



**Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee of New Milton Town Council held on Monday 29 November 2021 at 6.30 pm at the Town Hall, Ashley Road, New Milton.**

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 A W Rice R Murrow  
 p V E Schooling

In Attendance

Councillors: S Clarke, D Samber

Officers: G Flexman - Town Clerk J Hayward - Communications Officer  
 M Jeffries – Estates Manager H Ormerod– Administrative Assistant

---

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, 4 Officers, 3 members of the public and a press representative to the meeting.

It was with great sadness that the Chairman reported that long standing colleague John Beech had passed away on 25 November. John was initially appointed in 1983 and had undertaken a variety of duties during his employment including responsibility for the security of Town Council properties. He continued to work as Caretaker until 24 November and was due to retire in two weeks' time. On behalf of Town and District Councillors and staff, the Chairman expressed condolences to John's wife Beryl, son James and the rest of his family.

Julia Stamper asked for an update on the green space masterplan at Fawcetts Field and details of who was working on the project. She also asked that consideration be given to the installation of a sculpture to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and suggested that such a feature be located at the Heritage Centre which was due to be opened in 2022.

Bob Lord referred to the Naish Estate/Western Avenue open space item on the agenda and asked whether the Council had engaged an ecological adviser on wildlife matters. He commented that the Evergreen Oaks that were to be planted were in fact non-native species and there was no indication whether stumps would be left. He reported that contractors working in Woar Copse and Ballard Water Meadow had left the site in an untidy state and some trees had been felled unnecessarily in his view with no communication or engagement with the FOBWM. He also asked that FOBWM be engaged as soon as possible in advance of future work being contracted out at Ballard Water Meadow or Woar Copse.

70. APOLOGIES

Cllrs R Murrow and D Rice-Mundy.

71. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

72. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman commented that both points raised by Julia Stamper would be discussed at items 8 and 10.



The Chairman referred to Bob Lord's comments and indicated that regarding item 11, ecological surveys would be carried out. Regarding Ballard Water Meadow, trees had been felled as part of the Council's emergency duty following storm damage and the Town Council employed an expert Tree Officer to advise on these matters. The Chairman noted Bob's comments regarding debris and undertook to follow that up.

### 73. MINUTES

**RESOLVED:**

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

The Minutes would be signed in due course.

### 74. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

In regard to Minute 60, the Town Clerk referred to an e-mail received from Louise Evans, Service Manager at NFDC, reporting that no progress had been made to date regarding green space master planning at the Moore Close site and Fawcetts Field. Louise suggested she attend a future meeting of the Amenities Committee to discuss the plan once progress on a GI Strategy for New Milton had been made. It was

***RECOMMENDED: That the Town Council employ its own landscape architect to assist with the development of a Vision Plan.***

The Town Clerk confirmed all action points listed had been addressed except Min 63.

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
<b>58 c)</b>	Saturday 27 Nov (Xmas Event)	12 Nov 2021	Town Clerk/NFDC
<b>59 a)</b>	Remembrance at Indian Obelisk	14 Nov 2021	Communications Officer
<b>59 b)</b>	New Forest Pride Event	ASAP	Communications Officer
<b>63</b>	Rugby Club Floodlights – details	29 Nov 2021	Rugby Club Chairman
<b>64</b>	Proposed Petanque shelter	ASAP	Estates & Facilities Manager
<b>65</b>	Defibrillator at Long Meadow	ASAP	Estates & Facilities Manager

### 75. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following items of correspondence:

- a) An e-mail from Goff Beck, former Town Councillor and member of the Royal British Legion asking the Committee to reconsider the re-siting of Colonel Weaver's commemorative plaque nearer the War Memorial. Members noted the request.
- b) An email from a resident of Ellingham Road (Naish Estate) requesting reassurance that the tree walk area would continue to be maintained by the Town Council in order to protect wildlife and preserve the attractive features for years to come.

76. LAND USE REQUESTS

The Town Clerk referred to the following:

**a) Recreation Ground**

A request from the Lions Club for an Easter Extravaganza on Saturday 16 April 2022.

**RESOLVED: Agreed.**

**b) Moore Close**

A request from New Milton Round Table to hold a bonfire/fireworks event on 29 October 2022.

**RESOLVED: Agreed in principle subject to any changes in legislation.**

**c) Post Meeting Note: Two requests for Youth events on the Recreation Ground will be considered at the next Amenities Committee meeting, being proposed Skateboard Competition Saturday 28 May & Youth Music/Cultural Festival Saturday 23 July 2022.**77. QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

The Chairman reported that several suggestions had been received to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 and suggested that a Working Group be established to consider these suggestions. The Working Group would consult interested parties across the town and report back to next Amenities Committee.

