

**Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee of New Milton Town Council held on Monday 23rd January 2023 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 p C V Ward  
D A Rice-Mundy p A D O'Sullivan  
p R Murrow  
p V E Schooling

In Attendance :

Councillors: Alvin Reid, Steve Clarke

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

The Chairman welcomed Jill Colclough, James Gilfillan and two members of the public to the meeting, as well as the local reporter from the A&T.

The Chairman took the opportunity to mention Cllr Alan Rice who passed away just before Christmas. He advised that his funeral will take place on 10<sup>th</sup> February at 1pm with a private family burial and then a wake starting at 3pm at the Chewton Glen Hotel.

The Chairman gave a brief overview of Alan's long and esteemed time as a Town, County and District councillor, stating he was effective and hardworking for the local residents, and that it had been a privilege and pleasure to work with Alan on the Amenities Committee for the last 10 years. He would be very much missed by former colleagues and numerous friends.

### **Public Participation**

Bob Lord is Chairman of the Friends of Ballard Water Meadow and made the following points:

- a) The NFDC Tree Officer should have a record of all the trees in the town.
- b) He was concerned that the Green Infrastructure presentation made no mention of cemeteries and how they can be used to promote wildlife.
- c) He was concerned about the erosion of the road verge habitats in the town, and loss of trees.
- d) He mentioned that where grass is being left to grow longer, this needs to be strictly managed on a 2-year cutting cycle.
- e) Finally, he suggested that Barton Common and Ballard Water Meadow areas should be upgraded from SINC status to Nature Reserves.

Mandy Hayes is a member of the Friends of Ballard Water Meadow and supported Bob Lord's suggestion that both the water meadow and Barton Common should become Nature Reserves. She felt this move could be made to commemorate the Coronation especially as King Charles is such an advocate for the natural world. She said this could have allied benefits in relation to signage.

93. APOLOGIES

Cllr David Rice Mundy.

94. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

95. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman thanked Bob and Mandy for their contributions and said:

- a) The trees we are trying to identify are not those which are recorded by NFDC.
- b) NFDC deal with cemeteries locally.
- c) The road verge habitats fall to HCC.
- d) The point in relation to the grass verges was noted.
- e) Upgrading Barton Common and Ballard Water Meadow from SINC's to Nature Reserves would need to be considered in detail, with costings. He was happy to consider any proposals put forward.

Cllr B Murrow was concerned about the cost to the residents of any upgrade. It would need to be given further consideration.

96. MINUTES

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

**RESOLVED:**

***That the Minutes of the meetings held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.***

The Minutes were duly signed.

97. 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.

He reported that in line with Minute 81f a letter had been sent to Apex Tree Surgeons, from the Council initially. The letter referred to the fact that an agreement had previously been reached for Apex to pay for two trees. The letter gave Apex until 10<sup>th</sup> February to respond positively with a payment of £318 for two replacement hornbeam trees. In the event this response is not forthcoming the matter will be referred to Town Council solicitors.

The Chairman referred to minute 86 wherein Cllr S Clarke had mentioned a visit to Hunstanton where he saw planters and pots which had been sponsored by members of the public and wondered about the possibility of doing this in New Milton. The Town Clerk said this was being investigated by the Estates & Facilities Manager.

Cllr V Schooling asked if there was any update in relation to Minute 88 where-in she had asked about funding for Streetscene Improvements that the former TDM had accessed, and whether this could be a source of further funding for the current TDM. The Town Clerk said the current TDM is liaising with the former TDM and following this up.

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
81 f	Council Solicitor to write to Apex	ASAP	Asst Town Clerk
85	Fees & Charges 2023/24	19.12.22	F&GP
86	Amenities Budget 2023/24	19.12.22	F&GP
88	Grants for Streetscene	On-going	TDM
88	Damage to trees – put on website	19.12.22	Comms Officer
89	Letter to HCC re SLA/ licence fees	ASAP	Estates Manager
90	Post Meeting Note: CANGO update	19.12.22	Town Clerk / F&GP
91	Attend next Amenities meeting	16.1.23	Jill Colclough, NFDC

## 98. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) An email from Paula Andrews of Hampshire Highways in relation to the request for a dropped kerb at Molyneux Road, Ashley. HCC would be prepared to waive the S171 licence fee but advised they would not be able to pay for the works due to current budget constraints. The Town Clerk said it would cost around £2.5k.

The Chairman said this is a difficult matter, the work should be done by HCC and paid for by them, but as stated in their email there is no money for it. The work could be paid for by the Town Council, but there is nothing in the budget at the present time.

The Chairman sought the views of the Committee.

