

**Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee of New Milton Town Council held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 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: p M Craze C V Ward  
D A Rice-Mundy A D O'Sullivan  
P A W Rice p R Murrow  
P V E Schooling

In Attendance :

Councillors: K E Craze

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

The Chairman welcomed 6 members of public to the meeting.

### **Public Participation**

- a) Julia Stamper the leader for the Community Garden advised that the group is applying for charity status and that part of the application asked for details of the land which they proposed to occupy under a 10-year licence. She expressed the hope that the licence could be sorted out and granted as soon as possible.
- b) Brenda Talbot spoke on behalf of the New Milton Rec table tennis players. She sought support to replace the table tennis table on the recreation ground explaining that during the pandemic the group had swelled, with around 20 members all keen to get back to playing. All the tables on the recreation ground had been removed one-by-one as they were no longer usable, and the group had been in touch with the Town Council and NFDC regarding replacements but so far to no avail.
- c) Mandy Hayes as a representative of Friends of Ballard Water Meadow thanked the Estates Manager for meeting with the New Forest Litter Pickers.

She then went on to speak about the updated Heritage Board which will be placed at the Lake View Road. She mentioned that there are six other entrances to the meadow and was concerned that visitors entering the site from other entrances would not see the boards. She wondered if there was any way that more noticeboards could be put in place.

Finally, she mentioned that the PUPS group (Pick up Poo Squad) wanted to thank Cllr Clarke and NFDC for contributions they had received from them towards poo bags. They estimated that if they had not intervened there would have been around 1000 dog poos on the meadow, rotting and poisoning the land. She was concerned that the Council want to remove short-term signage from the gates and fences, mentioning PUPS put up a weekly total which many visitors to the site found interesting and engaging.

- d) Bob Lord spoke about his voluntary role as Ranger of Barton Common. He advised that he had been working on habitat management and had engaged the assistance of two students to help. A botanical expert had attended the site for two days, and an insect survey had been commissioned. He further advised that volunteers had put in 150-man hours since February. He went on to thank the Town Council for buying PPE and hand tools for the volunteers.

Finally, Bob mentioned that the name of one of the plants on the Ballard Board was recorded incorrectly as water hemlock dropwort when it should in fact be hemlock water dropwort.

56. APOLOGIES

Cllrs C Ward, A O' Sullivan and D Rice-Mundy

57. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

58. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman thanked the members of the public for their contributions and gave the following responses.

- a) The news that the Community Garden group is seeking charitable status is very welcome and their desire for the licence to be granted as soon as possible is noted. The problem he foresaw was how a licence could be granted to a charity which had not yet attained charitable status.
- b) The Chairman said that the Town Council would be pleased to provide one table tennis table for the Recreation Ground, his suggestion being that if a second table was required funding could be sought elsewhere, perhaps from the players themselves, or fundraising or from other groups or Councillors.
- c) The Chairman thanked the Ballard Meadow volunteers and the New Forest litter pickers for all their efforts. He suggested that the best way forward in relation to the signage issues would be a site meeting. The Town Council could not provide two heritage boards. He congratulated the PUPS on their good works and stated that there is a fine balance between encouraging dog owners to pick up the poo and enforcing it, providing bags could be seen as taking the onus off the dog owners to buy bags for themselves and take responsibility.



- d) The Chairman was pleased to hear that the Town Council had funded the hand tools and PPE for Bob Lord and his group and that 150 volunteer hours was brilliant. He also thanked Bob for his comments about the incorrect plant labelling on the board and asked the Estates Manager to check if it was too late to change it.

The Estates Manager confirmed it was not too late.

#### 59. MINUTES

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

***RESOLVED:***

***That the Minutes of the meetings held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.***

The Minutes were duly signed.

#### 60. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

The Town Clerk confirmed all action points listed had been addressed and that some appeared on this evening's agenda.

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
47a)	Local RNLI storage enquiry	ASAP	Town Clerk/Estates Manager
47b)	Town Clerk to respond re dog poo	ASAP	Town Clerk
47c)	Congratulatory letter re flowers	ASAP	Estates Manager
49	Streetscene Enhancement	17 Oct 2022	Amenities Committee
50	New Footbridge update	17 Oct 2022	Town Clerk
51	Small Working Party- Large events	17 Oct 2022	Asst Town Clerk

#### 61. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) A further email from the local resident at Minute 47b) concerning the dog poo collection at Ballard Water Meadow. He stated "I am appalled that any taxpayer's money is being given to provide free poo-bags. All this does is to encourage dog owners not to buy their own bags. When was the last time anyone was "fined" for failing to pick up their dog's poo?"

The Chairman acknowledged and noted the points the resident was making.

- b) An email from Highcliffe and Walkford Parish Council which was established in 2019. They are seeking advice in relation to their recreation ground in Highcliffe, an asset which they inherited from BCP. The ground is used for football in winter and cricket during the summer. At present BCP Council carry out their maintenance and pitch marking under an SLA (Service Level Agreement), they were asking what the Town Council does with similar assets.

