



Minutes of the Zoom online meeting of the Amenities Committee of the New Milton Town Council held on Monday 1 March 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
	p	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

Officers:

G Flexman	Town Clerk	T Elliott	Assistant Town Clerk
E Towler	Business Administrator	M Jeffries	Estates & Facilities Manager
S King	TDM	J Hayward	Administrator

The Chairman welcomed councillors, 5 members of the public, 6 officers and a press representative to the online meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Alan Watson of the NMRA will be sharing the results of the Straw Poll regarding the beach side toilets at Barton with 1.9% voting that the toilets are not required out of 450 responses.

Julia Stamper shared plans for a community garden and highlighted the benefits including mental health. There has been a large positive response from community groups and schools. In order to carry out the proposal, a suitable plot of land would need to be found in a central location, accessible to all with an available water supply.

249. APOLOGIES

Cllr A Rice.

The Clerk referred to standing order number 108 which grants an extended leave of absence to any member who has been unable to attend meetings for 6 consecutive months. Due to COVID, members agreed this applied to Cllr Rice.

250. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

251. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman noted the comments made by Alan Watson with the Clerk confirming he will distribute the poll results to Councillors once received.

The Chairman voiced support for the community garden and confirmed a suitable Town Council location will be considered.

252. MINUTES

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2021, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Minutes would be signed in due course.

253. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

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

Referring to minute 236d), the Clerk referred to an email from NFLAS, detailing the potential benefits of the LNR status including how it could provide extra protection to the site, in addition to the Site of Importance for Nature Conservation designation and may also add weight to the case for further government funding in future.

Under minute 247c), an initial email was received from Brian Byrne NFDC suggesting that a conversation takes place locally before raising expectations of CCTV for BOS. The matter will be discussed later in the meeting at agenda item 9 (minute 257).

254. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk read out the following items of correspondence:

- a) An email received from Matt Wisdom of NFDC Democratic Services noting that the 13 March NMRA AGM meeting will likely fall outside of purdah (which starts from the 22 March). In terms of the Town Council Annual Towns' Meeting proposed on 30 April, the business of the Council does not stop during purdah, so this is unaffected. It is always worth being mindful of the test just in terms of any sensitivities closer to the time - could a reasonable person conclude that you are spending public money to influence the outcome of the election. All councillors just need to have this in mind with regard to publicity and the use of Council resources. Statements to be issued by the Town Clerk rather than Members. It helps that the HCC elections involve none of the New Milton Town Councillors.

- b) An email detailing damage to the copse area at Meadow Way, which forms part of Barton Common. The Estates Manager has been in correspondence with one of the people responsible, who apologises for any damage, and plans to work with them on the matter. Further reinstatement works are being looked into such as replanting and possibly a small length of fencing by the roadside.
- c) An email updating progress on the new footbridge proposed across the railway on Station Road. Network Rail has given technical approval of the design and the contract documents are currently being looked at. A meeting with NR on site to trace their trackside cables is needed for positioning of the temporary debris barriers. HCC are in discussion with the department's service contractor about some of the practicalities of the scheme, such as methods for removing the old footbridge, siting of cranes and low loaders and location of site offices/compound.

255. LAND USE REQUESTS - None

256. RECREATION GROUND

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1, a request to review the Col Wheeler decision. It was suggested that a meeting takes place on site after lockdown to discuss this further, which was supported by members, the Chairman referring to minute 241.

257. CCTV

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2, CCTV at Barton, and the initial NFDC advice. It was suggested that the Council have a meeting with NFDC to note the incidents with Cllr Murrow volunteering to assist ward members, being a local resident.

258. GREEN ROUTES

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3, a draft report by the Green Loop Working Party.

Jill Colclough of NFDC provided an update, predominantly focusing on walking routes connecting local people to popular destinations in the town.

The Chairman proposed £30k CIL monies be used to support this project which was seconded by Cllr O'Sullivan.

It was then

RECOMMENDED: That £30k CIL monies be used towards the Green Routes.

259. SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

The Chairman referred to Appendix 4, Sustainability Action Plan. The Assistant Town Clerk provided an update, highlighting focal points and statement of intent, which was noted by members.

260. NO.1 PROJECT

The Chairman referred to Appendix 5, an update on the No.1 Project. Cllr K Craze provided an update, informing members that SWR had initially put aside £42k under their CCIF funding but contractor quotes came in considerably higher, the lowest being £91.5k. Veronika Krcalova of SWR is exploring possible funding avenues and will provide the Town Council with a further update in March.

Cllr Clarke left the meeting at 7.44pm.

261. FESTIVE LIGHTS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 6, the 2020-21 Lighting Display report.

The Assistant Town Clerk provided an update, thanking the sponsors for their support, the full list of which can be found on the Council website under Amenities Committee appendices.

Cllr Hawkins highlighted the thanks he received from local residents who especially enjoyed the festive lights during this difficult time.

262. HIGH STREET

The Chairman referred to Appendix 7, Highstreet Report.

The Estates & Facilities Manager provided an update, informing members that the Council have entered this year's regional South & South East in Bloom competition but the national Britain in Bloom contest is not going ahead this year.

Members thanked the Estates & Facilities Manager for his report.

263. OTHER UPDATES - None**264. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

Monday 13th April 2021 at 6.30pm via Zoom. Details to be confirmed on Agenda.

The Chairman thanked members of the public for attending and closed the public part of the meeting at 8.15pm.

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

The Chairman may move that the public be excluded from the meeting for any item(s) of business pursuant to section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reasons of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

265. FEES & CHARGES

Following a request from the Bowls Club to undertake maintenance of the bowling greens it was suggested that their rental charge could be reviewed from 1 April 2021.

The Chairman thanked Members and Officers for attending and closed the meeting at 8.18pm.

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
249	Extended leave of absence Cllr Rice	29 March 2021	Town Council
254	Purdah advice from Matt Wisdom NFDC	6 May 2021	Members
256	Col Wheeler Plaque location on the Rec	13 July 2021	Amenities
257	CCTV at BoS meeting of ward members	29 March 2021	Cllr B Murrow
258	CIL funding for Green Routes of £30k	15 March 2021	F&GP
265	Review Bowls Club rent from April 2021	15 March 2021	F&GP

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