Cllr D Hawkins felt that the work should be undertaken as it was vital for people in wheelchairs and for mothers with prams to enable them to make use of the new pathways at Ashley Recreation Ground.

Cllr A O' Sullivan stated that he had great sympathy for those in need of the dropped kerb, but there was no spare money to pay for it.

The Chairman wondered whether CIL money could be used.

Cllr S Clarke stated that Hampshire was not being very supportive of New Milton which is very disappointing, he felt CIL money could be appropriate.

Cllr V Schooling asked about the cost, the Chairman advised that it was between £2,000 and £3,000.

It was agreed that the matter would be deferred for further research and consideration and be brought back to the next meeting as an agenda item.

***[Post Meeting Note: HCC Cllr Mel Kendal has offered to pay from his HCC grant].***

- b) An email from Phil Yexley of HCC in relation to the New Milton footbridge replacement. He advised that he has been busy on another project recently, that this will be finishing soon and that he will be spending more time on the footbridge. He will keep us updated.

99. LAND USE REQUESTS

**a) Circus Ginnett – Fawcetts Field Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August to Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023**

A request from Circus Ginnett to use Fawcetts Field for the circus as they have done in the past.

**RESOLVED: Agreed, subject to our usual terms and conditions of use.**

**b) Lion's Club – New Milton Recreation Ground – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

A request from Alan Watson of Lion's Club to use the Recreation Ground for an Easter Extravaganza – a typical Family Fun Day event.

**RESOLVED: Agreed, subject to our usual terms and conditions of use.**

**c) New Life Church – New Milton Recreation Ground – Good Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

A request from New Life Church to use the Recreation Ground from 10 am – 1pm for an outdoor Easter Service. They advised there would be no more than 500 people attending, there would be non-alcoholic refreshments, and they had requested the acoustic curtain be fitted to the back of the stage.

**RESOLVED: Agreed, subject to our usual terms and conditions of use.**

**d) Highcliffe Hawks – Fawcetts Field – 3 and 4 June 2023**

A request from Highcliffe Hawks football club to change the date of their football festival from 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> June to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> June. The festival had previously been given the go ahead by the Committee but clashed with the Rugby Club Fun Day.

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

**100. KING'S CORONATION**

The Chairman advised that the Working Party had met with various groups in New Milton including the WI, Lions and Round Table. The meeting had been very positive, and plans are being made for events on 6 May. Cllr A O' Sullivan referred to the recent information which had been put out by Buckingham Palace, there was some suggestion that Sunday is the day for celebrations and street parties.

The Town Clerk said the plan at present is to hold the celebration on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023, the day of the Coronation, to allow people living on their own and without families to have the opportunity to take part and celebrate this important event with others.

**101. GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE**

Jill Colclough presented her proposals for woodland management and improvements to Ashington Park, being public open space adjacent to the Tesco store. This scheme falls under the NFDC Mitigation plan and will be funded from CIL monies paid to NFDC.

Jill referred to the draft layout that she produced and which was displayed. She advised that there are three aspects to the plan.

- a) Improving facilities including the footpath and cutting back vegetation along it.
- b) Introducing a more minor route, a circular pathway with seats.
- c) Some woodland management to open up the open space.

This is all covered in phase 1.

Phase 2 which she is in the process of designing would involve liaison with Tesco and considering the pedestrian access there from the woodland.

Jill advised that due to the nature of the works and indeed the source of funding she did not propose any consultation; the project will simply be published on the NFDC website as an NFDC project.

The Chairman said he felt that this represents a win win. Having the work done and indeed it being funded without need for a Town Council contribution.

Cllr S Clarke suggested that the works could be ably assisted by Paul Brockman who runs woodworking courses and classes. This could lead to involvement from local schools. He also asked if bird and bat boxes would be included.

Jill stated that both these suggestions were welcome. She also referenced possible future works at Carrick Way which she had imagined would be dealt with by a similar workstream, however that area is a SINC which gives rise to some other issues.

Councillors asked questions about disabled access, and the widening of the path. Jill confirmed that this all needs to be considered by law and whilst it may not be possible to widen the whole of the path or make it all wheelchair accessible, she would certainly plan to make at least part of it accessible and that would end with a destination view or beauty spot to be enjoyed.

Members raised questions about the landscaping around Aldi and Tesco, Jill said that this was for phase 2 of the project and would need to be considered at that point, with Town Council representatives and their meeting with Tesco and Aldi.

The Chairman thanked Jill for her informative presentation.

## 102. VISION PLAN

The Chairman welcomed James Gilfillan from NFDC Planning who is the case officer in relation to the development at Gore Road. He provided an overview of the situation. He said he has no influence in relation to the Fawcetts Field Vision Plan but hoped he could persuade developers to make contributions to assist with funding aspects of the plan.

