



Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee of New Milton Town Council held on Tuesday 1 June 2021 at 6.30 pm at the Incuhive Centre.

Chairman p G R Blunden

Vice Chairman D E Hawkins

Councillors: p M Craze 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: K Craze

Officers: G Flexman - Town Clerk J Hayward - Communications Officer
H Ormerod – Admin Assistant

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

The Council Chairman, Cllr K E Craze in the Chair, called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Amenities Committee.

Cllr G Blunden was proposed by Cllr A Rice and seconded by Cllr Mrs V Schooling.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

The Committee Chairman, Cllr G Blunden in the Chair, called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Amenities Committee.

Cllr D Hawkins, in his absence, was proposed by Cllr G Blunden and seconded by Cllr R Murrow.

Following the election of the Chair, and Vice-Chair, the Chairman went out of session and extended a welcome to Councillors, Officers, the public, and a press representative and invited public participation.

Resident, Bob Lord, referred to people and wildlife living in New Milton and that equal priority and consideration should be given to both communities. Further suggesting an audit of wildlife and environmental issues in New Milton to prepare a written down and adopted management plan.

Alan Watson, representing NMRA & Lions, advised on a community litter-pick being organised to take place on 10 and 11 July in New Milton inviting Councillors to take part and register at [The New Milton Big Litter Pick](#)

Alan Watson also referred to the New Forest Ambassador scheme offering free litter picking kits suggesting they offer them from New Milton Town Hall.

He also referred to the proposed new Youth & Storage building at Ashley Recreation Ground asking if the space could also be used for other community groups when available.

The Chairman went back into session to continue the order of business as per the Agenda.

3. APOLOGIES - Cllrs D E Hawkins, D A Rice-Mundy and C V Ward

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman thanked Bob Lord for his comments and confirmed that the Council do care and look after wildlife and the environment. However, comments regarding open-space management would be considered, noting the council works closely on such matters with others and in collaboration with NFLAS especially.

The Chairman thanked Alan Watson for providing information on the forthcoming Community Litter pick, which is an excellent initiative, and suggested that the Ashley Youth & Storage Building could support other community groups when available.

6. MINUTES

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meetings held on 13 and 27 April, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Minutes would be signed in due course.

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

Cllr Mrs V E Schooling referred to minute 276 asking when the planting around the tree bases would be completed. The Chairman confirmed these works were in progress.



Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by	Status
272 f	Creative Kids use of Fawcetts Field	1 June 2021	Estates Manager	Event now arranged
272 g	Heras fencing of Moore Close boundary	TBA	NFDC / Estates Manager	Job complete
273	BMX Track at Moore Close site	1 June 2021	Working Party	On-going
275	Start Community Garden Working Party	1 June 2021	Communications Officer	Meeting arranged for 2 June
276	Town Centre improvement works	1 June 2021	Estates Manager	In progress
280	Extraordinary Meeting – Ashley playpark	27 April 2021	Town Clerk	Completed 27 April 2021

Cllr Mrs V E Schooling enquired about an update to Bus Shelters and the Chairman confirmed this would be considered at the next Amenities Meeting on 12 July 2021 and was in fact discussed at the pre-meet earlier in the day.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to a letter from a resident of Sway Road requesting purchase of a parcel of NMTC open space land noting NMTC policy is not to sell open space land. Members agreed not to progress this request, especially in view of an open watercourse.

9. LAND USE REQUESTS

The Town Clerk referred to the following:

- a) A request from HCC Cllr F Carpenter on behalf of Conservation Connection New Forest South to host a Bee Fayre on the Recreation Ground on a Saturday in July or August or September. **Agreed, subject to any prevailing Covid-restrictions.**
- b) An email from local historian, Nick Saunders, to undertake drone photography of the Recreation Ground to allow for comparisons of then and now images. **Agreed, subject to documentary and insurance requirements.**

- c) A Facebook message from a local resident wanting to place painted pebbles at Ballard Water Meadow.

The Chairman went out of session to speak to Bob Lord, Chairman of the Friends of Ballard Water Meadow, who advised that painted pebbles were already on site. Although not directly affecting wildlife and the environment, it was encouraging families to remove/move the pebbles to other areas of the site that should be left undisturbed.