The Chairman stated that it is often beneficial to have discussions with neighbouring parish councils on matters such as this. The Estates Manager will make contact.

## 62. LAND USE REQUESTS

- a) A provisional request from Lions Club of New Milton to reserve the Recreation Ground and Fawcetts Field for Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023 to organise a celebration on the day of King Charles III's coronation. The suggestion is for a joint effort between residents' groups, the Lions Club and other major service and community organisations as well as the Town Council to organise a celebration for the benefit of all the residents of the town.

The Chairman advised the Residents' Association have a meeting coming up and would be discussing this, but in the meantime, he asked for members' views on the matter, it seemed to be a good opportunity to involve the Town Council directly working with other organisations, on the day most people would want to watch the coronation and so perhaps a large screen on the Recreation Ground may be the way forward.

Cllrs V Schooling, B Murrow and D Hawkins all supported this idea and felt it would be a great opportunity for the town to show its support for the Royal Family and for New Milton residents at the same time. Quotes will be obtained (circa £2,500).

The Chairman said the question of funding is a big one, but he was sure that at least some funding could be requested through the F&GP Committee. He thought the best way forward would be to meet with interested parties.

- b) The New Life Church asked for use of the Recreation Ground on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December for a nativity trail event, with 5 gazebos housing crafts and activities, carols and refreshments including non-alcoholic mulled wine and mince pies. They asked for access to power via the bandstand and bollards. Members thought it was a good idea

***RESOLVED: Agreed subject to the event meeting our terms and conditions of use.***

- c) A request from the Rugby Club to use Ashley Recreation Ground for their annual Family Fun Day on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2023. The request detailed they were hoping to attract 2000-3000 people, would have at least 50 stalls plus there would be at least 3 first aiders present. The Chairman observed that as this would be a large event there would be SAG involvement, but this is the normal case for events of this size.

***RESOLVED: Agreed subject to the event meeting our terms and conditions of use.***

- d) A request from Highcliffe Hawks football club to hold a mini tournament at Fawcetts Field on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> June 2023. They are requesting use of 8 x 7v7 pitches. The tournament would start at around 9 am each day and be finished by 7pm. They also plan to have catering and possibly a bouncy castle and other stalls.

The Town Clerk advised that this would be a chargeable event in the sense that the Town Council would charge the team for use of the pitches, at a rate of £200 per day, similar to the Rugby Club fun day. It would be on the proviso that the team were not charging for attendance at the tournament.

***RESOLVED: Agreed subject to the event being a community and non-commercial event and meeting our terms and conditions of use.***

63. OAKWOOD AVENUE BUS SHELTER

The Chairman referred to the report on the Oakwood Road bus shelter containing a request from a local resident. This had previously been circulated at Appendix 1. The Chairman referred to the final recommendation of the report that the bus shelter should be replaced with a modern, fully glazed shelter.

Cllr V Schooling stated that the spot was well known for drug dealing and had been for a long time. She felt the police had done little to stop the dealing and other anti-social behaviour there.

The Chairman suggested the Town Clerk should approach the Police to advise them of the intention to replace the shelter and to seek their help in preventing the ongoing ASB. The cost of replacement is £6,700 and the Chairman confirmed that this was available in the budget.

***RESOLVED: To proceed with replacing the Bus shelter within the existing budget, subject to consultation with local Councillors and the Police.***

64. MENCAP MURAL

The Chairman referred to the report on the Mencap Mural previously circulated at Appendix 2. He advised that the Mural was due to be launched on 16<sup>th</sup> November at 11am, with attendance by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant and the Chair of NFDC. There would be a gathering at the Town Hall afterwards for invited guests.

The Estates Manager confirmed that there will be a meeting with the installer on 18<sup>th</sup> October, and that it was all looking good, each of the tiles had been handmade. Councillors were invited to note the date for the launch and to attend if possible.

65. FERNHILL PAVILLION

Fernhill Pavilion, the Chairman referred to the report and plan for the works at Fernhill Pavilion, previously circulated at Appendix 3. The plan involved a reconfiguration of the changing rooms to provide for both men's and women's teams. The Chairman advised that the Cricket Club had considered doing the work themselves, however as the Pavilion is a Town Council building the Town Council has been involved this is partly because the Cricket Club is situated in the Fernhill Vision Plan and the pavilion could be used for other sporting activities in the future.

66. BECTON LANE WPS

The Estates Manager referred to the report on Becton Lane Waste Pumping Station which had previously been circulated at Appendix 4. He advised that South Water Services wanted to carry out minor works to reduce the risk of flooding to the Waste Pumping Station. Their proposal involved a lengthy incursion onto the common of 35m. The Estates Manager, with the assistance of the volunteer ranger, Bob Lord had proposed a much shorter route of 10m, and South Water Services had agreed this, the work is to be carried out at their expense and subject to NMTC approval.

