

Minutes of meeting of the Amenities Committee of New Milton Town Council held on Monday 30 May 2022 at 6.30 pm in 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 A W Rice p R Murrow
p V E Schooling

In Attendance :

Councillors: H Wallis-Downing, D Samber, S J Clarke, R Murrow, S P Davies

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

The Chairman welcomed 2 members of public and a press representative to the meeting.

He also wished Cllr Mrs V Schooling a Happy Birthday.

Public Participation

Alan Watson, representing Lions Club, referred to the Platinum Jubilee taking place on 3 & 4 June. He suggested there are lessons to be learned from his experience.

- a) The Alcohol licence for the Recreation Ground might need to be revised due to the proliferation of craft beers, gins and rums which are available now and of which the current licence takes no account.
- b) Whether it would be possible going forward to hold large events on Fawcetts Field rather than the Recreation Ground.
- c) Street posters are very valuable in encouraging people to attend events, noting posters had recently been taken down by New Forest District Council. Inadvertently it seems, having now received an apology from the CEO of New Forest District Council.
Alan Watson took the opportunity to advise the NFDC CEO in his reply that there are only 4 working toilets at the Recreation Ground at this point in time and that this is entirely inadequate and unacceptable.

4. APOLOGIES

Cllr D A Rice-Mundy

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

6. PUBLIC PARTICPATION

The Chairman acknowledged Alan Watson's comments and stated it is necessary to review policies from time to time. He acknowledged the toilets are an ongoing issue, and that there have been difficulties obtaining parts, so something which looked to be straightforward is causing real problems.

7. MINUTES

The Town Clerk advised that there was an error at Minute 142, namely the date appearing towards the end of the paragraph which should be 3 June, rather than 2 June that was originally planned.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2022, previously circulated be signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the above amendment.

The Minutes were duly signed.

8. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

The Town Clerk confirmed all action points listed had been addressed noting that the cost and plan for the flagpole at Barton on Sea would be discussed later in the meeting under Agenda item 8. He also advised that the SLR will be deployed shortly, the Estates Manager confirming it would be deployed tomorrow.

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
139 d	Consider cost and plan for flagpole	30 May 2022	Estates Manager
140 a	Lions Community event	2 June 2022	New Milton Lions
140 b	NMRA Permanent Beacon	30 May 2022	NMRA
140 c	Confirm Yoga is a community event	ASAP	Comms Officer
140 d	Confirm Art is a community event	ASAP	Comms Officer
140 e	Old Skatepark area – car parking	ASAP	Town Clerk
140 f	Pennyfarthing team-bonding event	ASAP	Town Clerk / NMRFC
145	Allan Williams WWII Turret	ASAP	Listed Buildings WP
146	Purchase of one additional SLR	25 April 2022	F&GP
149	Arrange longer seats - bus shelters	30 May 2022	Estates Manager
150	Streetscene Enhancement to both Old Milton Road & Ashley Parade	30 May 2022	Working Party
154	Chewton Glen events Licensing	14 April 2022	Planning Committee

9. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following items of correspondence:

- a) A letter from a local resident thanking the Estates Team for the lovely spring flowers in the High Street. And other areas being prepared for wildflower planting.
- b) A letter from another resident thanking the Estates Manager for arranging a commemorative bench plaque at Barton-on-Sea for her late husband.
- c) The Town Clerk noted the rededication of the Indian Obelisk would take place on Sunday 10th July from 2.30pm to 3.15pm, with around 60 people expected.
- d) A letter from NFDC regarding Ecological Surveys. As part of the Council's continuing commitment to nature conservation, NFDC organises a programme of annual ecological surveys of various land holdings in the District.

An experienced botanical surveyor will visit three sites on behalf of Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) and surveys will take place between now and the end of September. SINC's to be surveyed locally: Land at Carrick Way, Danewood off Hollandswood Drive and Land at Brook Avenue.

10. LAND USE REQUESTS

The Town Clerk referred to the following:

a) **New Forest Bee Fayre - Recreation Ground**

A request from Councillor Fran Carpenter for the New Forest Bee Fayre to take place on Saturday 27th August 2022 on the Recreation Ground between 11.30am and 3.30pm, being a family outdoor fayre with lots of exciting stalls encouraging environmental action to help bees and other wildlife.

