



Minutes of the Zoom online meeting of the Amenities Committee of the New Milton Town Council held on Monday 30 November 2020 at 6.30 pm.

Chairman	p	G R Blunden
Vice Chairman	p	D E Hawkins

<u>Councillors</u>		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		

In Attendance

Councillors: S Clarke, S Davies, A Reid, D Samber, H Wallis-Dowling

Officers:	G Flexman	Town Clerk
	M Jeffries	Estates & Facilities Manager
	E Towler	Business Administrator
	S King	Town Development Manager

The Chairman welcomed councillors, 5 members of the public and a press representative to the online meeting together with 4 officers from the Town Council.

Alan Watson spoke on behalf of the Lions Club and asked what the Council's view was on the likelihood of community events being held on the Recreation Ground in 2021. He also spoke about NMRA receiving many emails from residents complimenting the Christmas trees and lights display.

Bob Lord had several items to refer to:

- a) the unavailability of appendices on the website
- b) if consideration had been given to his email regarding the green routes project
- c) if consideration will be given to the NFDC Biodiversity Gain initiative
- d) noting that 3 trees were to be felled at Ballard Water Meadow
- e) requesting an update on communications regarding the fairy door trail
- f) advising that the Friends of Ballard Water Meadow donating to Plant a Tree Initiative

217. APOLOGIES

Cllrs Mrs M Craze, D Rice-Mundy, and A Rice

218. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members have a dispensation to discuss and agree a budget and set the precept for 2021/2022.

219. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman referred to the following points:

- a) The Town Council will consider community events on the Recreation Ground in the New Year subject to prevailing Covid guidance and restrictions at that time.
- b) With reference to the availability of appendices, it was noted that at the Amenities meeting on 19 October minute 204 a) it was agreed that *“where appropriate, Amenities appendices will be uploaded to the Town Council website...”*
- c) An update on the Green Routes working party would be given during the meeting.
- d) An NFDC Biodiversity Net Gain proposal was referred to our Planning Committee.
- e) There was a budget for on-going maintenance of trees at Ballard Water Meadow.
- f) On-going communications continue with FBWM / others about the fairy door trail.
- g) The Chairman thanked FBWM for contributing to the *Plant a Tree* initiative.

The Chairman asked that Bob Lord, as Chairman of FBWM, be kept up to date with the planting of whips at Ballard Water Meadow.

220. MINUTES

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2020, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Minutes would be signed in due course.

221. 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	Status
207 c)	Plaques for historic trees identification	30 November 2020	Amenities Committee	Awaiting input from Nick Saunders
207 d)	High Street donated seat and plaque availability	30 November 2020	Estates Manager	Commemorative plaque to be placed on the bench outside McColl's
209	Barton Common Lane Solicitor to write to the developer	30 November 2020	Town Clerk	NFDC turned down the planning application
216	Fawcetts Field quotes Endorse / approve recommendations	2 November 2020 16 November 2020	F&GP Town Council	Completed



222. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following items of correspondence:

- a) The NFDC Waste Strategy consultation with comments due by 10 December 2020. See attached document.
- b) The NFDC Biodiversity Net Gain proposal to be referred to Planning Committee.
- c) An email from Jack Irwin regarding an arts and sculpture trail in New Milton.
- d) A thank you letter from Chris Carian for strimming at St Mary Magdalene Church
- e) Reference to the Great Fawcetts Food Drive organised by New Milton Football Club to receive food donations on behalf of Basics Bank until 15 December.
- f) An email from a Christchurch resident commending the proposed of a nativity trail around the Recreation Ground.
- g) Reference to the historical trees and plaques item from the last meeting which will be on the next Amenities agenda in January 2021.

223. LAND USE REQUESTS

None

224. BUDGET ITEMS & 5-YEAR MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME

The Chairman referred to agenda items 8) Budget Items – Appendix 1 and 9) 5-year Maintenance Programme – Appendix 2 to be included and discussed under agenda item 11) Amenities Committee Budget – Annex A as below.

225. FEES & CHARGES 2021/22

The Chairman referred to Annex A Fees & Charges for 2021/22 as recommended by the Executive Committee.

The Town Clerk said that an overall 2% increase had been applied to sports clubs fees but public charges of tennis, bowls and allotment charges would remain the same with no increase applied, pointing out they are reviewed and rounded up or down for ease of collection on an infrequent basis.

Members supported the proposed Fees & Charges for 2021/22.

It was

RECOMMENDED:

That the Fees & Charges for 2021/22 be endorsed by the Finance & General Purposes Committee at its meeting on 14 December 2020.