***Resolved: To allow amelioration work on Barton Common to go ahead at the expense of South Water Services and subject to Town Council approval.***

67. BALLARD LAKE

The Chairman referred to the report on the water condition at Ballard Lake which had previously been circulated at Appendix 5, referring to the issues over the summer when there had been a lack of oxygen. The report recommends removing the fish during the winter months and once they have been rehomed the ongoing maintenance issues can be considered within the scope of next years budgets.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Lake had been drained around 25 years ago, by his predecessor. The Estates Manager confirmed that the first move would be to health check some fish, then apply to get them all moved.

68. INFORMATION BOARDS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 6, a report on the NMTC information boards that had previously been circulated. So far as the Ballard Boards are concerned the Town Council is working with groups to ensure updates are included.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the aim is to attain consistency of the signage across the town.

69. COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Chairman referred to Appendix 7, which had previously been circulated, being plans for the Community Garden. The Chairman mentioned the heritage orchard and the suggestion that there should be only heritage apple trees as it is quite a small area.

Cllr V Schooling suggested the trees should be native Hampshire or Isle of Wight trees.

The Chairman went out of session to hear a representation from Julia Stamper, who recently watched an episode of Countryfile where they had been talking about native apple varieties, she could not now recall the names of them, but would contact Countryfile to find out. The Chairman went back into session at 7.25pm.

70. MEN'S SHED

The Town Clerk confirmed that the new lease is almost ready for signing, that the Men's Shed have a meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October when it should be approved by them. The new lease will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> November at their request.

71. PROJECT PROGRESS

The Estates Manager provided an update on the Stationmaster House project. He advised that around a month ago, he had met with a representative of Network Rail and that they are now redesigning the project and will then reconsider their budgets. It is hoped that work will start after Xmas with completion in Spring.

Cllr K Craze then provided an update on the Co-op in Barton on Sea. The Chairman advised that although the Co-op is not a Town Council project it is of interest. Cllr Craze then updated the Committee, having spoken to the head trustee who confirmed the internal works were completed on the residential side, and that the Co-op would be coming in shortly to complete their shopfitting prior to opening, hopefully before Christmas.

72. FOOTBRIDGE

The Town Clerk advised that so far as the footbridge is concerned he had managed to contact Nick Adams King HCC Cabinet Member for Highways Operators who acknowledged the project had been going on for quite some time. The engineer Phil Yexley has broken his collarbone, but he and his senior officer Brian Hill are continuing to work on the contracts. There was no other update at this stage.

73. STREETSCENE IMPROVEMENTS

The Chairman advised that as nothing has been heard from Hampshire CC this matter would be deferred until the next meeting.

74. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

- a) The Chairman reminded Committee members that the Annual Act of Remembrance will take place on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November. Apparently eight police officers were planning to attend according to newly- appointed Sgt. Arron Wood.
- b) The Chairman mentioned the Plant a Tree initiative is still proceeding and it would be good to have more organisations or indeed individuals getting involved.
- c) The Chairman further advised that the borehole had been turned off again, following a letter from the Environment Agency stating the flows at Chewton Bunny had reduced. ***[Post meeting note: Now back on 21 October 2022]***
- d) Cllr M Craze reported that the playpark at Long Meadow is somewhat tired and in need of attention with one of the play items destroyed. The Chairman advised that this would be borne in mind when the budgets are considered for next year.
- e) Cllr M Craze also suggested that Doe Copse Way Play Area could be looked at, as when she visited during hot weather with her grandchild there was no shelter at all there. There were trees on the edge, but none in the centre. The Chairman agreed this could be looked at.
- f) Cllr B Murrow reminded the committee that the annual allotments meeting will take place next Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm and that all would be welcome. He would be providing an update on the dementia allotment at the meeting.

75. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 18.30 hours** at the Town Council Offices, New Milton.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.45 pm.

CHAIRMAN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_



Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
58 a	Community Garden Licence	31.10.22	Town Clerk/F&GP
58 b	New table tennis table for Recreation Ground	ASAP	Estates Manager
61 b	Highcliffe & Walkford query	ASAP	Estates Manager
62 a	King Charles III Coronation	06.05.23	Town Council
62 b	New Life Church	10.12.22	Comms Officer
62 c	Rugby Club Fun Day	10.06.23	Comms Officer
62 d	Highcliffe Hawks Tournament	10.06.23	Estates Manager
63	New Oakwood Ave Bus Shelter	ASAP	Estates Manager
64	Mencap Mural event	16.11.22	Comms Officer
66	Becton Lane WPS	ASAP	Estates Manager

Distribution:

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Estates &amp; Facilities Manager

District Councillors J L Cleary

County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter and K Mans

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