75 for 2019/20, being a 2% increase equating to £1.57 a month.

A vote was taken and it was

RESOLVED:

That Members Allowances be increased by 2% with effect from 1 April 2019.

125. TOWN DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

The Chairman referred to the Town Development Managers report, previously circulated, which was noted by members.

126. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Clarke gave a verbal update on the Neighbourhood Plan, informing members that a final draft is being finalised, subject to minor updates, and it is hoped a final version will be distributed at the end of April with briefing notes attached.

127. NEXT MEETING

The **Annual Towns Meeting** will be taking place on **Monday 29 April 2019** at 6.30pm and **Annual Meeting of the Council** will be held on **Monday 13 May 2019** at 6.30pm in the Town Hall, 2 Ashley Road, New Milton.

The Chairman thanked those attending and closed the public part of the meeting at 7.34pm.

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.

128. EASEMENT

After much discussion, the Chairman called for a vote. Cllr S Davies proposed what was suggested at F&GP be approved by Town Council.

By majority vote, it was

RESOLVED:

That an Easement be agreed in the sum of £17,500 plus any associated fees.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 7.48pm.

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