

Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee of New Milton Town Council held on Tuesday 27 February 2024 at 6.30pm at the Town Hall, Ashley Road, New Milton, BH25 6AS.

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|--------------|---|--------------|---|----------------------|
| Chairman: | p | G R Blunden | p | M Craze (Vice Chair) |
| Councillors: | p | D Hawkins | p | B Murrow |
| | p | J Baker | p | A O' Sullivan |
| | p | D Rice-Mundy | p | V Schooling |
| | p | K Trehorn | | |

In attendance:

Councillors: A Reid, S Clarke

Officers: G Flexman - Town Clerk

J Bean – Committee and Civic Administrator

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, Officers, six members of the public, and a representative of the press. The Chairman referred to Paul Woods a former Chairman of the Council and Town Mayor who had died peacefully at home on 16th February. There was a one-minute silence observed to reflect on Paul's life and the great contribution he had made to the town over many years.

Public Participation

Julia Stamper

Julia Stamper as vice chair of NMRA asked the Committee to reconsider their stance on public participation and to allow for more dialogue between councillors and the public during Amenities Committee meetings. She acknowledged that the Democratic half hour is available at full Town Council meetings but felt that specific issues dealt with by specific committees should be dealt with there. She then went on to ask if the Council would consider planting some more trees along Station Road, and on Old Milton Road. She stated that trees are so good for the environment and for personal wellbeing, she cited a study which suggested that where high streets had plenty of trees the footfall and spends increased by around 12% which would be good for the local shops and traders.

Mandy Hayes

Mandy supported Julia's comments in relation to public participation and trees. She thanked Mark and the team for all the assistance she had received from them. She asked if there was any way in which the Councillors' email systems could be set to offer an automatic acknowledgement with an indication of when the email would be dealt with. She said sometimes she felt that her emails were getting lost, having recently sent an email about

putting a banner on the railings at the crossroads but had not received any reply. She went on to advise that she and her colleague Nick John are hoping to set up a Friends of New Milton Station group and asked whether the Station Master's House project was going ahead. She and Nick had many years of project management experience and wondered if they could take another look at it with a view to working with the Council on it.

Bob Lord

Bob Lord supported Julia and Mandy's comments. He asked for a change in format at the meetings, including more dialogue between councillors and members of the public. Also, that the correspondence to be referred to at the meeting be listed under the item so that members of the public would have a better idea of what would be discussed at the Amenities Committee meetings so they could be better prepared.

Alan Watson

Alan Watson spoke in his capacity as vice president of the Lions Club. He stated that the Lions Christmas event was in jeopardy and that it might not go ahead due to issues with the insurance relating to road closures. Last year this had led to the event making a loss which goes against the Lions constitution. He asked if the Town Council could help with the road closures this year.

The meeting was formally opened at 6.47pm.

101. APOLOGIES

None

102. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr A Reid declared an interest in Item 10 as a member of the Lions Club and in Item 12 an application made by his wife.

103. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman thanked all the members of the public for their useful contributions to the meeting and dealt with the points raised in turn.

Public Participation is not intended as an open dialogue between councillors and the public, it allows members of the public to raise issues which are of importance to them. The Democratic Half Hour at Town Council meetings is for dialogue and is a more appropriate forum as all councillors are present. And it is at Town Council meetings where the work of Standing Committees is reviewed, and decisions are ratified.

As to planting more trees along Station Road, this has previously been raised, and it is not a matter for the Town Council, it is up to Hampshire if more trees are to be planted on their land. And when it was previously raised with them there were many



hoops to jump through. There was also the matter of uninhibited CCTV images required along the high street especially.

The Chairman thanked Mandy Hayes for her kind words to Mark and the team. He always responds to emails from residents. Cllr S Clarke made the suggestion that any emails addressed to Councillors should also be addressed, at the same time, to the info mailbox at the Town Council which would serve as a belt and braces approach.

As to the banner on the crossroads, these can only be put in place with a licence from Hampshire, but we can assist with this under our Service Level Agreement.

