

36. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 26 June and it was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 26 June 2017 having been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The minutes were duly signed.

37. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) The Town Clerk read out an email from Grainne O'Rourke from New Forest District Council in response to the Town Clerk's query about Neighbourhood Plan and green space. NFDC would seek legal advice and reply mid-August.
- b) The Town Clerk referred to an email dated 4 August from NFDC Transport section about a revised traffic management process, inviting scheme requests from local members by Friday 15 September, 2017.

Cllr Craze said one of the first items to be discussed would be the restrictive access and double parking issues along Southern Lane.

- c) The Town Clerk referred to an email from Acting Inspector Paul Beale about people drinking outside the Conservative Club, advising that police are powerless to act without Controlled Drinking Zones that local authorities (NFDC) may apply for.
- d) The Town Clerk referred to correspondence from the Prudential regarding investments that mature on 25 August, 2017.

Cllr Craze suggested that we review the Prudential Terms and Conditions in the light of previous delays and consider discussing this with the FSA as reparation may be available for delayed release of funds.

38. QUESTIONS

None

39. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Councillor Mel Kendal referred to the HCC consultation about future budget cuts of £140m in 2019/2020 on top of cuts totalling £340m over the past 9 years, encouraging all to participate, noting no specific cuts had yet been proposed.

Cllr Kendal had also attended the New Forest Show with the National Park Authority celebrating the 800th anniversary of the Charter of the Forest, with DEFRA's National Parks Minister Lord Gardiner in attendance on the NFNPA stand.

He also referred to the Memorial Centre project and outlined the current position reaffirming optimism for the community hub but to be aware of governance issues which all are keen to resolve.

County Councillor Fran Carpenter mentioned that she will be meeting with a local HCC Highways Engineer regarding the North Milton area and asked for any issues to be sent to her by Wednesday.

HCC are undertaking a digital transformation of their services offering members and staff training and information sessions for iPads and tablets.

Cllr Beck asked what the costs of going digital are and Cllr Kendal responded that there are £13k savings pa envisaged overall by going digital.

District Councillor Beck informed members of the history of the Indian Monument at Barton on Sea which the town council are custodians of. He put forward the idea that the town council should commemorate this part of our town's heritage and history by conducting a short service annually on the 10 July. Members agreed to include this in the calendar of events in future years.

Cllr Rice also supported the idea and confirmed that he and other members lay a remembrance wreath every Remembrance Sunday at this monument.

Cllr Beck referred to torn black sacks affecting the shopping precinct at Old Milton Green over the weekend which NMTC had cleared away on the Sunday in the absence of NFDC standby response.

Cllr Hexter asked about the provision of wheelie bins and it was suggested that the flats at Old Milton Green could have lockable black Euro bins.

Referring to a strategic plan to help local businesses grow, District Councillor Tungate mentioned NFDC have introduced a new initiative to support the 8,000 businesses in the New Forest, the matter having been debated at a recent Cabinet meeting.

Cllr Blunden supported this initiative, referring to the district council's draft business strategy to help local firms achieve prosperity over the next 20 years, and expected the Town Council would get involved via the TDM.

Cllrs O'Sullivan and Clarke had nothing to report.

40. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Planning Committee

Cllr S J Clarke, Chairman of the Planning Committee submitted the minutes of three Planning Committee Meetings held on 6 and 20 July plus 3 August 2017.

Cllr Clarke referred to minute 53 (d) S&P Furnishers and the need to provide photographic evidence.

Cllr Blunden referred to minute 74 and the areas in Caird Avenue requiring crossing points to be addressed by the revised NFDC traffic management process referred to.

Cllr Clarke indicated that electronic speed devices would be assessed for permanent or temporary placement at Bashley.

Noting minute 74 (g) should be highlighted for reference to HCC Cllr Kendal.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 46-76 inclusive be received.

b) Amenities Committee

Cllr G Blunden, Chairman of the Amenities Committee, submitted the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 11 July 2017 and moved their adoption.

Cllr Beck referred to minute 32 and was pleased to inform members of the continued praise and compliments from our residents for the town's floral displays.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 24-40 inclusive be received.

c) Finance and General Purposes Committee

Cllr N Tungate, Vice-Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee submitted the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Meeting held on 24 July 2017 and moved their adoption.