226. AMENITIES COMMITTEE BUDGET 2021/22

The Chairman referred to Annex B Amenities Committee Budget for 2021/22

The Town Clerk highlighted larger budget items under various headings and bottom-line figures for each sports site / area of activity, noting the main aim being to maintain the same overall precept as this year, with a £30k reduction in Amenities Cap-Ex.

The Chairman referred to Appendices 1 & 2 highlighting various items that could be included in the £120k budgeted or Capital Expenditure projects.

It was previously proposed at the last Executive Committee meeting that £25k be earmarked from reserves for use towards an Environmental Sustainability Action Plan looking at green composting and water harvesting in particular. This matter was budgeted to commence this year in the sum of £10k, but Covid delayed matters.

Members supported the proposed Amenities Committee Budget for 2021/22, noting Budget Items and the draft 5-year Maintenance Programme as presented.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Amenities Committee Budget for 2021/22 be endorsed by the Finance & General Purposes Committee at its meeting on 14 December 2020.

227. NEW MILTON MEN'S SHED

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3, the proposal for a New Milton Men's Shed building to be located at Fawcetts Field, at their expense, in the car park at the front of the site, provided on a ground rent basis, like the football clubhouse

Members supported the proposal.

It was

RECOMMENDED:

That a pre-planning application be made to NFDC to assist relocation of the Men's Shed to a more appropriate site as agreed at Fawcetts Field.

228. FAIRY DOORS WALK

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3, an outline of the proposed fairy door trail from Doe Copse Way to Ballard Lake, and commended the colourful report to members.

Members supported the plan.



229. DEMENTIA ALLOTMENT

The Chairman referred to Appendix 5, latest news from the Dementia Community Allotment and asked Cllr Bob Murrow to provide a summary.

Cllr Murrow thanked the allotment volunteers for all their efforts this year and Bob thanked Cllr K Craze for donating £250 from his NFDC Community Grant to the Dementia Allotment project.

Cllr Murrow also referred to the proposed Dementia Community Conversation which was planned for the New Year.

230. NATIONAL TREE WEEK – 28 NOVEMBER TO 6 DECEMBER 2020

The Chairman referred to Appendix 6 and provided an update on the *Plant a Tree* Initiative which was officially launched this week and would see the planting of an Elm tree at Ashley Recreation Ground. Other trees, including a commemorative tree for the New Milton Twinning Association, would be planted in the coming weeks and he thanked the community for their contributions so far to this worthwhile initiative.

Cllr S Davies asked about disappearance of trees from verges that had not been replaced. This would need to be referred to HCC as it was their responsibility.

Cllr Davies also suggested the idea of a community orchard or groups of fruit trees being planted in suitable locations around the town. The Chairman said appropriate locations would need identifying with costings but thought it a good idea. Agreed.

Cllr S Clarke referred to the original boundary between Ballard Lake and Lake Grove Road once upon a time being made up of Elms and asked if that could be recreated.

231. GREEN ROUTES

The Town Development Manager provided an update on walk surveys of commuter and leisure routes completed so far and the intention of providing a summary of the routes and an online map. A signage strategy was also being considered in conjunction with NFDC and NFNPA to ensure information and direction signs were coordinated effectively and this was proving to be quite a complex task. Noted.

232. ANY OTHER UPDATES

The Chairman provided an update on the Ashley Playpark project and this would be considered at an Extraordinary Meeting once all architect and contractors information had been collated, probably sometime in January.

The Estates & Facilities Manager provided an update on Covid restrictions and the effect on our facilities and amenities. Street Trading would resume on Wednesday 2 December as per pre lockdown 2. Outdoor tennis would reopen and the outdoor gym providing the rule of 6 applied to outside facilities. Football training and matches



would resume with staggered start times and all Risk Assessments were in order. Indoor Bowls was restricted though being an indoor activity still precluded.

The Chairman referred to the Christmas trees and lights and was delighted to read out some recent compliments and positive messages that had been received via social media, as well as directly from some local residents.

Chris March, press representative from the New Milton Advertiser asked for a copy of the appendices.

233. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 18 January 2021 at 6.30pm via Zoom. Details to be confirmed on Agenda.

The Chairman extended Seasons' Greetings and thanked members and the general public for attending and closed the meeting at 8pm.

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
222 b)	NFDC Biodiversity Net Gain	03.12.20	Planning Committee
222 g)	Historical trees & plaques	18.01.21	Amenities Committee
225	Fees & Charges endorsement	14.12.20	F&GP Committee
226	Amenities Budget endorsement	14.12.20	F&GP Committee
226	Environmental Sustainability Plan	14.12.20	F&GP Committee
230	Highway trees / Fruit Trees / Elms	18.01.21	Amenities Committee

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