As to the Stationmaster's house, this is being monitored by Network Rail although the funds they had to deal with it have now been withdrawn. Cllr A O' Sullivan spoke in his capacity as a member of the New Milton Heritage Society, stating the building has substantial problems with drainage, which is likely to cost in the region of £300,000 to rectify. The Chairman suggested that the potential Friends group should talk to the Heritage Society in the hope that they could bring pressure to bear on Network Rail to move forward with the project.

Finally, in relation to Bob Lord's request about correspondence, the items to be included are decided by the Chairman at the last minute, on the day of the meeting at the morning briefing with the Town Clerk. This ensures that all relevant correspondence can be considered for inclusion. No decisions can be made on the basis of correspondence items and in any event, they require further consideration they come back as an agenda item and then can be fully discussed.

The Chairman noted Alan Watson's request and stated that the request appears on the agenda at Item 10.

104. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the previous Committee minutes of 15th January 2024.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2024, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The minutes were duly signed.

105. MATTERS ARISING

The Town Clerk confirmed all action points listed had been addressed or are on the agenda for further discussion at this meeting.



| Minute | Action Points | Action by date | To be actioned by |
|--------|--------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 91a) | Sensory Walk meeting | 17.01.24 | Town Clerk |
| 91b) | Update from HCT | 29.01.24 | Cllr O' Sullivan |
| 92a) | Friendly Dog Club | 29.01.24 | Estates Manager |
| 92b) | Barton Common – Annual Insect Survey | 29.01.24 | Bob Lord, Ranger |
| 93 | Support for LCWIP | 27.02.24 | David Orme |
| 94a) | Circus Ginnett | 26.08.24 | Comms Officer |
| 94b) | Bee Fayre | 24.08.24 | Comms Officer |
| 95 | Ashley Shopping Parade | 29.01.24 | Town Clerk/NFDC |
| 96 | Ballard Lake improvements | 29.01.24 | Town Clerk/NFDC |

There were two matters arising from the last minutes.

a) **Minute 91a**

A notification has been received from NFDC that there will be a site visit on 13th March in regard to the proposed Sensory Walk at Ballard.

b) **Minute 93**

Further information has been received from David Orme and that has been circulated to members of the Amenities Committee.

106. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) An email from the Chairman of the outdoor bowls club making the following request: “Part of our 100 Year Celebrations is to replace the 3 signage boards, the two by the gateway and the one by the main road.”

It was agreed that this would be acceptable on the basis that the boards are updated in the same style as other Town Council boards at various sites in the town, eg. Fernhill and Fawcetts Field.

- b) An email from New Milton Youth Trust:

“Now that the NMYT are providing youth services from the Empire Skate building, we feel that the outside décor would benefit from a refresh. The graffiti specially on the youth club is old and tired. We are therefore seeking permission to redecorate. Our idea is to find an artist to work with the young people on a project to repaint the outside.”

The Chairman mentioned that some of the graffiti in the locale is very sensitive. Cllr S Clarke advised that the plan is simply to redecorate the part that the café takes up. It was agreed that further information is required and then the matter will be brought back to the Committee.

c) An email from Barton on Sea Methodist Church:

“At our Church Council meeting it was suggested that our church hall, facing Sea Road, would be a good location for a public defibrillator. We understand that Parish and Town Councils can use income they receive through the Community Infrastructure Levy for the provision of defibrillators.”

The Chairman said in relation to previous defibrillator locations the organisations had bought the equipment and the Town Council installed them and undertook their future maintenance, this could be the way forward for this request as well.

d) An email from the Lions Club seeking permission to put up a sign detailing all of the car boots which have been booked for this year on the fence at the entrance to Fawcetts Field.

The Lions have six car boots booked and MVS have three. No other organisations had booked car boots at the present time. The Chairman felt that this sign would be unnecessary, there is already a notice at Moore Close and there is always potential for the schedule to change in any event.

107. LAND USE REQUESTS

a) A request to hold the 9 car boot sales which have been booked, 6 by the Lions and 3 by WVS. These were agreed.

It was

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

b) A request from Alan Watson, President of New Milton & Barton on Sea Fundraising Branch – RNLI to use the performance Pavilion for the signing of a scroll to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the founding of the RNLI on Wednesday 27th March at 11am.

