

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee of New Milton Town Council held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 6.30pm at the Town Hall, Ashley Road, New Milton, BH25 6AS.**

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

In attendance:

Councillors: Cllr A Reid

Officers: G Flexman - Town Clerk

J Bean – Committee and Civic Administrator

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, Officers, Jill Colclough of NFDC and 3 members of the public to the first meeting of this new civic year.

He took the opportunity to congratulate Cllr Alvin Reid on becoming Mayor of New Milton, Cllr Madalaine Craze on becoming Deputy Mayor, and Cllr David Hawkins on becoming Chairman of New Forest District Council.

The Chairman also reminded the Committee and the members of the public of the purpose of Public Participation, as follows:

***“Members of the public may speak on any item(s) appearing on the public agenda, or on any other matter that falls within the Committee’s terms of reference.”***

But they should only speak for 3 minutes each, and not repeat what someone else has already said.

With that in mind, and at the discretion of the Chairman, a short period of Public Participation then took place.

## **Public Participation**

### Julia Stamper

Julia Stamper referred to the minutes from the last meeting relating to Public Participation and the democratic half hour at the end of the full Town Council meetings which does not offer any opportunity to offer feedback of queries in a meaningful way. She wondered if the

Town Council had had the chance to consider making any changes to this in order to improve dialogue.

### Mandy Hayes

Mandy Hayes came with her latest update on the stationmaster's house. She advised that she did not feel that the project was dead in the water. She has made contact with several organisations who are willing to help with the project on a financial as well as a practical basis. She is planning to launch the Friends of New Milton Station at the NMRA event on 18<sup>th</sup> July. Her plan is that the Friends group will take over the care of the planters at the station as well as the display cases and she has received support from local groups including NMRA and New Milton Horticultural Society as well as the Friends of Ballard Water Meadow. She hopes to involve lots of the community with the Friends group and to turn this into a whole town project.

### Bob Lord

Bob Lord referred to Item 12 on the Agenda, Miyawacki forests, he was pleased that the Town Council is looking at taking part in the Hampshire Forest Partnership initiative to create mini forests. His view is that they are best suited to areas which have no designation attached to them and which do not have any established wildlife and botanical systems. He said that Miyawaki forests take a lot of preparation, and the possible sites should be carefully considered before taking any action.

Bob then went on to speak about item 13 - Carrick Wood. He was concerned that the area should be planted with native plants, trees and bulbs. His conclusion was that in a declared nature emergency being more biodiverse is more important than being pretty.

The meeting was then formally opened by the Chairman at 6.45pm. The Chairman asked the Town Clerk to read out the Terms of Reference of the Amenities Committee.

***“The Amenities Committee shall: -***

- a) Promote leisure activities and facilities which shall include maintenance of public recreation grounds, parks, sports fields, open spaces, allotment sites, flower/shrub beds, bus shelters and similar areas which are the responsibility of the Council.***
- b) As appropriate, monitor, liaise, advise and where necessary arrange activities or functions connected with powers relating to entertainment, the arts, welfare service, public library, and tourism. This shall include recommendations for financial assistance.***
- c) Decision to allow or refuse events on the War Memorial Recreation Ground in Whitefield Road (specifically) is delegated to the Amenities Chairman (or Deputy) and the Town Clerk (or Assistant) if there is no meeting in a reasonable timescale.***

- d) **Monitor the provision and maintenance of all outdoor recreational sports and similar amenity services in the town area and make recommendations on these aspects as appropriate, to the Council or other responsible authority.**
- e) **Be responsible for the provision of street markets and all aspects associated with it, together with Car Boot sales.**
- f) **Be responsible for the provision and/or maintenance of public seats, litter bins and footpaths which are the recognised responsibility of the Council.**
- g) **Arrange and publish its own programme of meetings.**
- h) **Whenever possible meet on a Monday evening two weeks prior to the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.”**

4. APOLOGIES

Cllr V Schooling, Cllr A O' Sullivan and Cllr K Trehorn.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest, but the Town Clerk took the opportunity to read from a communication he had received from Hampshire County Council in light of the announcement made by the Prime Minister last week:

***“With a General Election now due this summer, the County Council has considered the circumstances very carefully. Local authorities must adhere to important restrictions on publicity and decision-making activity, especially for key issues, during a pre-election period”.***

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman stated that he is mindful of the fact that we are now in the pre-election period and on that basis, he would not comment on the Public Participation and advised that the comments are noted.

7. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the previous Committee minutes of 9 April and 14 May.

**RESOLVED:**

***That the Minutes of the meetings held on 9<sup>th</sup> April and 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.***

The minutes were duly signed.

8. MATTERS ARISING

The Town Clerk confirmed all action points listed had been addressed or are on the agenda for further discussion at this meeting. In relation to Minutes 118a and 118b concerning the streamlining of events paperwork and a review of the Standing Orders, both of these matters fall under the remit of the F&GP committee and will be addressed at the next F&GP meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> June.

Minute	Action Points	Action date	To be actioned by
118a)	Rec Events paperwork	28.05.24	Assistant Clerk
118b)	Review Standing Orders	28.05.24	Assistant Clerk
121a)	Notify NMBC re LEDs	ASAP	Estates Manager
121b)	Notify NMYT re windows	ASAP	Estates Manager
124	Land Use Requests	ASAP	Comms Officer
125	CIL monies for Ashley	22.04.24	Town Clerk
126	Ashley Projects completion	ASAP	Estates Manager
127	Lions Club Xmas event	ASAP	Town Clerk
129	Fernhill Lane Storage	22.04.24	Town Clerk

9. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) An email from NFDC relating to Service Level Agreements for Tree Surveying Services. This has been signed by the Town Clerk and returned to NFDC.
- b) A letter from NFDC relating to the CIL Award for Ballard Lake Enhancements. The letter refers to a sum of £20,000, but the scheme will actually be in receipt of the total sum of £160,000 in different guises.
- c) An email from a resident of Oakwood Avenue, as follows:

***“Just to say what a great job has been done in the woods off Carrick Way, with the promise of more there too! The pathways near Brook Avenue and Ballard Water Meadows, as well as all the wildflower plantings, great work by all the people of the Town Council. As a resident I really appreciate their hard work, thank you to them all.”***

The Chairman asked the Estates Manager to pass thanks to the Estates Team.

Cllr A Reid, then took the opportunity to thank the Estates Manager and his team for all the work they had put into the Lions May Fayre event on the Recreation Ground on Saturday. **[Post Meeting Note: A&T Press Article attached referring to May Fayre]**

## 10. LAND USE REQUESTS

- a) A request from Becky Reeve to use the performance pavilion on the afternoon of Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July from 2.00pm to 4.00pm for a small, local choir called “Yaron” to perform a few numbers from a musical written by a local artist. There will be up to 20 people involved including the choir and 2 or 3 musicians, noting the proposed event is not for profit.

It was,

***RESOLVED: That Yaron Choir be permitted to use the Performance Pavilion on Saturday 13 July subject to usual terms and conditions of use.***

- b) A request from an events company (eventsbystir.com) to use Fawcetts Field for car parking for up to 400 cars on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2024 from 11am to 7pm when they will be holding their Clifftop Music Festival in Highcliffe. The event itself is expected to attract 5,000 people. The company plan to organise the stewarding, although it was deemed wise for the Town Council to have a presence. As this would be to support an event outside of the town it was appropriate to levy a charge and £400 and was suggested. The Town Clerk said, and Estates Manager confirmed it would just be the car park and car boot area that would be used, and members were in agreement that a charge should be levied.

***RESOLVED: That use of Fawcetts Field car parking be permitted for the Highcliffe Music Festival on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2024 from 11am to 7pm subject to a charge of £400 plus VAT, and our usual terms and conditions of use.***

## 11. ASHLEY PARADE PROJECT

The Chairman referred to the Estates Manager who advised that one further permission is awaited (new shop owner t/a New Forest Country Sports) but this will not be an issue. The project is due to be completed by the end of June.

## 12. ASHLEY YOUTH FACILITY

The Chairman referred to the Estates Manager, who advised that all works will be completed shortly and then the only outstanding matter would be the installation of CCTV. The Chairman advised an official opening of the Youth Facility, new play equipment and the car park would be taking place towards the end of July.