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

b) **Geocaching - Fawcetts Field**

A request from a local resident to place a small number of Geocaches in and around Fawcetts Field. Further information was requested.

The Town Clerk advised that there had been a previous request in 2013 which had been approved but it had not gone ahead. The Chairman suggested that more details are required in relation to the number of Geocaches, the precise locations and estimated footfall arising as a result.

There was some discussion about geocaching in general. It was agreed that further information is required before proceeding with this at Fawcetts Field.

c) Freedom Leisure - Recreation Ground

A request from Freedom Leisure to use the Recreation Ground for a family friendly fun navigation challenge called Xplorer. The Town Clerk suggested that Freedom Leisure should be invited to the next Amenities Committee Meeting to discuss the request and whether we can help relocate it, noting the Recreation Ground is not big enough as they are seeking a site of 750m x 750m. The Estates Manager advised that the Recreation Ground is around a quarter of that.

The Chairman declared an interest in the matter due to his role at NFDC.

11. INDIAN OBELISK

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1 Indian Memorial – Proposed Flagpole previously circulated.

The content of the proposal was noted. The Estates Manager confirmed the 6m flagpole would be straightforward to install and that all conditions laid down by NFDC will be met.

The Chairman moved on to discuss the costs of £775, and it was unanimously

RECOMMENDED:

That the Town Council earmarks up to £1,000 for this project from CIL monies.

12. MENCAP MURAL

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2 - Proposed Mencap Mural on Boots wall previously circulated

The Town Clerk confirmed the Managing Agent's fee of £1,250 had been paid.

Councillor Alan O' Sullivan provided an update on the costs of the Mural initially estimated at £7,000, now adjusted to £5,000. Some District Councillors have already pledged up to £2,500 and hopefully a further £2,000 can be obtained from HCC Cllrs, and perhaps grant aid.

[Post meeting note: The cost of this project has now been covered by County and District Councillors community grant contributions.]

13. LONG MEADOW INFORMATION BOARD

The Communications Officer introduced the Heritage Board proposed design and content. The Chairman advised of some changes required due to the high likelihood of flooding at Long Meadow and the involvement of the Environment Agency rather than the Town Council in such matters.

The Chairman took the opportunity to praise the content of the Heritage boards.

14. QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

The Communications Officer provided a verbal update and further information about the Jubilee Window Display competition, having received 19 entries so far.

The Communications Officer confirmed the Platinum Jubilee Civic Service held at St Mary Magdalene Parish Church on Sunday was well attended, by among others the Deputy Lieutenant of Hampshire, the local MP and newly elected NFDC Chairman.

It was noted, there will be free car parking in the NFDC town centre car parks on Saturday 3rd June (excluding Crossmead Avenue car park that remains closed). It was also confirmed that the Afternoon of Music would take place on Sunday 12 June with the Sandhurst Military Band performing.

The Chairman spoke of the many challenges in organising the main Jubilee event on Friday and Saturday. The Town Council had offered support to the Lions with a grant of £3,500 and had been working closely with them to ensure the success and safety of the event. Our ground staff have now agreed to work over the Bank Holiday weekend and with this further assistance, the Town Council has provided over £5,000 by way of a commitment and support of this Lions' event.

15. TREE WORK

The Town Clerk advised that last year's overspend of £18k under the Tree Work budget was mainly due to the unexpectedly severe storms in October and February. He further advised that F&GP would be asked to approve a virement of £14k from the unused Ash Tree dieback budget to cover that, plus a £16k virement from Youth Co-ordination Budget to Salaries & Wages to cover the cost of Youth Workers last year.

16. VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

The Estates Manager gave an overview of the 2021-22 maintenance charges costs. There was a miscoding of £5k covered by equipment (£2.5k) and Statutory Testing (£2.5k) underspends, plus unforeseen issues with some equipment costing a further £6k. Sports Clubs will have to pay for replacement equipment in future.

17. ASHLEY REC ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

The Estates Manager confirmed new playground works had been completed, with 5 trees planted, and children from Ashley Infants helped Cllrs with the planting as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Green Canopy.