It was

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



- c) A request from Lions Club to use the Recreation Ground on Saturday 25th May 2024 for their Family Fun Day and again on Sunday 25th August for the Town Show.

It was

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

- d) A request from New Life Church to use the Performance Pavilion at the Recreation Ground on Good Friday 29th March between 9am and 1pm

It was

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

- e) A request from Ballard School relating to their cross country event in Ballard Water Meadow, this had been postponed due to weather conditions and they were hoping it would take place after easter, once the cattle were off the meadow.

It was

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

108. SHARED PROSPERITY FUND/CIL

The Town Clerk advised that he has now received the agreement from NFDC in relation to the £15K they have granted to us from the shared prosperity fund. He will sign it and return it shortly.

Cllr J Baker stated that in the past there had been trees planted on the Ashley Parade unfortunately they had died, and had not been replaced, she wondered if there would be room in this budget for some trees there. The Chairman stated that they had not been included in the budget but her request would be noted.

109. ASHLEY PROJECT

The Estates Manager reported that the new building at Ashley Rec has taken longer than expected, but it is very much hoped it can be handed over at the beginning of April. Coupled with the work on Ashley Parade, this should help revive Ashley as a whole and bring it in line with the town centre, no longer the poor relation.

110. LIONS CLUB

The Chairman stated that in principle the Town Council want to support the Christmas Event and help to ensure it goes ahead stating that the management of the road closure involves expenditure of around £2,000 but it could be done under the auspices of the Town Council's current insurances. There was some discussion, Cllr S Clarke was surprised at the potential cost, the Estates Manager advised that people doing traffic management need to be highly trained now with a qualification known as M2. It was agreed that the Town Council would give further consideration to the matter and work with the Lions to make sure the event can take place.

111. CRICKET CLUB

The Estates Manager advised that the Cricket Club, with assistance from the Town Council, had secured funding from the ECB (England Cricket Board) and this had covered 40% of the expenditure on the new changing rooms which had been budgeted under CAPEX.

112. FERNHILL STORAGE

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1 a request from Vivian Reid on behalf of Raynet a national voluntary organisation which works closely with emergency services to provide communications in times of emergency. There was a request to store a trailer mast at Fernhill. The Town Clerk advised that storage space would soon be available at Fernhill, once the Men's Shed had finally vacated and that a simple licence could be drawn up with a peppercorn rent.

It was

RESOLVED: That a Licence be prepared for Raynet's use of the storage area at Fernhill Sports Ground previously utilised by the Men's Shed.

113. BUS SHELTERS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2 which showed 2 bus shelters due to be replaced under the rolling programme.

These replacements are budgeted under CAPEX. The Estates Manager advised that once these two shelters have been replaced there will be just one more at Marine Drive to be replaced to complete the rolling programme.

The Chairman advised that it is now necessary for the bus shelter across the road, at Hoburne which had previously been removed, to be reinstated. He proposed that this work could be carried out at the same time and could be funded from CIL monies. Following discussions and a vote

It was

RECOMMENDED:

That the bus shelter at Hoburne which had previously been removed be replaced using circa £8k funds from CIL money in the next financial year.

114. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

None

115. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 9th April 2024 at 6.30pm in the Town Hall, Ashley Road, New Milton.



There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.40pm.

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

| Minute | Action Points | Action by date | To be actioned by |
|---------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 102 | Declaration of Interest | ASAP | Alvin Reid to sign Interests book |
| 106 | Operational Matters | ASAP | Estates Manager/Comms Officer |
| 107 | Land Use Requests | ASAP | Comms Officer |
| 108 | Ashley Parade agreement | ASAP | Town Clerk |
| 109 | Ashley Project completion | April 2024 | Estates Manager |
| 110 | Lions Club Xmas Event | ASAP | Town Clerk |
| 111 | Cricket Club upgrade Changing Rooms | ASAP | Estates Manager |
| 112 | Fernhill Storage licence | ASAP | Town Clerk |
| 113 | Bus Shelter CIL fund | 11.03.24 | F&GP |

Distribution:

Town Councillors

Estates & Facilities Manager

District Councillor J L Cleary

County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter, and K Mans

New Milton Police

Press

Sue Larking – NMRA