



Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee of New Milton Town Council held on Monday 15 January 2024 at 6.30pm at the Town Hall, Ashley Road, New Milton, BH25 6AS.

Chairman: p G R Blunden M Craze (Vice Chair)

Councillors: p D Hawkins B Murrow

p J Baker p A O' Sullivan

p D Rice-Mundy p V Schooling

p K Trehorn

In attendance:

Councillors: J Adams,

Officers: G Flexman - Town Clerk

J Bean – Committee and Civic Administrator

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, Officers, 3 members of the public, and representative of the press, and a special welcome to Cllr Kani Trehorn our new councillor for Ballard Ward.

Public Participation

Julia Stamper

Julia Stamper the vice chair of NMRA asked if the Town Council would reconsider the structure of the public participation element of Council meetings. She thought that it would be more democratic if a member of the public who had posed a question or comment that was answered by the Chairman could have a right to respond.

Richard Jenner

Richard Jenner, a local resident:

- a) passed a photograph around showing a big land slippage in the vicinity of Becton Bunny. He was concerned that the felling of trees on Barton Common would contribute to more land slippage. He recommended that NMTC consult the Environmental Agency Coastal Protection group for an evaluation of the proposed work. He asked that no further trees be felled until a report had been received.
- b) asked that the Chairman or a representative of the Committee go to walk the path on North Barton Common which was not being well maintained
- c) asked that members of the public who spoke at meetings are given access to minutes of the meetings prior to publication on the website to ensure they are not misquoted.

David Orme, Chair of the Christchurch Bicycle club

David Orme provided an update on item 11 the NF LCWIP. He said that the cycle working group had contributed a great deal to the initial proposals for HCC. He had hoped there would be an opportunity for further dialogue with HCC before the proposal was submitted, but this had not taken place. He is happy to provide documents to the Committee and will do via email. His focus is on cheap and cost-effective changes which can be made so that routes can be implemented more quickly.

The meeting was formally opened at 6.40pm.

87. APOLOGIES

Cllrs M Craze and B Murrow,

88. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

89. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman advised Julia Stamper that the format of public participation at the Standing Committees, of which Amenities is one had been set this way for a long time, and that it is the way various tiers of local government do things.

The Town Clerk advised that at full Town Council meetings there is more of an opportunity for a dialogue as there is a democratic half hour set aside at the end of Town Council meetings. The Chairman said that is an opportunity for dialogue as all Council representatives attend Town Council meetings. The Town Clerk pointed out Standing Committees (Amenities F&GP Planning) approve their own minutes (which are records of their work and decisions) and these are reviewed by Town Council.

The Chairman advised Richard Jenner that he would look further into the matter raised but that he was not convinced there is a direct link between Barton Common and the picture he had passed around, having taken appropriate advice. Chairman confirmed he would be willing to walk the path referred to by Richard Jenner.

90. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the previous Committee minutes of 27th November 2023.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2023, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The minutes were duly signed.

91. MATTERS ARISING

The Town Clerk confirmed all action points listed had been addressed or are on the agenda for further discussion at this meeting.

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
74	Support NF LCWIP concept	12.12.23	F&GP
77 b)	Hedgehog Highway Project	02.01.24	Town Council
77 d)	A Sensory Walk Project	02.01.24	Town Council
78	Ballard X-country request	ASAP	Town Clerk
79	Fees & Charges 2024-2025	12.12.23	F&GP
80	Amenities Budget 2024/25	12.12.23	F&GP
83	CCTV Additional cameras	12.12.23	F&GP
84	Seek Risk consultant quotes	ASAP	Estates Manager
85	Promote Plant a Tree in '23	ASAP	Comms Officer

- a) **Minute 77d** - The Town Clerk advised there is a Teams meeting in relation to the proposed Sensory Walk at Ballard Lake with Jamie Burton of NFDC and Natalie Thomas of the Isle of Wight Council taking place on Wednesday.
- b) **Minute 76b** - Cllr A O' Sullivan advised that he had received an update from Hampshire Cultural Trust on the proposals concerning Forest Arts as follows:
"The collective support that we have from New Forest District Council and Arts Council England for our work in this region has helped us make a strong case for continuing our work at Forest Arts Centre and Rockbourne Roman Villa, and we look forward to continuing to grow the impact we have in this community."

92. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) An email from Angela Horsley of the Friendly Dog Club.

"I met up with Mark at the club a couple of weeks ago and he thinks it would be possible for a modular building to replace our building. Good news but we are looking at about £40 – £50,000 plus fixtures and fittings! We are still waiting to hear on the Club becoming a Trust but in the meantime we are planning on starting our fundraising this year. As you know, at the moment we have a 3 year lease with you. But if we are going to invest that sort of money into a new building I don't believe it is worth doing without a commitment from NMTC for at least a 10 to 15 year lease. I wondered what your initial thoughts are?"

And the advice from our solicitor was as follows:

"I see no particular problem from our perspective – but whether that sort of investment is worthwhile for the dog club is another matter."

The Chairman suggested that the proposal by the Dog Club could be supported by the Town Council in the event that they become a charitable trust.

b) An email from Bob Lord, Barton Common Ranger, as follows:

“Please find attached a request for a further insect survey on Barton Common, beginning in April 2024.”

The Town Clerk advised that an insect survey last year had cost £1,200 and there was an indication that it should be undertaken every year for five years.

