



Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee of New Milton Town Council held on Tuesday 13 July 2021 at 6.30 pm at the Incuhive Centre.

Chairman p G R Blunden

Vice Chairman p 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: S Clarke, S Davies

Officers: G Flexman - Town Clerk J Hayward - Communications Officer
 M Jeffries – Estates Manager T Elliott – Assistant Town Clerk
 S King – Town Development Manager

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, Officers, 5 members of the public and a press representative.

Bob Lord shared a notice regarding RVEIs (Road Verges of Ecological Importance) in Barton on Sea supporting a rare species of orchid, Autumn Lady's Tresses, which is being distributed to residents by Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) at HCC.

Bob Lord shared an image showing an area of off-road verge at Becton that was uncut on Friday 2 July and then another image showing the stark contrast after it was cut on Wednesday 7 July and asked Councils to maintain these areas sympathetically.

Julia Stamper referred to the Community Garden Project and confirmed that a Project Plan document had been created and recently sent to the council.

16. APOLOGIES

Cllrs D Rice-Mundy and Mrs C Ward.

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr A Rice in respect of agenda item 16 Any Other Items, particularly the statement regarding the Cultural and Community Hub, being a member of the Memorial Hall Management Committee.

18. PUBLIC PARTICPATION

The Chairman thanked Bob Lord for his comments and confirmed that this Council does have a proactive grass-cutting regime as do NFDC and HCC.

The Chairman acknowledged Julia Stamper's enthusiasm and confirmed that the Community Garden Project Plan would be reviewed by the relevant Working Party.

19. MINUTES

It was,

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2021, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Minutes would be signed in due course.

20. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

The Town Clerk confirmed all action points listed had been addressed.

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by	Status
9 a)	Agreed Land Use Request Bee Fayre event on Recreation Ground	12 July 2021	Communications Officer	Confirmed Bee Fayre scheduled 21 August 2021
9 b)	Agreed Heritage request for drone photography	12 July 2021	Communications Officer	Confirmed
9 c)	Declined Painted Pebbles at Ballard Water Meadow	12 July 2021	Communications Officer	Confirmed
9 d)	Agreed Land Use Request New Milton Library Rhyme Time on Recreation Ground	12 July 2021	Communications Officer	Confirmed Rhyme Time scheduled 19 July 2021

21. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following items of correspondence:

- a) An email from Andy Frend, Chairman of the Rugby Club, requesting the installation of additional floodlights on the bottom field at Ashley Recreation Ground.

- b) An email from Bob Lord regarding two trees at Woar Copse to be cut back next year, one to become a habitat pole and the other an invertebrate habitat.
- c) An email from Cllr Fran Carpenter who had participated in an online webinar event arranged by DEFRA and others about Protecting British Pollinators.
- d) An email from Gill Hepburn of Station Financial thanking NMTC and the Estates Team for the colourful hanging baskets and floral displays plus bunting.
- e) Cllr A O'Sullivan referred to an email from Brian Byrne of NFDC confirming the outcome of a CCTV audit and there being no evidence to support a CCTV installation at Barton on Sea.

22. LAND USE REQUESTS

The Town Clerk referred to the following:

a) **New Milton Round Table**

A request from the Chairman of New Milton Round Table to hold an organised Firework Display on the Moore Close site on Saturday 30 October 2021.

RESOLVED: Granted subject to terms and conditions of use being agreed.

Cllr S Clarke noted that there was a national and local issue with fireworks affecting nervous pets suggesting a reminder on social media about the event to this effect.

b) **ASBOC**

An email from Elaine Ramsdale regarding a community sporting project arranged by ASBOC to take place on Ashley Recreation Ground starting

- Every Friday 23 July to 29 October from 5.30 to 8.30pm.
- Every Tuesday starting 3 August to 24 August from 12 to 3pm.

RESOLVED: Granted subject to terms and conditions of use being agreed.

c) **Youth Services Manager**

An email from Silma Ramsaywack regarding Youth Club activities taking place at Ashley Recreation Ground on

- Wednesdays 11 and 18 August from 10 am to 2pm.

If it rains, the youth events will be cancelled.

RESOLVED: Agreed as part of the council's youth club activities.

23. LISTED BUILDINGS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1, Listing Buildings update, previously circulated and asked the Assistant Town Clerk to summarise the content.

The first project being to enhance the area around the old Air Raid Shelter in conjunction with NMRA, noting its local history and being located near the Water Tower at the junction of Avenue Road, Manor Road, Station Road, Fernhill Lane.

Cllr A Rice raised concerns about the bland brick building with tarmac surround. Cllr S Clarke noted that this flack shelter is a rare building, and its interesting history should be remembered especially in view of the local bombing raids in the area.

The second project being to enhance the grounds of St Mary Magdalene Churchyard, noting the heritage and environment in this area and the graves of former residents, poet John Heath Stubbs and Helene Stubbs (no relation) with Byzantine Cross.

Cllr Rice also referred to the grave of Lt Col Wheeler VC (referred to on the Recreation Ground).

Members noted the report, and the Chairman asked for photos to be available of these areas of local interest at the next Amenities Committee Meeting.

24. TREE WORK POLICY

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2, Tree Work Policy, previously circulated and asked the Assistant Town Clerk to summarise.

Noting textual changes in Section 8 with tree contractors being asked to provide Public Liability Insurance of £5m and their Environmental Sustainability Policy.

