

**Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee of New Milton Town Council held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 6.30 pm at the Town Hall, Ashley Road, New Milton, BH25 6AS.**

Chairman p G R Blunden  
Vice Chairman p D E Hawkins

Councillors: M Craze p C V Ward  
D A Rice-Mundy p A D O'Sullivan  
A W Rice R Murrow  
p V E Schooling

In Attendance :

Councillors: Dean Samber, Steve Clarke

Officers: G Flexman - Town Clerk J Hayward - Communications Officer  
M Jeffries – Estates Manager J Bean – Committee Administrator

The Chairman welcomed 5 members of public to the meeting.

He advised that Chloe Lamming of Freedom Leisure who was due to give a presentation was unable to attend due to car troubles and this item would now be considered under Land Use requests.

**Public Participation**

Bob Lord representing the Friends of Ballard Meadow made the following points:

- a) He asked if the signage at Ballard Meadow is going to be revamped in the new style which has been used in other parts of the town.
- b) He spoke about sycamore trees in general referring to items 13 and 14 on the agenda.
- c) He stated that many councils are moving away from planting sycamores as they are not native trees and were never a part of ancient woodland.
- d) He spoke about the survey results which appear in the annual report and wondered if there should be a central archive covering the area to form a cultural historical record.

Richard Jenner a resident of Barton on Sea made the following points:

- a) The path between Barton Court Lane and Barton Court Road is now a designated green route and is much used by pedestrians and dog walkers but has been neglected.
- b) Some benches on the main part of the common are falling apart and many roots are overgrown, he suggested there should be a methodology so residents could provide feedback.

- c) Could councillors speak to Hampshire County Council about Becton Lane foliage which is very overgrown.
- d) The volume of music coming from Chewton Glen was very high today and could be heard at some distance, he foresaw many complaints to the Town and District Councils.  
Mr Jenner then left the meeting

24. APOLOGIES

Cllrs R Murrow, A Rice, M Craze and D Rice-Mundy

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

a) Cllr G Blunden

Non-pecuniary interest relating to presentation by Freedom Leisure Minute 30b) and Item 16 CCTV as portfolio holder for partnering and wellbeing at NFDC.

b) Cllr Clarke

Non-pecuniary interest as chairman of NFDC task and finish group dealing with Freedom Leisure.

26. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman acknowledged the comments from Bob Lord:

- a) He confirmed that signage at Ballard Meadow would be altered to the style of the Heritage boards at Ashley, the Water Meadow and at Long Meadow shortly.
- b) Sycamore trees to be discussed at Agenda items 13/14. Pollarding is undertaken by Hampshire County Council and there are always differing views on it.
- c) He thanked Bob for the Annual Report from the Friends of Ballard Water Meadow.

In regard to Richard Jenner's remarks:

- a & b) The Town Council prioritise the maintenance of footpaths across the common official footways given priority.
- c) The Council will contact Hampshire Highways in relation to Becton Lane footways.
- d) The noise from Chewton Glen is a potential environmental issue to be reported to NFDC who will act if necessary.

27. MINUTES

There were no amendments to the Amenities Committee minutes and so it was

**RESOLVED:**

***That the Minutes of the meetings held on 9th and 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.***

The Minutes were duly signed.

28. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES**

The Town Clerk confirmed all action points listed had been addressed noting that the wording on the Heritage Board at Long Meadow is to be changed. He confirmed that the Mencap Mural at Boots is going ahead and that the flagpole at the Indian Obelisk had been installed and was hoisted for the event on Sunday.

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
6	Public Toilets - Recreation Ground	3 June 2022	NFDC
10a)	NF Bee Fayre – Recreation Ground	27 August 2022	Cllr Fran Carpenter
10b)	Geocaching - Fawcetts Field	12 July 2022	Town Clerk
10c)	Freedom Leisure – use of POS	12 July 2022	Town Clerk
11	Indian Obelisk BOS – Flagpole	10 July 2022	F&GP /Estates Manager
12	MENCAP Mural - Boots Wall	13 June 2022	F&GP /Estates Manager
13	Heritage Board – Long Meadow	12 July 2022	Communications Officer
15	Budget Virements – 2021-22	13 June 2022	F&GP / Town Clerk

29. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Town Clerk referred to the following items of correspondence:

