



Minutes of the Zoom online meeting of the Amenities Committee of the New Milton Town Council held on Tuesday 8 September 2020 at 6.30 pm.

Chairman	p	G R Blunden		
Vice Chairman	p	D E Hawkins		
<u>Councillors</u>	p	M Craze	p	C V Ward
		D A Rice-Mundy	p	A D O'Sullivan
		A W Rice	p	R Murrow
	p	V E Schooling		
<u>In Attendance</u>				
Councillors:		S Clarke, A Reid, D Samber		
Officers:		G Flexman	Town Clerk	
		M Jeffries	Estates & Facilities Manager	
		J Hayward	Administrator	
		S King	Town Development Manager	

The Chairman welcomed councillors and 6 members of the public to the online meeting, and a press representative, together with 4 officers from the Town Council, and asked attendees to note the online meeting protocols.

Alan Watson, representing NMRA, asked if any decision had been made regarding Remembrance Sunday at the War Memorial and the Indian Obelisk Memorial.

Bob Lord, resident, asked about the council's tree policy reference tree felling and leaving habitat poles.

Adrian Duckett, representing the Men's Shed, referred to Agenda item 10 giving preference to setting up a Men's Shed at Fawcetts Field. He also referred to item 13 and asked if the Men's Shed risk assessment for re-opening had been approved.

Duncan Conacher, representing New Milton Rugby Club, referred to Agenda item 8, Ashley Playpark, and the consultation process for the development at the Ashley Recreation Ground.

Julia Stamper, resident, referred to Agenda item 12, Ballard Meadow Container.

The Chairman invited Bob Lord to give a presentation on the work of the Friends of Ballard Water Meadow, including current projects and future proposed initiatives.



Bob Lord summarised the history of the site and the current HLS arrangements with a Management Plan and Annual Work Plan in place as well as the recording of wildlife and flora including 140 species of plants. An annual butterfly transect was undertaken, and this year an invertebrate survey is being carried out. Looking towards the winter programme this would involve maintaining glades, coppicing, planting new hazel, and removal of invasive species. The full version of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

The Chairman thanked Bob for his presentation and also conveyed his thanks to the volunteers for all their hard work and enthusiasm, noting that over 670 hours had been completed in the last year, as well as thanks to the Estates Team for their additional assistance.

186. APOLOGIES - Cllrs D Rice-Mundy and A Rice

187. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

188. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman referred to the following points :

- a) Arrangements for Remembrance Sunday would be covered at Agenda item 11.
- b) The Town Clerk would review the Tree Policy and the inclusion of habitat poles.
- c) The Men's Shed item would be covered at agenda items 10 and 13.
- d) The development at Ashley Recreation Ground would be covered at agenda item 8 and asked for it to be noted that a presentation and consultation of any formal plans would be arranged in the future in order to receive a wide spread of views in due course.

189. MINUTES

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2020, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Minutes would be duly signed in due course.

190. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

The Town Clerk referred to the Action Points noting the following updates:

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
172	Swift nest boxes Town Hall NFDC	8 September Status - Work in Progress	Administrator
175	Camouflage container at Ballard Meadow	8 September Status - Update to be received 8/9/20	FBWM
178	Green Routes Working Party	8 September Status Update to be received 8/9/20	Town Clerk
179	Men's Shed Licence	27 July Status - Update to be received 8/9/20	F&GP
180	Ballard Water Meadow Poster	8 September Status - Completed	Administrator
182	Centenary Rose Garden	27 July Status - Approved by F&GP	F&GP
183	Children's Fairy Doors	27 July Status - Approved by F&GP	F&GP

191. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following items of correspondence:

- a) An email from the Friendly Dog Club who reported that repair works were needed to their building and they also requested a review of their rent due to the Covid crisis. Advice was given to them to contact NFDC with reference to grants and their request for a rent review would be referred to the F&GP Committee.
- b) An email from a local wildlife enthusiast who had noted Broad-leaved Helleborine Orchids growing in New Milton and wanted to convey her thanks to the Estates Team for allowing them to grow and develop.
- c) An email from a resident who had recently taken his grandchild to the Skatepark and was upset with the behaviour of the older children, particularly their 'smoking' habits which will be referred to the Police. Also, their disregard for younger children. The Skatepark etiquette board will be shared on social media and the website to reinforce the message of etiquette and social distancing.



