



Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee of New Milton Town Council held on Monday 17 January 2022 at 6.30 pm at the Town Hall, Ashley Road, New Milton.

<u>Councillors:</u>	p	G R Blunden (Chair)	p	D E Hawkins (Vice Chair)
	p	M Craze	p	C V Ward
		D A Rice-Mundy	p	A D O'Sullivan
	p	A W Rice	p	R Murrow
	p	V E Schooling		

In Attendance:

Councillors: S Clarke, S Davies, A Reid, D Samber and H Wallis-Dowling

Officers: G Flexman - Town Clerk H Ormerod – Administrative Assistant

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, 2 Officers, 3 members of the public and a press representative to the meeting.

Julia Stamper asked for an update regarding the green space masterplan at Fawcetts Field. She asked that consideration be given to the positioning/location of the proposed community garden, suggesting it be sited at the upper most pitch near to Gore Road (rather than on the southern-most field) as this would be closer to the proposed new housing development and Youth and Family Centre.

Bob Lord spoke in support of Julia Stamper regarding the location of the community garden at Fawcetts Field.

Alan Watson reported that following guidance from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, the major Lion's community event would now be held on Thursday 2 June 2022 on Barton cliff top between 12 noon and 10pm. The event would have a street party theme and include live music and stalls and the lighting of a beacon as part of 1,500 being lit throughout the United Kingdom. In addition to the Lions event, people were being encouraged to hold their own street parties on 5 June 2022.

99. APOLOGIES

Councillor D Rice-Mundy.

100. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

101. PUBLIC PARTICPATION

The Chairman reported that work on the green space masterplan was underway and noted Julia and Bobs comments regarding the location of the community garden. He thanked Alan for the update on the Lion's Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration events.

102. MINUTES**RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the meetings held on 29 November and 9 December 2021, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

103. MATTERS ARISING

The Town Clerk reported that CGO had provided a quote to undertake an ecological study as part of the development of a Vision Plan for Fawcetts Field, and a landscape architect is in the throes of being appointed.

104. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) An e-mail from the proprietor of the New Forest Bike Project asking for help finding new premises due to the likely imminent sale of the current workshop. New premises would ideally need to be located close to the railway station and would need to have a floor area of between 50 – 100m² floor together with parking facilities. Any suggestions should be forwarded to the Town Clerk.
- b) A letter from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities seeking local authority support for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations and highlighting opportunities for Councils and communities to engage with the celebrations including street parties, jubilee lunches, Queen's green canopy and beacon lighting.

105. LAND USE REQUESTS

The Town Clerk referred to the following:

- a) Further correspondence had been received from the events organiser at Chewton Glen regarding the use of Fawcetts Field for parking up to 2,000 cars per day for music events being held at Chewton Glen over 4 days in July 2022. Officers would be in discussion with Chewton Glen regarding availability and appropriate charges. A site meeting has been arranged for next week.
- b) Members were reminded that on 1 June 2021 Nick Saunders was given permission to take-off and land a drone from the Recreation Ground for photographic purposes. A request had now been received from Bob Lord to take-off and land a drone for the purposes of photographing SINC's including Ballard Water Meadow and Barton Common.

RESOLVED:

That subject to the relevant documentary and insurance requirements being provided, a drone operator be appointed to cover both purposes.

**106. QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE**

At its meeting on 29 November 2021, the Committee agreed that community contacts including schools, youth groups, local charities and care homes be asked to for suggestions for a permanent commemorative feature to honour the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and that a working group be established to consider these suggestions. A number of suggestions were received, and the working party met on 6 January 2022 to consider these, and the following were shortlisted:

- a) In addition to the previously agreed Rose Garden project on the Recreation Ground, the installation of an ornate cast iron or wooden pergola.
- b) The installation of 4 commemorate benches - possible locations being Station Road, Ashley Recreation Ground, a suitable location at Barton Cliff top, and the War Memorial at the Recreation Ground.
- c) The planting of trees.
- d) A sculpture or water feature within the town.

There was a general discussion about community involvement in taking these projects forward and about how these should be funded. It was generally agreed that any projects would need to be funded by CIL monies and community/business contributions. With regard to the suggestion for the installation of a pergola the Committee supported this proposal and asked officers to report back to the next meeting with a detailed design including size, location, material options and cost.

Committee members supported the proposal for commemorative seats and it was agreed that officers report back to the next meeting with a detailed design and location map. It was noted that each bench would cost approximately £1,000 and this would need to be funded from CIL monies. Councillor Clarke asked that a bench also be installed at Ballard Lake. It was noted that the Town Council had recently relaunched its Plant a Tree initiative and was partnering with Ballard School for the Queen's Green Canopy.

With regard to the sculpture/water feature, the Chairman referred back to 2008, when considerable work was undertaken to develop a community art project for a landmark feature in the town centre to complete improvements undertaken in Station Road. Numerous community groups were involved in the project and artist Peter Yarwood's design was chosen at an approximate cost of £30,000. Unfortunately, Hampshire County Council withdrew their funding of £15k and the project could not then proceed.

Following considerable discussion regarding the location and merits of such a sculpture, Committee members agreed in principle to a landmark feature within the town subject to further consideration regarding funding, size and location.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That suggestions for a pergola structure at the Rose Garden and the installation of five benches be agreed in principle subject to funding and that officers be requested to report back to the next meeting regarding suggested designs, locations and costings. The suggested landmark feature be agreed in principle subject to public feedback and funding.

107. RECREATION GROUND

The Town Clerk reported that the reopening of the MUGA had been unavoidably delayed. Following a request from a resident, Councillor Samber asked if it would be possible to reopen the basketball courts before the end of February.

(Post meeting note: Parts are now in and scheduled for fitting next week. There is some local public consultation to do on the new CCTV, but hedge and fencing work was agreed at committee)

108. NAISH ESTATE

The Town Clerk reported that the tree-felling and replacement works at the Naish Estate was on target for completion by end of March 2022.

109. BUS SHELTERS

The replacement bus shelter in Gore Road had been installed, however due to supply chain issues, the installation of the two new bus shelters in the town centre would be delayed until late February/early March.

110. ASHLEY REC ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

The Chairman reported that the Ashley Recreation Ground play park works had been delayed until early March due to contractor operational issues. A planning application for the new Youth and storage facility would be considered by the District Council in February. Subject to approval and revised budget agreement, due to building cost increases, the work is programmed to commence in late spring 2022.

111. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

The Chairman reported that the defibrillator at Long Meadow had been fitted and would be available for use by the end of that week. Councillor Murrow asked whether contact could be made with the owner of the land rear of KFC regarding improving the aesthetics of the land.

112. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 28 February 2022 at 6.30pm at the Town Council Offices.

The Chairman thanked Councillors and Officers for attending and closed the meeting at 7.36pm.

CHAIRMAN _____

DATE _____



Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
105a)	Chewton Glen	ASAP	Town Clerk
106	Queen's Platinum Jubilee	28 Feb 2022	Estates Manager
107	MUGA – Basketball Courts	28 Feb 2022	Town Clerk
111	Land rear of KFC	ASAP	Estates Manager

Distribution:

Town Councillors
 Estates & Facilities Manager
 District Councillors J L Cleary
 County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter and K Mans
 New Milton Police
 Press
 Alan Watson – NMRA
 Janet Moyles - Focus