- a) An email from Tim Lawton of HCC about the replacement pedestrian bridge at the station, referring to the very slow progress, latterly blamed on covid. Cllr V Schooling commented that this had been going on for over 10 years, HCC had made excuse after excuse. She suggested a meeting with HCC to highlight its importance. The Town Clerk will request a meeting with Tim Lawton.
- b) A consultation document from Hampshire County Council in relation to the bus services. The booking system is jointly funded by New Milton, Sway and Hordle costing a total of £5k pa. HCC are looking to rationalise services; CANGO usage is 56% down. There is a joint meeting of the three Councils on Monday to discuss a way forward for CANGO to continue. Councillor Hawkins commented that there is a push for the public to abandon cars, to walk, cycle and buses are essential for the older generation. We need to fight for it. Cllr Clarke suggested that the Council could mount a “use it or lose it” type of campaign.

The Town Clerk will report back following the on-line meeting next Monday.

30. LAND USE REQUESTS

The Town Clerk referred to the following:

**a) Geocaching – Fawcetts Field**

A request from a local resident to place a small number of Geocaches in and around Fawcetts Field.

This had previously been referred to at the last meeting. There was now a picture of the Geocache itself which is at Appendix 1.

Cllr Clarke commented that the label “contents harmless” might be misinterpreted and could cause concern, he suggested that just a Geocache logo might be more appropriate. This will be considered with the applicant.

**RESOLVED:**

**That permission be granted for geocaching at Fawcetts Field.**

**b) Freedom Leisure – Recreation Ground / Fawcetts Field Xplorer event**

Chloe Lamming had sent her presentation through as she was unable to attend. She is looking for a space 750 x 750 and initially suggested the Recreation Ground, but that it not large enough, it may need to be at Fawcetts Field. After some discussion, it was agreed that she should be invited to the next meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> September to make her presentation and explain the application further.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the matter be deferred to the next Amenities Committee Meeting.**

**c) Girl Guides - Ballard Lake 16<sup>th</sup> July**

A request from Doris Stanley of the Girl Guides to use the Ballard Lake area near the Girl Guide HQ for crafts and for a scavenger hunt during their Jubilee Fun Day on 16<sup>th</sup> July between 11am and 4pm.

**RESOLVED: Agreed, subject to our usual terms and conditions of use.**

**d) Local resident - patch of grass at Doe Copse Way**

An application by a local resident to use the patch of grass at Doe Copse Way by the Play Park for a cake picnic party on 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

There was some discussion about this, with general agreement that if it was purely a family event this would be fine, but if it were to be advertised on Social Media this would potentially be a different matter.

**RESOLVED:**

**That Cllr Clarke visit the family concerned and clarify the situation.**

**(Post Meeting Note: They were understanding following Cllr Clarke’s visit)**

**e) New Life Church Family Picnics on Recreation Ground**

New Life Church made an application to hold Family Picnics on the Recreation Ground on Mondays 1, 15 and 22 August 2022.

**RESOLVED: Agreed, subject to our usual terms and conditions of use.**

**f) ASBOC – Recreation Ground**

ASBOC have asked to use the Recreation Ground on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout August from 11am – 2pm to provide activities for the 12+ age group during the summer holidays.

**RESOLVED: Agreed, subject to our usual terms and conditions of use.**

**g) New Milton Youth – Recreation Ground and Ashley Rec**

An application from our Youth Services Manager to use the Recreation Ground on 10 August and Ashley Rec on 17 August from 10am to 2pm for youth activities.

**RESOLVED: Agreed, subject to our usual terms and conditions of use.**

31. ASHLEY REC ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

The Chairman advised that the planning decision for the proposed building should be made very shortly. Due to the time delays, any proposed amendments to the building design and inflation a revised budget will need agreement. The Estates Manager confirmed that the works to the car park and the footpath from Molyneux Road to Norman's Way will take place over the summer to ensure the footpath is ready for when the children return to school.

Then, the final phase can be re-costed.

**RESOLVED: That the Estates Manager initiate car park and footpath works.**

32. STREETSCENE ENHANCEMENT

The Estates Manager advised that following the inspections at Ashley and Old Milton Road, issues with the footways are being flagged on-line to Hampshire County Council in the usual way. A full report covering what the Town Council can achieve to enhance the street scene with costings and hopefully take the matter forward with involvement from local County Councillors. He advised that it would be possible from the current budget to put some small planters in over the summer and further implementations into the Autumn scheme. Cllr Schooling commented that she would be looking for some urgency in relation to the resurfacing at Ashley Parade, due to the obvious trip hazards there.

