

Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee of New Milton Town Council held on Monday 28 February 2022 at 6.30 pm at the Town Hall, Ashley Road, New Milton, BH25 6AS.

Chairman G R Blunden
Vice Chairman p D E Hawkins

Councillors: M Craze p C V Ward
D A Rice-Mundy p A D O'Sullivan
p A W Rice p R Murrow
V E Schooling

In Attendance

Councillors: S Davies, S Clarke, A Reid and K Craze

Officers: G Flexman - Town Clerk J Hayward - Communications Officer

In the absence of Cllr G Blunden, Chairman of Amenities, Cllr David Hawkins chaired the meeting and welcomed Councillors, Officers, and six members of the public to the meeting.

Public Participation

Lorraine Hayes asked about the council's intentions for purchasing the land and property at Fernhill Lane, next to the Cricket Club.

Alan Watson, representing the Lions Club of New Milton, referred to his land-use request for the Platinum Jubilee community event on 2 June, explaining that the event was initially arranged to take place on Barton clifftop. However, due to NFDC and Lions Insurance concerns about health and safety at the clifftop location, Fawcetts Field was now deemed more suitable.

113. APOLOGIES

Cllrs G Blunden, D Rice-Mundy, M Craze and V Schooling

114. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

115. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman asked the Town Clerk to respond to Lorraine Hayes and he advised that NMTC were interested in purchasing additional land, but no response had been received to our offer to date. The intention is to provide more public open space and sports facilities.

The Lions land-use request would be considered under Land Use Requests later on.

116. MINUTES

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2022, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Minutes were duly signed.

117. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

The Town Clerk confirmed all action points listed had been addressed noting the reopening of the MUGA is delayed due to supplier issues and CCTV installation.

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
105a)	Chewton Glen	ASAP	Town Clerk
106	Queen's Platinum Jubilee	28 Feb 2022	Estates Manager
107	MUGA – Basketball Courts	28 Feb 2022	Town Clerk
111	Land rear of KFC	ASAP	Estates Manager

118. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following items of correspondence:

- a) An email from HCC Cllr Steve Philpott referring to an ETE Working Group meeting on 17 March which would consider the “20 is Plenty” campaign across Hampshire.

The email would be shared with Town Councillors for future reference, as attached.

Cllr S Clarke requested that the Town Council be included in providing information to the Working Group.

- b) A letter from a 7-year-old resident of Albert Road who was concerned about the litter along the footpath from Albert Road to Station Road next to the railway station.

The Chairman suggested that NMTC carry out a litter pick and a response be sent to the 7-year-old resident.

Ward Cllrs suggested arranging a meeting to walk the path with the 7-year-old and parents/guardians, as appropriate.

119. LAND USE REQUESTS

The Town Clerk referred to the following:

a) **Fawcetts Field**

Lions Club community event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Thursday 2 June. Access required from 1-4 June with Charles Cole Funfair on site at Moore Close from 1-4 June.

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

b) **Moore Close**

Circus Ginnett request to use Moore Close from Monday 22nd of August until Sunday 4th of September 2022.

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

c) **Ashley Recreation Ground**

Ashley Rugby Club request use of Ashley Recreation Ground for their annual Family Fun Day on Saturday 11 June.

RESOLVED: Agreed subject to provision of temporary public toilets.

120. QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

The Chairman took the meeting out of session at 6.45pm and asked Jackie Lillywhite from New Forest Mencap to share information about the proposed New Forest Mencap Ceramic Art Mural project.

Jackie explained that the project was subject to funding from Hampshire & IOW Community Fund (HIOWCF) for a Platinum Jubilee themed art installation. This mural would be created by members of New Forest Mencap supported by a professional ceramic artist. The artwork would comprise handmade ceramic tiles and the overall feature would be approx. 6ft square and following a meeting with NMTC would hopefully be mounted on the Boots brick wall by the traffic lights junction, opposite the newly-opened KFC.

HIOWCF would make a decision about funding in April. NFDC Cllrs Clarke, Davies, Ward and Craze offered NFDC community grants amounts of nearly £2k in total to help start the project before April with completion by 3 June, when there would be an unveiling ceremony.

The Chairman went back into session at 6.55pm.

The Chairman referred to the Platinum Jubilee Working Party notes from 15 February 2022, and summarised some of the activities, including:

- Installation of 7 x Jubilee Commemorative Benches
- Installation of a Rose Garden Pergola featuring Platinum Jubilee crest
- Platinum Jubilee Civic Service on Sunday 29 May
- Planting trees for the Queen's Green Canopy
- Jubilee themed window display competition

Further noting that Jubilee bunting would be displayed from end of March and floral displays planted in early June.

The Town Clerk referred to an email from Alan Watson suggesting that the French Market would be available on 3 or 4 June if the Town Council wished to arrange this to take place in Station Road or on the Recreation Ground.