## 13. BALLARD LAKE ENHANCEMENTS

- a) The Estates Manager advised that one more permit is awaited before Phase1 can begin and that the work should be starting in mid-July, and it will be an 8-week programme.

There will be some noise and disruption to local residents and that with the Communications Officer we are hoping to put a schedule up on the website to indicate to the local community when they should expect disruption.

- b) Jill Colclough advised that she will be bringing a draft plan for Phase 2 to the next meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> July. Her hope is that this could be delivered by the Autumn. She said that at any rate the project must be completed by the end of this financial year.

#### 14. CRICKET CLUB

The Chairman set the scene in relation to the Indoor Bowling Club. Their building on the Recreation Ground is 75 years old is not insulated but is past its sell by date. The long term-plan is to get rid of it. Colin Stokes as Chairman of the Indoor Bowls Club had recently written in with a proposal for the Indoor Bowls club to relocate out of the town and suggested they could be relocated to Fernhill Sports Ground where they could share facilities with the Cricket Club.

- a) The Town Clerk then advised that he is currently in dialogue with the Cricket Club about a new lease and had pointed out to our solicitor that the vision plan for Fernhill Sports Ground was always that it should accommodate other sports. The attached plan shows the demised premises outlined in yellow and this consists solely of “the practice net area, the clubroom, kitchen, bar, bar store and part of the adjacent storage building”. The rest of the facilities are available to the cricket club on a non-exclusive or shared basis. When the lease was first granted there was talk of hockey being played there, but funding for this went to Priestlands School in Pennington, near Lymington.

As Indoor Bowls is played mainly in the winter months and cricket in the summer these sports complement each other and make for better use of facilities.

- b) Cllr D Hawkins asked if a new building would be needed for the Indoor Bowls. The Chairman confirmed it would and it makes sense to share existing changing facilities and toilets at Fernhill Sports Ground. The size of a new building would depend on the number of members which in turn determines the number of rinks needed. He invited members to join a new Working Party to give consideration to the Fernhill Sports Ground Vision Plan and work towards this end.

Cllr Bob Murrow stated that he supports the sharing of the facilities and volunteered to be on the Working Party.

#### 15. MIYAWAKI FORESTS

The Chairman introduced the topic by reference to the Town Council’s own plant a tree scheme and the policy of replacing every one tree lost or felled with two new ones. He then asked for the Estates Managers views.

The Estates Manager felt that it would be good to find one area and to focus on that. He mentioned that this should be done sooner rather than later as the funding will soon go. He asked if Jill is able to offer any advice on this.

Jill Colclough said she did not know much about it but felt that it is an interesting experiment, and she would focus on the species, they take a while to grow, and the climate is changing. The Chairman said that the trees we plant tend to be a bit older and they give a better visual impression.

Cllr Baker asked if it would be possible to go to see a Miyawaki forest that has been planted and wondered if there was one nearby (noting there is one at Eastleigh).

16. CARRICK WOOD

Jill Colclough spoke about the project at Carrick Wood as it is now known. She advised that the new name had been suggested by the contractor and makes more sense, rather than Carrick Way Woodland. The contractors are due to remobilise very shortly, with work due to be completed by the middle or the end of July.

17. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

- a) The Chairman advised that the box hedging has been removed from the area around the war memorial. The hedge was suffering from blight and looked very unsightly. The area will now fall into the seasonal planting regime.
- b) The Chairman also advised that the wildflower area seeding has been done and this year there has been the addition of some planting at the clifftop at Barton next to the pavement.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 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 7.15pm.

CHAIRMAN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

<b>Minute</b>	<b>Action Points</b>	<b>Action by date</b>	<b>To be actioned by</b>
10a)	Land Use Yaron Choir	ASAP	Town Clerk
10b)	Land Use Highcliffe Music	ASAP	Town Clerk
11	Ashley Parade progress	June	Estates Manager
12	Ashley Youth Facility	July	Estates Manager
13a)	Ballard Lake Phase 1	July – Sept	Estates Manager
13b)	Ballard Lake Phase 2	Oct-Dec	Jill Colclough
14a)	Cricket Club Lease	ASAP	Town Clerk
14b)	Set up Working Party	ASAP	Town Clerk
16)	Carrick Way Woodland	July	Jill Colclough

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