The Chairman thanked James for coming and stated that he was not looking for any particular update at this time save in relation to the felling of trees at Moore Close as there was a small window of opportunity for this to take place this year.

Jill advised that she has been in discussions with Housing Development at NFDC and that she is very hopeful that this will take place this year. A meeting with the Project Manager and the Estates Manager on site is imminent, and once this is set in motion she will need to step back.

The Chairman again asked if these works would happen this year. Jill advised that she has been working towards that end and is extremely hopeful that it will happen.

James went on to talk about the play areas which will form part of the plan. He said that all age groups need to be covered and that in the case of very young children the areas need to be close to their homes. There are to be 160-170 new dwellings, and while there will not be any requirement for full football pitches or other large facilities, he would expect that the developers would make contributions towards them.

In practice, following consideration he was looking at two 100m areas for the very young with static play sculptures. A larger play space on the boundary edge for the older children and then a contribution towards the modular pump track shown on the Vision Plan.

There was a discussion about the provision of play areas, and the lack thereof in Barton. Although it was suggested that those in the North of Barton across Christchurch Road but nothing for those in the South of the area (except Long Meadow).

Cllr M Craze raised the concern about children crossing Christchurch Road to access the play area, and also across Gore Road on the northern side of Fawcetts Field.

James advised that part of the consideration of the development as a whole would involve the pathways and bike routes across Fawcetts Field as well as road safety and provisions in Christchurch Road and Gore Road. He said that all the dice have not yet landed and things would be more concrete when the matter came before the Planning Committee at NFDC.

James confirmed part of the Trim Trail would be upgraded for cycles. The Chairman thanked him for his valuable input.

103. QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY

The Estates Manager confirmed that all 100 trees were delivered last week, they are root ball trees and he is hoping to start planting next week, this will include the Naish Estate and part of the planting for the orchard at Moore Close adjacent to the Community Garden.

104. MANOR ROAD/STATION ROAD

The Chairman advised that we have not succeeded in persuading HCC to waive their licence fee for the proposed tree installation at the top of the town. However, the Estates Manager advised that the trees are on order and the scheme is on target to be completed by the end of February.

105. CANGO

The Town Clerk reported back following the online meeting about the future of CANGO bus service in its current form will come to an end at the end of May, with the booking service that the Town Council contributes £2,000 per annum to ceasing. A suggestion had been made that the money contributed to the booking service could be used instead for providing more stops in the Bashley area for a scheduled service. Sway had taken up this offer. The Town Council could think about doing the same where there are no pavements.

The Chairman thought that subject to the views of the Committee this was certainly something to consider. He suggested it could be a big help in areas where there is no pavement such as Bashley and Brockhills.

It was agreed that this should be considered in more detail.

106. STATION MASTER'S HOUSE

The Chairman advised that the building has some problems and is now being monitored by Network Rail on a regular basis. This is likely to be the case for at least the next year.

107. RECREATION GROUND LICENSING

The Town Clerk read out an email advising that the application for changes to the Recreation Ground Licence had been approved and the revised Licence allows for more flexibility. The Chairman welcomed this variation that allows individual stalls with licence holders to sell alcohol on an "on" and "off" site consumption basis in the future.

**108. INDIAN OBELISK MURAL**

The Chairman advised the Committee of the proposed image and proposed site for the mural at the Indian War Memorial. The picture is of Khudadad Khan an Indian Soldier who was the first to be awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest award for gallantry in the presence of the enemy that can be bestowed on British and Commonwealth forces. The action he was involved in took place in Belgium on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1914.

Khudadad Khan was told of his award while recovering from his wounds at Barton on Sea Indian army convalescence depot. The proposed site is the wall of the toilet block that faces the Memorial. A picture showing a mock-up was displayed at the meeting and was approved by the Friends Group.

There was some discussion and some councillors, including Cllr D Hawkins, Cllr V Schooling, Cllr C Ward and Cllr M Craze felt that the mural should not go on a toilet wall and suggested other possibilities including a plinth or other freestanding support.

Cllr S Clarke expressed the view that although Khudadad Khan did convalesce in Barton he was an Officer and his view was that there should be a memorial for all of the ordinary Indian soldiers who made such a contribution to the war effort during 1914 and 1915.

It was agreed that the concerns would be relayed to the Friends of the Indian War Memorial for their consideration as they are leading this and then the matter can be brought back to the committee at a later date for further consideration.