The Chairman stated there would be an official opening, but the Town Council was keen to open the facilities as soon as possible, noting it was packed out all weekend.

18. STREET SCENE ENHANCEMENT

Cllr Mrs Valya Schooling provided an update following the visit by the Working Party to Ashley Parade and Old Milton Road. The Working Party were dismayed by the state of the paving at Ashley Parade. Shop owners are paying business rates, but there is no safe area for pedestrians with the road and pavement combining unevenly. NMTC will contact Councillor Mel Kendall at HCC as it comes within his area.

The Estates Manager confirmed that the Town Council could improve the area with some extra flowers, with 3 posts for hanging baskets and some additional planters. Old Milton Road has similar issues with the pavement, but not so many. Again, the Town Council can make some improvements via planters and flowers.

The Chairman said that these provisions are small and moving forwards there may be bigger needs to be costed properly in the next year's budget.

19. FAWCETTS FIELD

The Town Clerk confirmed that the proposed music events at Chewton Glen are going ahead with the help of carparking at Fawcetts Field. Organisers will pay a £10k deposit and there is a projected income of £30k for 5 events.

Councillor Samber asked about arrangements in relation to litter, and the Town Clerk confirmed that the music event organisers would be responsible for all marshalling between Fawcetts Field and Chewton Glen, and that they are under a duty to ensure that the land is left as it was found. We will monitor the situation accordingly.

20. LAND ADJACENT TO KFC

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3 – land adjacent to KFC, previously circulated.

The Estates Manager explained that this had been a problem for a while. Contact had been established with the landowners and they had agreed to give permission for the Council to make improvements, to take it over and to plant it up with flowers. Some preparatory work had already been undertaken. It does not belong to KFC.

Councillor Alan Rice expressed disappointment that the owners of KFC were not getting involved, given the size and prestige of their organisation. Although he commended the Town Council for taking it on.

Councillor Steve Clarke explained that KFC is a franchise operation and therefore they do not own the building, or the land, and in any event the car park and the land concerned are owned by other parties.

Councillor Steve Davies expressed the view that in his dealings with KFC he had found them to be supportive and helpful and that they have proved to be an asset to the town, bringing in extra footfall.

21. OUTDOOR BOWLS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 4, proposed new lease for Outdoor Bowls Club.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the lease had been prepared by Anthony Harris and that the Bowling Club will now maintain their own greens. They are also taking over the garage, together with contents and replacing them as and when required, as part of sports clubs taking over their own maintenance, as with the Cricket Club.

RECOMMENDED: That lease be endorsed by F&GP for Town Council approval.

22. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

The Chairman confirmed that he had heard from Adrian Duckett of the Mens' Shed with confirmation they had secured £70,000 of funding so their project can go ahead. The first stage is to draw up a lease with a peppercorn rent for the land, and as Town Council we will do all we can to support them.

Councillor Bob Murrow reported that the Dementia Allotment are in the running for New Milton in Bloom with judging taking place from 14/6/22 to 15/7/22.

Councillor Murrow also reported that he had heard from Catherine from Canteleu, who had called to say that this had been the "best visit ever" and to give thanks to the Town Council for their support.

Councillor Madalaine Craze raised an issue, having been contacted by a lady from Raise the Roots in Whitefield Road, who had noticed a massive increase in rubbish close to the new bus shelter. The Chairman stated that litter bins are the province of NFDC and asked the Estates Manager to refer this to them.

23. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.27 pm.

CHAIRMAN _____

DATE _____

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
6	Public Toilets - Recreation Ground	3 June 2022	NFDC
10a)	NF Bee Fayre – Recreation Ground	27 August 2022	Cllr Fran Carpenter
10b)	Geocaching - Fawcetts Field	12 July 2022	Town Clerk
10c)	Freedom Leisure – use of POS	12 July 2022	Town Clerk
11	Indian Obelisk BOS – Flagpole	10 July 2022	F&GP /Estates Manager
12	MENCAP Mural - Boots Wall	13 June 2022	F&GP /Estates Manager
13	Heritage Board – Long Meadow	12 July 2022	Communications Officer
15	Budget Virements – 2021-22	13 June 2022	F&GP / 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