It was

**RESOLVED**

***That a Queen's Platinum Jubilee Working Group be established to consider suggestions and make recommendations to Amenities Committee in January.***

78. RECREATION GROUND

The Estates & Facilities Manager provided an update on MUGA repairs and proposed measures to counter anti-social behaviour.

Measures included

- upgraded CCTV adjacent to the skatepark and a new camera at the north corner of the MUGA.
- reduction in the height of the hedge line at the southern end of the lower bowls green and installation of a mesh fence.
- removal / replacement of the hedge along Whitefield Road (MUGA boundary).

The Bowling Club had been consulted and the measures were fully supported by the Police and the Safer New Forest Partnership.

Councillor Clarke asked that the tree north-east of the camera on the skatepark be monitored and 'pollarded' as appropriate to ensure the camera sight line to the ASBOC Café and beyond wasn't being obscured.

79. FAWCETTS FIELD

The Estates & Facilities Manager provided an update on improvement works and Capital Expenditure at Fawcetts Field including the installation of

- new solar roof panels; an energy efficient heating and ventilation system
- instantaneous hot water feeding showers and sinks
- LED lighting with motion detection
- full redecoration of the changing rooms and pavilion
- 22 new double glazed window units
- energy efficient LED floodlights around the Wessex pitch
- three 6000 litre above ground harvest tanks to collect rainwater for irrigation

The Chairman said this all helps towards our Environmental Sustainability Action Plan

80. NAISH ESTATE

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1 being an update on tree damage at the Naish Estate following recent storms.

The Assistant Town Clerk and NFDC Tree Officer had conducted a post storm inspection to identify trees for felling and replacement, with a proposed programme of works presented. For every tree felled, two native trees would be replanted, and these would be of a reasonable size and maturity (approx. 15 years old).

It was then

***RECOMMENDED:***

***That the programme of works for tree felling and replacement in the sum of £9,122 at the Naish Estate be approved.***

81. PUBLIC BENCHES

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2 - Bench Placement Process and commended the consultation policy setting out proposed assessment, public consultation and decision-making processes for all new benches.

It was

***RESOLVED:***

***That the Bench Placement Process Policy be approved and implemented.***

82. FEES & CHARGES 2022/23

Item deferred.

83. AMENITIES COMMITTEE BUDGET 2022/23

Item deferred.

84. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3 and presented an update on the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan and a list of project highlights was highlighted.

A supplementary working paper was also available detailing further information regards other environmental considerations such as the Council's use of plastic.

The Town Clerk was asked to provide update on proposed locations/timescales for NFDC / HCC electric vehicle charging points.

85. YELLOW BUSES

The Chairman referred to Appendix 4 prepared by the TDM.

The Vice-Chairman presented the report on proposed routes put forward by Yellow Buses including an extension to the network to include the Brockhills site and Hordle.

Councillors Rice and Clarke expressed concerns about the ability of a bus to safely negotiate the narrow lanes and sharp bends around Brockhills Lane.

It was also suggested that Yellow Buses consider the provision of a service to cover Bashley village.

The Vice-Chairman undertook to feed these comments back to the Bus Routes Working Party.

86. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

The Chairman reported that the completion of Ashley Play Park would be delayed until the middle of January 2022, due to knock on delays of the contractor.

The Council would be carrying out tree and scrub clearance on Barton Common as part of the HLS agreement, in consultation with the New Forest Land Advice Service.

87. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Monday 17 JANUARY 2022 at 630pm** at the Town Council Offices.

The Chairman thanked Cllrs, Officers, and members of the public for attending and closed the meeting at 7.30pm.

CHAIRMAN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_



<b>Minute</b>	<b>Action Points</b>	<b>Action by date</b>	<b>To be actioned by</b>
<b>72)</b>	Debris at Ballard Water Meadow	ASAP	Estates Manager
<b>75c)</b>	Appoint Landscape Architect - Vision Plan for Fawcetts Field	ASAP	Town Clerk
<b>76a)</b>	Lions Club - Easter Extravaganza 16 April 2022	ASAP	Communications Officer
<b>76b)</b>	Round Table - Fireworks Display 29 October 2022	ASAP	Communications Officer
<b>77)</b>	Queen's Platinum Jubilee Meeting of Working Party	ASAP	Town Clerk
<b>80)</b>	Programme of tree felling works	13.12.21	F&GP
<b>85)</b>	Yellow Buses proposed routes	ASAP	Vice-Chairman

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 – NMRA  
 Janet Moyles - Focus