**RESOLVED: To proceed with minor enhancements within existing budgets**

33. FAWCETTS FIELD/MOORE CLOSE

The Town Clerk advised that the Michael Ball and Alfie Boe show due to take place this evening has been cancelled due to former catching covid, but it was possible that it could be rescheduled for the weekend. But if not the revenue to the Town Council would be down from £30k to £20k, Olly Murs having pulled out previously leaving just Michael Bubl  ( 10k), Tears for Fears ( 5k) and McFly ( 5k).

34. AIR RAID SHELTER

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2 – a recommendation from Planning regarding costs to preserve the Air Raid Shelter. Cllr S Clarke was aghast at the cost, and the bureaucratic approach taken by PHP and their lawyers. The proposed costs of between  7k and  9k is far too much and is clearly disproportionate.

It was then

**RECOMMENDED:**

**That the project be discontinued due to cost outweighing benefit to the town.**

35. COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Chairman confirmed that there had been a good meeting with the working group, that the group had drawn up a plan which had now been enhanced with the addition of an orchard of trees to the south of the garden.

Two matters to consider next, are the 10-year licence recommended by Anthony Harris and the provision of water services to the site, the suggestion being that the Town Council would assist as follows:

The estimated cost for the water is £2,000 and the trees c.£2,000 Total £4k plus VAT. Cllr Schooling asked how many trees and was advised 15 at £150 each.

Cllr Clarke asked if the orchard trees could be selected from older heritage varieties. Cllr D Samber stated that he was delighted to see this going ahead. It will help to encourage people to get outside into nature.

It was then

**RECOMMENDED:**

**That the Council earmarks up to £5,000 for Community Garden from CIL monies**

36. HERITAGE TREES

The Communications Officer referred to Appendix 4, Nick Saunders' report on Heritage Trees which had been previously circulated. The Heritage Society are seeking to plant three sycamore trees along Barton Court Road.

**RESOLVED: That three sycamore trees be planted as and where appropriate seeking approval from HCC Highways.**

37. SYCAMORE TREE

The Town Clerk read the email that had been previously circulated at Appendix 5.

The Chairman reminded members of the Town Council Tree Policy. Cllr D Hawkins stated that he was against the proposal firstly as it goes against the Tree Policy and also because in his view sycamores have been around in the UK long enough to be considered native. His view was generally supported.

Cllr Clarke was in favour of the proposal on the basis of Conservation.

Following a vote, it was

**RESOLVED:**

**The proposal to remove a sycamore tree from Ballard Woodland was refused.**

38. BALLARD MEADOW

The Chairman thanked the Friends of Ballard Water Meadow for their Annual Report at Appendix 6 which had been previously circulated. The report was received and noted by members who commended the group on their hard work.

39. CCTV

The Town Clerk spoke about the need to upgrade the CCTV by the MUGA on the Recreation Ground. Brian Byrne of New Forest District Council had advised that this would cost around £10,000 plus VAT. There was some discussion about installing CCTV in other parts of the town and in particular at Barton. However, this was not under consideration today, and following a vote it was

**RECOMMENDED:**

**That the Town Council earmarks up to £10,000 for additional CCTV from CIL monies**

40. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

- a) The Chairman gave a big thanks to the volunteers who had been collecting dog poo at Ballard Water Meadow. He hoped that this initiative would be kept going as it raises awareness of the problem and the problem is reducing. He expressed the hope it could be implemented on some of the other open spaces.
- b) The Chairman referred to the judging for the South and South-East in Bloom at the Dementia Allotment where the Town Clerk, Estates Manager and Communications Officer had all been in attendance with the Chairman and Vice Chairman.
- c) The Chairman mentioned that the floral displays around New Milton were looking lovely and singled out the hard work undertaken on the new bed by KFC.

41. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 630pm** at the Town Council Offices.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.51pm.

CHAIRMAN \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
29a)	Arrange meeting with Tim Lawton	ASAP	Town Clerk
29b)	CANGO meeting with Sway/Hordle	18 July 2022	Town Clerk
30	Land Use Requests	ASAP	Admin Assistant
31	Ashley Rec improvements	ASAP	Estates Manager
32	Streetscene flower planters	ASAP	Estates Manager
34	Air Raid Shelter Costs	25 July 2022	F&GP
35	Community Garden CIL	25 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	F&GP
36	Plant three Sycamore Trees	As appropriate	Estates Manager
39	Additional CCTV on Rec	25 July 2022	F&GP

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