



Minutes of the Zoom online meeting of the Amenities Committee of the New Milton Town Council held on Monday 18 January 2021 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, S Davies, A Reid, D Samber		
Officers:		G Flexman	Town Clerk	
		M Jeffries	Estates & Facilities Manager	
		J Hayward	Administrator	

The Chairman welcomed councillors, 5 members of the public and 3 officers to the online meeting with a reminder about meeting etiquette.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Bob Lord referred to points a) to d) below:

- a) A previous meeting action point about the installation of swift boxes on the Town Hall.
- b) Was there an update on the *Plant a Tree* Initiative?
- c) Referring to the NFDC policy to allow grass cutting margins around trees for pollinator friendly species to grow and to avoid soil compaction.
- d) Referring to his suggestion to apply for Local Nature Reserve (LNR) status for Ballard Water Meadow, currently designated a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC).
- e) Alan Watson, representing New Milton Lions Club, advising that due to expected ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, the May Fair will not be going ahead, and that a decision had yet to be made about the Victory Day community celebration.

234. APOLOGIES

Cllrs D Rice-Mundy and A Rice.

235. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

236. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman referred to the following points:

- a) NFDC are responsible for the Town Hall and contact should be made with them regarding the installation of swift boxes.
- b) An update on the *Plant a Tree* Initiative would be covered at a future Amenities Committee meeting.
- c) Information about grass-cutting margins was noted.
- d) LNR status for Ballard Water Meadow would be referred to New Forest Land Advice Service (NFLAS) for their opinion, the Town Clerk having already referred it to NFDC.
[Post Meeting Note: Local authorities can create local nature reserves (LNRs). Town and parish councils can create LNRs if the district council give them the power to do so]
- e) The Chairman thanked Alan Watson for the update on the community events.

237. MINUTES

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2020, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Minutes would be signed in due course.

238. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by	Status
222 b)	NFDC Biodiversity Net Gain	03.12.20	Planning Committee	Planning Committee
222 g)	Historical trees & plaques	18.01.21	Amenities Committee	Current Agenda item
225	Fees & Charges endorsement	14.12.20	F&GP Committee	Completed
226	Amenities Budget endorsement	14.12.20	F&GP Committee	Completed
226	Environmental Sustainability Plan	14.12.20	F&GP Committee	Work in Progress
230	Highway trees / Fruit Trees / Elms	18.01.21	Amenities Committee	On-going

Cllr A O'Sullivan referred to minute 227 and asked about the status of the Men's Shed facility which will be considered at the Amenities Meeting on 1 March 2021.

239. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following items of correspondence:

- a) Consultation on Mitigation for Recreational Impacts on New Forest European Sites planning document. [Mitigation Strategy - New Forest District Council](#) Town Clerk explained this is a consultation on a 'Mitigation for Recreational Impacts on New Forest European Sites' planning document.

The document sets out the details for the approach agreed in the Local Plan to mitigate the impacts from recreational pressures due to new properties being built and includes measures such as providing new areas of public green space, enhancing existing green space and footpaths, and providing a ranger service to manage access and visitors.

As well as mitigating the impact to nature conservation sites, these improvements will provide direct benefits to residents and their local environment. NFDC are now inviting residents in the district to read the proposal on their website and submit any comments for consideration.

The consultation opened on Friday 8 January 2021 ending Sunday 21 February.

- b) HCC Rural Parish Programme containing information about local council support.

Town Clerk explained, in October of 2020, HCC shared a document, outlining the Rural Programme's future vision for working more closely with Town Councils and Parish Councils. In the vision document, HCC outlined plans to create dedicated Parish Pages to offer a single source of information to support Towns & Parishes.

In order to establish a framework for these pages, and to ensure the delivery of requirements, HCC have created a short survey. The purpose of the survey is to allow local councils to contribute to and shape the focus of Parish pages website.

Responses should be sent by Monday 25 January 2021.

240. LAND USE REQUESTS

None

241. RECREATION GROUND – COL WHEELER PLAQUE

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1, a letter from the President of the New Milton Royal British Legion, requesting consideration be given to relocating the Col Wheeler information tablet to a position adjacent to his plaque at the foot of the Memorial.

Members considered the request, confirming the location of the tablet and plaque was agreed with the RBL in 2016 as part of an overall upgrade of the War Memorial site and Members were not keen on relocating either. However, there was a suggestion that reference could be made to Col Wheeler's feats on a proposed new Information Board for the War Memorial Recreation Ground. Agreed.

242. HERITAGE TREES

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2, New Milton Heritage Trees, noting that two Oak trees had been identified on the Recreation Ground to be heritage trees with further research required on the other potential heritage contenders. Heritage Trees will be recorded with the Milton Heritage Society and on both the NFDC tree database and NMTC tree records.

243. GREEN ROUTES

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3, Green Routes update, noting that a working party meeting was taking place the next day when the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) programme would be discussed further. Noted.

244. BALLARD LAKE

The Chairman referred to Appendix 4, Ballard Lake Environmental Improvement Works, noting the works that had been completed so far.

The Ballard Lake Heritage Board was being produced ready for installation in Spring when further updates would be available. Noted.

245. COVID 19 LOCKDOWN

The Chairman referred to Appendix 5, an update on the NMTC COVID-19 Lockdown restrictions that were noted by members.

The Estates & Facilities Manager reviewed the current status which was continually being monitored to ensure the safety of all as we have done throughout the pandemic.

Cllr Davies thanked the Estates Team for their support and particularly the attention to sanitising the play parks which was very much appreciated by the local community.

246. FAWCETTS FIELD

The Chairman referred to Appendix 6, an update on the Fawcetts Field HVAC project.

The Estates & Facilities Manager confirmed that the work being carried out was undertaken in a COVID-19 safe manner with contractors working strictly to Town Council COVID-19 rules. Noted.

247. OTHER UPDATES

The Chairman shared the following information.

- a) Due to COVID-19 restrictions, there was some delay in delivering other projects such as Ashley Recreation Ground, Fairy Doors and Rose Garden and updates would be provided in due course.
- b) Part of Fawcetts Field car park has been used and will be used again for COVID-19 testing - by prior appointment only - and is being organised by the Hampshire & IOW Local Resilience Forum, Police & Fire Headquarters.
- c) Cllr R Murrow referred to the recently vandalised Xmas tree at Barton on Sea and asked for a CCTV to be installed around the public WC area as other acts of vandalism had happened. This will be referred to F&GP to consider.
- d) Cllr M Craze referred to the state of road verges throughout winter when tradesmen vehicles are parked on them causing rutting. The suggestion being that an awareness article could go in the Focus publication.

[Post Meeting Note: Developers involved with newly constructed houses along Barton Common Road have created a long dip from the roadway to the Common side. The Common boundary has been eroded by heavy lorry turning now leaving ruts which could cause a tyre/ wheel to get damaged. The Estates Manager, already aware, had been in touch with the developers]

248. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 1 March 2021 at 6.30pm via Zoom. Details to be confirmed on Agenda.

The Chairman thanked members, NMTC officers and general public for attending and closed the meeting at 7.30pm.

CHAIRMAN _____

DATE _____



Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
236 d)	LNR status - Ballard Water Meadow	01.03.21	Town Clerk / NFLAS
238	Men's Shed proposed site at Fawcetts	01.03.21	Estates Manager
239 a)	NFDC Mitigation - Recreational Impacts	21.02.21	Planning Committee
239 b)	HCC Rural Town & Parish Programme	25.01.21	Administrator
247 c)	CCTV Camera proposal for BOS clifftop	01.02.21	F&P Committee
247 d)	Developers damage to Barton Common	01.03.21	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