121. GREEN ROUTES

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1, Green Routes survey, previously circulated.

The Communications Officer explained that a short survey would be shared with the community about four selected walking routes inviting the public to share their views on these routes and walking in general in New Milton.

The survey would take place during March, available online to complete and also paper copies available from the Town Hall, Library, Memorial Centre and Community Association.

Concerns were raised about funding of some potential improvements required.

122. FESTIVE LIGHTING

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2, Festive Lighting Report 2021/22, previously circulated.

CLr A O'Sullivan confirmed that the project had broken even and operationally the working party were planning a walkabout to view various points around town this week.

The report would be referred to F&GP.

123. AIR RAID SHELTER

The Chairman referred to Planning Minute 208 a) and the recommendation that a formal licence be drafted by PHP giving us rights of access and maintenance, for a period of up to 10 years, noting Primary Health Properties (PHP) are investors in modern healthcare properties in the UK.

ENDORSED:

That a formal licence be drafted by PHP giving rights of access and maintenance, for a period no greater than 10 years.

The matter would be referred to F&GP.

124. MEADOW WAY

The Chairman referred to Planning Minute 208 b) and the recommendation that the council consider legal action for the damage caused to a tree along Meadow Way, noting the criminal damage had been reported to the police.

ENDORSED:

That the council consider legal action for the damage caused to a council tree.

The matter would be referred to F&GP.

125. LONG MEADOW

The Chairman referred to the proposed application for Village Green status for Long Meadow.

The Town Clerk commended a compromise solution offering a reduced area for Village Green status, excluding the Common Land area, Friendly Dog Club House, Scout Hut and car park per revised plan displayed at the meeting.

There followed a discussion about the history of the previous application, and what the advantages of such status would be. It was suggested that Long Meadow is already a green space and was adequately protected, as noted at F&GP on 31 January 2022 (minute 88 c).

There was no seconder for the amended proposal for Village Green status for Long Meadow “proper” as the Town Clerk referred to it.

(Post Meeting Note: The matter would be referred to our solicitor for further advice before the closing date for responses of 11 March 2022 set by the HCC Countryside Access Team, that would now have to consider the original application for the whole site).

126. NAISH ESTATE

The Chairman referred to the Town Clerk who provided an update on the proposed tree works at Naish now hoped to proceed by the end of the month with completion in April following further work to damaged trees as a result of the recent storms, Eunice and Franklin.

127. BUS SHELTERS

The Chairman referred to the Town Clerk who provided an update on the new bus shelters.

A total of five shelters were ordered following a recent Working Party meeting held on 23 February 2022 with two being Capex replacements from the 2022/23 budget.

The recent Working Party meeting agreed that no new shelters would be used for advertising and nor would advertising at the junction of Old Milton Road and Christchurch Road be allowed in future.

It was agreed that the new bus shelters installed around the Town should be advert free in order to keep them clean, tidy and clutter free. Also, the junction is due to be redesigned, is adjacent to the Conservation Area that the council is trying to declutter as far as signage is concerned.

128. ASHLEY RECREATION GROUND ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

The Town Clerk confirmed that the contractors, HAG, intended to start the play park works next week with completion by Easter.

129. STATION MASTERS HOUSE

The Chairman referred to Cllr K Craze who provided an update on the No.1 New Milton Project that had been delayed due to structural issues with the building and it was now hoped completion would be early summer.

130. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

Cllr B Murrow advised that representatives from the Canteleu Twinning Association would visit New Milton arriving 12 May and departing 16 May 2022.

131. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 12 April 2022 at 630pm at the Town Council Offices.

The Chairman thanked members of the public for attending and closed the public part of the meeting at 7.40pm, moving into Private Session with members agreement.

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.

132. LAND MATTERS

The Chairman referred to the Town Clerk for an update on the Chewton Glen Musical Events now only taking place on 5 nights in July, with some car parking proposed at Fawcetts Field.

133. ASHLEY RECREATION GROUND

There followed a discussion about Ashley Recreation Ground, the Pavilion building and new facilities being a community resource for local residents generally.

It was suggested the Town Clerk arrange a meeting with the Rugby Club.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.05 pm.

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
118 a)	HCC Working Group "20 is plenty"	17 March 2022	Town Clerk/HCC
118 b)	Response to litter strewn alleyway	ASAP	Estates Manager / Local Ward Members
119 a)	Land Use Request – Lions Jubilee Celebration at Fawcetts Field	ASAP	Comms Officer
119 b)	Land Use Request Circus Ginnett at Moore Close	ASAP	Comms Officer
119 c)	Land Use Request – Family Fun Day at Ashley Recreation Ground	ASAP	Comms Officer
123	Formal Licence for Air Raid shelter	14 March	F&GP / Asst Town Clerk
124	Legal Action for criminal damage to Council tree	14 March	F&GP / Police
133	Meeting with the Rugby Club	ASAP	Town Clerk

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