**109. BASEBALL FACILITY**

The Town Clerk advised that he had received an email from the New Forest Baseball Club, they are currently playing over in Southampton but are seeking a venue in the Forest for the 2024 season. They would like to use Fawcetts Field. The baseball season is outside of the football season taking place between April and August and this could bring in a regular income at a time when the pitch is not normally used.

The Committee was very happy with this possibility and asked that the matter be progressed with the Baseball Club.

**110. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE**

The Chairman provided an update in relation to the work being carried out on the Recreation Ground that had been affected by the weather, but it was hoped it could be completed in the near future.

The Chairman closed the public meeting and thanked Jill, James, Chris March, Bob and Mandy for their attendance and contributions.



With members agreement, the meeting moved into private session at 8.10 pm to consider the following item.

### **PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960**

**The Chairman moved that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item 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.**

#### 111. ASHLEY RECREATION PROJECT

The Chairman referred to the Report prepared by the Estates Manager relating to the Ashley Recreation project. The price for the project had increased somewhat following delays due to covid, changes to the original scheme and recent increases in the prices of materials.

A discussion followed in relation to the overall funding of the project, that is now likely to cost upwards of £130k more than originally envisaged. Initially, the project was to be financed by £265k s.106 monies received from NFDC in May (£265,397.91 was received on 9 May 2022, being the remaining balance of s.106 Developers' Contributions held by NFDC on our behalf).

To date we have incurred expenditure of £144k on the Ashley Project leaving £121k available to complete the project from the £265k originally allocated. The aim was always to complete the new play area, car park extension and associated landscaping first. This was always referred to as Phase 1 of the project. To complete Phase 1 will incur further costs of £35k. In total Phase 1 will cost £179k, all funded from the s.106 Developers Contributions of £265k.

We are now moving into Phase 2 of this two-phase project, being construction of a new Youth & Community use building plus integral storage facility that will do away with the need for current "temporary" portacabins. The design process was started in 2019. The original facility was designed as a simple all-steel frame building with cladding. This was subsequently enhanced to include brickwork elements for a more robust, longer lasting building.

Phase 2 is likely to cost £216.5k (Being £186.5k MTST quote plus £30k electrics = £216.5k). Phase 1 is likely to cost £179k (Being £144k already spent plus £35k externals = £179k). Hence, this 2-phase project is likely to cost £395k in total.

That will require additional funding of £130k, over and above the £265k s.106 monies already allocated, without contingencies. It was agreed at the meeting that a sum of £10k be added for contingencies. Hence, a shortfall of £140k overall will need to be covered. It was suggested this shortfall be funded via CIL monies of £80k and up to £60k from Reserves.

The Estates Manager had obtained three quotes, which varied in price between £186.5k and £246k. Quotes covered the same work and are therefore comparable. The recommendation was to accept the lowest quote from MTST Group for £186.5k, being best value for money.

Following a unanimous vote by members in favour of accepting the quote from MTST, it was

***RECOMMENDED: That the quote from MTST in the sum of £186.5k be accepted and endorsed by Finance & General Purposes at its meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023.***

Having chosen MTST in the sum of £186.5k and following a further vote by members, it was

***RECOMMENDED: That the £140k shortfall be funded via CIL monies in the sum of £80k and reserves in the sum of up to £60k to be endorsed by Finance & General Purposes Committee at its meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023.***

For clarification, the costs and funding of the Ashley Project are listed as follows:

	<b>£k</b>
<b>Costs</b>	
Expenditure to date	144
Phase 1 completion – External works	35
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<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>179</b>
Phase 2 - Building costs	186
Fit out and electrics	30
Contingency	10
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<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>226</b>
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>405</u></b>
<b>Funding</b>	
S.106 Developers' Contributions	265
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	80
Call on Reserves	60
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>405</u></b>

112. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 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 8.23pm.

CHAIRMAN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
98 a)	Dropped Kerb at Molyneux Road	ASAP	Cllr Mel Kendal
99 a)	Land use request Circus Ginnett	ASAP	Administrator
99 b)	Land use request Lions Club	ASAP	Administrator
99 c)	Land use request New Life Church	ASAP	Administrator
99 d)	Land use request Highcliffe Hawks	ASAP	Administrator
105	Bus stops at Bashley / Brockhills	01.06.23	Town Clerk / HCC
108	Khudadad Khan portrait as mural	10.07.23	Town Clerk / NFDC
109	Baseball facility at Fawcetts Field	2023-24	Estates Manager
111	Ashley Recreation Ground Project	30.01.23	Estates Manager
111	Funding completion of above	30.01.23	Town Clerk / F&GP

Distribution:

Town Councillors

Estates &amp; Facilities Manager

District Councillors J L Cleary

County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter and K Mans

New Milton Police

Press

Alan Watson – FOCUS &amp; NMRA