Cllr S Clarke said this would also be discussed at the upcoming Youth & Play Forum Meeting on 30 September 2020.

192. LAND USE REQUESTS

There were no specific land use requests to review but the Town Clerk referred to the issue of flying drones over town council land and SINC's, which will be considered for inclusion in a policy for the next Amenities meeting.

193. ASHLEY PLAYPARK

The Town Clerk provided an update regarding the S.106 contributions for the project which included the redevelopment of the play area, a youth club facility, storage area and improved landscaping to provide a better amenity for the community.

The initial designs had been drafted by Jill Colclough of NFDC and the Estates Manager would be the Project Manager who would report back to Amenities at the next meeting in October.

The Chairman confirmed the proposal is to present plans to NFDC at the end of October, once detailed plans are received from architects, and stakeholders contacted.

194. GREEN ROUTES

The Town Development Manager summarised the current status of the project which was surveying walking routes to the town centre to assess these Green Spokes to link up to the NFDC Green Loop. There is also collaboration with NFDC, HCC and the NFNPA to align objectives for walking and cycling routes. The TDM is arranging a meeting with HCC and NFDC via Zoom.

195. MEN'S SHED

The Chairman summarised the current status of the Men's Shed request for a new build permanent facility looking at 3 sites, Fernhill Sports Ground, Fernhill North Field and Fawcetts Field. Access to public utilities would need to be considered.

196. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2020



The Town Clerk confirmed that discussions were taking place regarding a streamlined wreath-laying ceremony to be held in a Covid-aware way on the day with public health and safety paramount.

197. BALLARD MEADOW CONTAINER

The Chairman confirmed that the container would stay in situ as the storage facility is essential to the Friends of Ballard Water Meadow carrying out the conservation work. The container would be re-painted and planting put in place to 'camouflage' the container, in an eco-friendly manner.

198. COVID-19

The Estates & Facilities Manager provided an update on the current operations of sports clubs and facilities enabling safe access and would require ongoing review in line with government guidance, confirming Men's Shed should be able to re-open shortly.

Cllr M Craze asked how often the play areas are sanitised which the Estates Team complete up to 3 times a day.

The Chairman thanked the Estates Manager and team for their continued efforts in keeping the community safe.

199. TREE PLANTING

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1, Plant a Tree Policy, and said it was important to increase the number of trees across the town. The Policy would be promoted in the community to encourage awareness.

HCC Cllr F Carpenter was granting £1,000 towards planting trees in North Milton.

Cllr R Murrow asked if we could still plant a tree at Ballard Lake in Autumn to acknowledge the New Milton Twinning Association which has been agreed.

200. OTHER UPDATES

Cllr C Ward referred to the recent article in the Focus publication indicating that Long Meadow had a BMX track. The Chairman confirmed there was no official BMX track at Long Meadow. It is just used as such informally and the copse area should not be abused in any way.

201. NEXT AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 19 October 2020 at 6.30pm. Location will be confirmed on the Agenda.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked members, officers, and the public for attending and closed the meeting at 7.35pm.

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
191 a)	Rent Holiday Friendly Dog Club	21 September 2020	F&GP
191 c)	Skatepark Etiquette	30 September 2020	Administrator
192	Flying of drones policy	19 October 2020	Town Clerk
194	Zoom Meeting re cycleways	14 September 2020	TDM
199	Promote Plant a Tree Policy	19 October 2020	Town Clerk
199	New Milton Twinning Association tree planting	28 November 2020	Estates Manager

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