Cllr A O'Sullivan referred to minute 30 (6) and proposed rejection of the recommendation to give a bonus payment of £100 to each member of staff stating that "giving money away is wrong".

There was no support for Cllr O'Sullivan's proposal.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 21 - 36 inclusive be received.

d) Executive Committee

Cllr David Rice-Mundy, Chairman of the Executive Committee submitted the minutes of the Executive Committee Meetings held on 7 and 21 July 2017.

Cllr Hawkins asked that it be noted that he did not attend 21 July meeting and had given his apologies.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 1-22 inclusive be received, subject to the above amendment.

41. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Schedule of Payments endorsed by the F&GP Committee on 24 July 2017 was submitted for Council approval.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED:

That the Schedule of Payments No 03/17/18 for the period 1-30 June 2017 be approved in the total sum of £89,807.07.

The Schedule was duly signed.

42. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1, previously circulated.

The Town Clerk informed members that this report was received on 26 June which was the date of the previous meeting of the Town Council, but it needed approval by the Town Council after due consideration.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That the Internal Audit Report for year ended 31 March 2017 be approved.

43. INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2, previously circulated.

Cllr O'Sullivan referred to the strategy and in particular item 6 Long Term Investments and that "No long term investments are currently envisaged or proposed after 25 August 2017".

Cllr Craze reminded members that the investment strategy would be reviewed annually but investment would be medium term ie. 6-9-12 month's maximum and adjusting the funds appropriately in line with the need for fluidity of funds.

44. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

Cllr A O'Sullivan had nothing to report from Forest Arts Centre or Milton Heritage Society at this time.

Cllr Beck referred to a governor's meeting at Arnewood School, NewBiz and NMRA meetings mentioning that the publication of Focus will be redesigned later in the year to include colour photographs.

Cllr Beck reported that the NFALC AGM and quarterly meeting had taken place on 20 July and thanked Cllr Blunden for attending, encouraging other members and councils to attend the next NFALC meeting that takes place on Thursday 19 October 2017 at Appletree Court.

Cllr Beck noted that many posters for Circus Ginnett had appeared around the town and the Town Clerk confirmed that a £500 deposit had been taken from the circus.

Cllr Blunden had attended the NFALC meeting and referred to Colin Read, Deputy Chief Executive, who had informed NFALC members that the highway maintenance contract with HCC had changed meaning reductions in services inasmuch that HCC will only pay for 4 grass cuts per year (was 6) with NFDC topping up a further 4 cuts again, and that weed-spraying is now only done once a year (rather than twice).

Cllr Blunden referred to some images of local weeds growing through footpaths and kerbside damaging the surfacing, noting that a lady had recently tripped on the weeds. He asked that the Town Council write to HCC requesting reinstatement of previous standards.

45. REPORT FROM TOWN DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

The Chairman referred to the written report from the TDM, previously circulated.

Cllrs Tungate and Craze congratulated the Town Development Manager for all her work to date, including the new website.

46. ANY ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

None

47. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 2 October 2017 commencing 6.30 pm in the Town Hall, 2 Ashley Road, New Milton.

DEMOCRATIC HALF HOUR

Keith Bloodworth spoke on behalf of Bashley residents and thanked NMTC and district councillor's pledges amounting £1k in total from Cllrs Clarke, Tungate and S Davies plus a hoped for contribution from Cllr Christine Ward as well.

Alan Watson spoke on behalf of the Lions Club of New Milton and thanked the Mayor for attending the centennial events as well as the office and estates team for all their support during the centennial events in the town.

The fund-raising total will be announced later in the year with various charities benefitting.

The bucket collection at the Car Boot and the Get Together Picnic raised £1k for the Grenfell Tower Fire disaster appeal.

The Mayor thanked Alan Watson for everything he does in the town, on behalf of the town.

The Chairman thanked members and public for attending and closed the meeting at 7.40 pm.

Chairman _____ Date _____

Distribution:

Town Councillors
District Councillors Mrs C V Ward, Mrs J L Cleary
County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter and K Mans
New Milton Library
New Milton Police
Press