Members noted the report.

25. PLANT A TREE INITIATIVE

The Chairman referred to the Queen's Green Canopy project 2022 [The Queen's Green Canopy \(queensgreencanopy.org\)](https://www.queensgreencanopy.org) as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The Mayor will plant a significant tree, as well as host a Civic Service, and the council would also host an Afternoon of Music on the Recreation Ground during the summer next year to commemorate the Queens' Accession to the throne 70 years previously.

26. BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

The Assistant Town Clerk referred to the NFDC project and provided a verbal update on recent site visits to the Lower Field Ashley, Northern Field Fernhill and Danewood Brockhills with NFLAS and an ecologist. Ecological surveys will be undertaken on these sites. NFDC are awaiting the outcome of the Environment Bill due this Autumn.

27. CENTENARY CLOCK

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3, Centenary Clock, previously circulated and asked members to note the repairs required to the clock on the Homemill Building that is now 25 years old. Smith of Derby noticed it was in need of repair when carrying out its annual service in March. The Town Council will arrange for a cherry-picker.

It was,

RESOLVED:

That repairs to the Centenary Clock be undertaken in the sum of £978 plus VAT.

28. HERITAGE DISPLAY BOARD

The Chairman referred to Appendix 4, Heritage Display Board for the Recreation Ground, previously circulated which Councillors noted.

The Chairman referred to future plans for Heritage Display Boards at Long Meadow including Barton Common, and at Ashley Recreation Ground, being in addition to the Heritage Boards already in situ at Chaucombe Green in Old Milton, the Indian Obelisk at Barton and the recently installed one at Ballard Lake.

It was,

RESOLVED:

That proposed Heritage Display Board for the Recreation Ground be ordered.

29. FERNHILL CROSSING POINT

The Chairman referred to Appendix 5, Fernhill Lane Crossing Point, previously circulated, noting this is a community funded project costing £9.5k, subject to receipt of monies from HCC (£3k) Cllr F Carpenter (£1,000) and District Cllr grants (£1,000).

There followed a discussion about signage to alert drivers of elderly pedestrians using the new crossing point and the issue of traffic speeding along this road generally. Cllr A Rice opposed the suggestion of warning signs in the area, but HCC said new temporary red / white signs will be required in advance of the new crossing point for both approaches.

It was then,

RECOMMENDED:

That the Town Council help fund the proposed Fernhill Crossing Point via a CIL contribution of up to £4.5k.

30. PAVEMENT FACILITIES

The Town Development Manager suggested that the value of a pavement licence would need to be investigated for any benefit to support the town centre traders in Covid recovery following relaxation of restrictions from 19 July.

The Chairman suggested a small working party be set up asking Cllrs to let the Town Clerk know if they wanted to be involved.

31. ANY OTHER ITEMS

- a) The Chairman referred to the proposed future demands on the Moore Close site and that a Vision Plan would be created to incorporate play area and access to affordable homes and a new Youth Centre to the north, together with a BMX track, community festivals and other events including fireworks, fairs and circuses, plus the proposed Community Garden Project, football pitches, car boot provision, Men's Shed, Trim Trail and general amenity and community access to Fawcetts.
- b) Chairman confirmed that the bench plaques acknowledging the nominees for the Annual Citizen of the Year Award had been placed on benches in Station Road.
- c) The Chairman thanked Alan Watson and the community for all their efforts during the Community Litter Pick weekend, with 92 people attending despite the weather.
- d) The Chairman read out a statement regarding a temporary 'pause' in proceedings as far as progressing the Cultural and Community Hub project is concerned.

32. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 7 September 2021 at 630pm – Venue to be advised.

The Chairman thanked members of the public for attending and closed the Public Session of the meeting at 7.30pm to allow for a Private Session.

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.

33. XMAS LIGHTS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 6, Xmas Lights, and asked the Assistant Town Clerk to summarise.

It was then,

RECOMMENDED:

That Spark X be appointed to install the Annual Festive Lighting Display for 3 years from 2021/22 to 2023/24 at a cost of £7,185 plus VAT per annum.

34. ASHLEY RECREATION GROUND

The Chairman advised this item be deferred to the next meeting awaiting quotations.

35. NEW MILTON RECREATION GROUND

The Estates & Facilities Manager summarised the remedial works required to make safe the play park surfacing, noting 4 quotations had been received from contractors ranging in price from £68,395 to £84,846.

DCM Surfaces (HAGS preferred contractor who laid the wet pour at Doe Copse Way play area) provided the quote of £68,395. It was,

RECOMMENDED:

That DCM Surfaces be appointed to resurface the Recreation Ground play area in the sum of £68,395.00 from Reserves, subject to F&GP endorsement.

The Chairman thanked Councillors and Officers for attending and closed the meeting at 7.50pm.

CHAIRMAN _____

DATE _____

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
22	Land Use Requests approved	ASAP	Communications Officer
27	Centenary Clock Repairs £978	7 Sep 2021	Town Clerk
28	Heritage Board Recreation Ground	7 Sep 2021	Estates Manager
29	Fernhill Crossing Point £4.5k CIL	26 July 2021	F&GP
30	Pavement Facilities Working Party	7 Sept 2021	Town Clerk
33	Festive Lighting Contract £7,185	26 July 2021	F&GP
35	Resurface Rec Play Area £68,395	26 July 2021	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