The Chairman went back into session and Cllrs agreed that they did not want to promote the painted pebble activity at Ballard Water Meadow. **Request declined.**

- d) An email from New Milton Library wanting to hold their Rhyme Time and Toddler Time activities incorporating a picnic type event on the Recreation Ground in July. **Agreed, subject to any prevailing Covid-restrictions.**

10. CREATIVE KIDS

The Town Clerk referred to the festival proposed by Cary Lightfoot of Creative Kids to take place August Bank Holiday weekend at the Barn Restaurant and adjacent field on Fawcetts Field. The Estates Manager had met Cary Lightfoot on site and arranged access from the Barn Restaurant onto Fawcetts Field to allow for VW vehicles display.

A further request had now been received asking to host a dog show that was declined by members, but they agreed to the main event over August Bank Holiday weekend.

11. ASHLEY PLAY PARK

The Chairman provided an update on the Ashley Playpark Working Party meeting held 24 May 2021 to consider the overwhelming support for the redevelopment and other pertinent comments received during the feedback period. Noting amendments to equipment on the playpark and changes to the position of the Youth & Storage Building in relation to the Ashley Rugby Club Pavilion, with pre-app advice being sought for 2 locations.

Cllr M Craze raised concerns about the removal of the fence separating the older Youth Zone and the younger child play area stating that toddler children required safety and protection and for the benefit of the parents/carers as well. The Chairman said the Working Party would look at this again.

The next stage is to progress the playpark, hoggin footpath and car park works asap and progress the Youth & Storage Building once planning permission granted.

12. GREEN ROUTES

The Chairman invited the Communications Officer to provide an update on Green Routes on behalf of the Working Party. Summarising the Working Party activity to date and noting the 'Quick Wins' to be completed, including the deployment of 'People Counters' on these routes to be followed by a consultation and questionnaire to be undertaken with residents.

13. LONG MEADOW

The Town Clerk confirmed that remedial works had been completed at Long Meadow following the area being damaged by DIY BMX track users, noting that Long Meadow is a SINC and forms part of Long Meadow, hence requires protection. Alternative locations would be considered by the BMX track working party in due course, including proposed temporary use of the HCC Grit Store along Barton Common Road.

14. ANY OTHER MATTERS

- a) The Chairman referred to recent flash flooding at Long Meadow which had affected some residents' gardens. The Environment Agency were due to undertake the first cut in May, but this was delayed due to operational reasons.

With the cut back completed over the Bank Holiday weekend this produced water hemlock roots that required removal by the Estates Team. Warning signs were erected to make dog-walkers/owners aware, but the operational decision was for NMTC to remove two lorry loads of cuttings on Bank Holiday Monday.

Cllr O'Sullivan asked about water flow works at Long Meadow and the Chairman reminded members that a while back the Environment Agency had access to funding to undertake a restoration of the meander, supported by NMTC, but rejected by most local residents.

- b) The Chairman advised members a tactical decision was made to withdraw from the SSEIB competition because of outstanding projects that had been put on hold during the Covid pandemic over the last 18 months. However, the town will continue to produce floral displays to please local residents and visitors alike.
- c) The Chairman referred to recent ASB and vandalism encountered on the Recreation Ground over the past few weeks, noting a long list of criminal damage, requiring the MUGA to be closed for essential repairs. CCTV images were being reviewed and the Police will continue to pursue the culprits.

Councillors and the Youth Services team would be spending time on the Recreation Ground on Monday to engage with young people and other Recreation Ground users.



- d) Cllr R Murrow informed members of his visit to the Ringwood Dementia Allotments recently and that the New Milton Dementia Allotment would be opening on 22 June for pre-booked visitors to visit again, Ringwood expressing an interest in attending.

15. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 13 July 2021 at 6.30pm - Venue to be agreed.

The Chairman thanked Councillors, Officers, and members of the public for attending and closed the meeting at 7.40pm.

CHAIRMAN _____

DATE _____

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
9 a)	Agreed Land Use Request Bee Fayre event on Recreation Ground	12 July 2021	Communications Officer
9 b)	Agreed Heritage request for drone photography	12 July 2021	Communications Officer
9 c)	Declined Painted Pebbles at Ballard Water Meadow	12 July 2021	Communications Officer
9 d)	Agreed Land Use Request New Milton Library Rhyme Time on Recreation Ground	12 July 2021	Communications Officer

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 – FOCUS & NMRA