The Chairman suggested the possibility of volunteers carrying out this work, or an alternative source of funding, as it represents large expenditure.

c) A telephone message from Erica Black a local resident who took part in the Plant a Tree scheme.

She called to say she was thrilled with the tree she bought on Monday. She said she has just stopped by Fawcetts and the tree is in beautiful flower, so thank you.

A photo of the tree in flower was displayed at the meeting.

93. NF LCWIP

The Chairman brought forward Item 11 - NF LCWIP as it had been mentioned in public participation.

He took the meeting out of session to allow members to ask David Orme questions.

They asked about the proposals and concern was expressed about the safety of proposed routes.

David Orme advised that routes would only be endorsed if steps had been taken to make them safer, for instance, on the B road to Milford, which was causing particular concern, there would need to be an all- encompassing 30mph speed limit before it could be recommended. Councillors asked about the cheap and cost-effective routes he had mentioned earlier, and he would prepare some written examples of what this might entail, and they could be circulated to members. Other comments touched on safety, tourism and whether the LCWIP deals with routes within towns, rather than the links between them. David stated that the aim of the LCWIP is to provide links between habitations.

94. LAND USE REQUESTS

- a) A request from Circus Ginett who would like to visit New Milton from 26th August to 1st September 2024.

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

- b) A request from Fran Carpenter to hold the Bee Fayre on Saturday 24 August 2024 on the Rec.

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

95. SHARED PROSPERITY FUND/CIL

The Town Clerk confirmed that he had received an email this morning from NFDC confirming that the only outstanding matter on the £15k grant from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund is the issuing of the grant agreement. That sum is being matched with funds from CIL and is to be used for the Ashley Shopping Parade improvements. The Town Development Manager will be heading out to visit the shops to start a meaningful conversation in relation to implementing the scheme.

96. NFDC CIL

The Town Clerk circulated a report prepared by the Estates Manager dealing with the proposed Environmental Improvements at Ballard Lake. The proposals have been submitted to NFDC as a bid for £75K of CIL monies from NFDC. The bid was submitted a month ago, as requested, ahead of time, but questions for clarification have only been received today.

The proposals are set out in the Scope of Proposed Works and include the following:

- Ballard Lake restoration works (dredging and bank restoration, to provide additional storm water capacity to prevent downstream flooding of the Danes Stream, as main river, EA scheme approved and permit in place)
- Land drainage (to area between Lake Grove Road and the lake) to provide year-round access to seating and lake edge
- Enhancements to Lake Grove Road boundary and seating areas
- New and improved surface paths
- New planting, signage and street furniture
- Sensory Walk

The Chairman stated that this is an excellent project from an environmental perspective and the possible inclusion of a sensory walk will only add to that. He said it's complicated due to the funding which is being sought from various agencies. But, it's worthwhile and will link to the work done at Ballard Water Meadow and bring the whole area together. Already there have been improvements with signposting and the fairy doors, this will help with the flow and be a real feather in New Milton's cap.

Some discussion followed with Councillors very enthusiastic and supportive of the proposals. The Town Clerk advised further on the meeting in relation to the Sensory Walk which will improve mental wellbeing for residents taking place on Wednesday.

97. BOWLING CLUB

The Town Clerk referred to the notification from New Milton Bowling Club in relation to their centenary this year, previously circulated as Appendix 1. Their proposed celebrations include 2 gala days involving teams from other local clubs as well as a celebration day involving Bowls England and players from all over the UK.

98. AUDIT RECOMMEND

The Town Clerk referred to the Generic Risk Assessment originally prepared for the Recreation Ground previously circulated as Appendix 2. He said that the auditor had recommended that this should be prepared for each of the Town Council facilities and tailored to each so that there is a general standard for facility users to meet. This was particularly important following the issues with a very substandard risk assessment submitted last year.

99. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

The Chairman spoke about the bad weather which had been experienced prior to the Christmas period and more recently that had a detrimental effect in the past, but not so much now as a result of the ongoing work by the Estates Team and cyclical tree inspections / ongoing maintenance regime undertaken. He took the opportunity to thank the Estates Team for their hard work all year round.

Cllr A O' Sullivan commented on the Christmas lights in the town and Councillors were generally very pleased with the lights this year. There had been several letters praising them - and they compare favourably with other towns - especially those new displays at Old Milton Green and opposite the Fire Station.

The Chairman thanked all staff and the sponsors of the Christmas lights for their help.

100. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 27th February 2024 at 6.30pm in the Town Hall, Ashley Road, New Milton.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.25 pm.

CHAIRMAN _____

DATE _____

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
91a)	Sensory Walk meeting	17.01.24	Town Clerk
91b)	Update from HCT	29.01.24	Cllr O' Sullivan
92a)	Friendly Dog Club	29.01.24	Estates Manager
92b)	Barton Common – Annual Insect Survey	29.01.24	Bob Lord, Ranger
93	Support for LCWIP	27.02.24	David Orme
94a)	Circus Ginnett	26.08.24	Comms Officer
94b)	Bee Fayre	24.08.24	Comms Officer
95	Ashley Shopping Parade	29.01.24	Town Clerk/NFDC
96	Ballard Lake improvements	29.01.24	Town Clerk/NFDC

Distribution:

Town Councillors

Estates & Facilities Manager

District Councillor J L Cleary

County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter, and K Mans

New Milton Police

Press

Sue Larking – NMRA