



**Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee of New Milton Town Council held on Tuesday 30 May 2023 at 6.30pm at the Town Hall, Ashley Road, New Milton, BH25 6AS.**

Chairman: p G R Blunden

Vice-Chairman: p M Craze

Councillors: p C Baker B Murrow  
p J Baker p A O' Sullivan  
p D Rice-Mundy p V Schooling  
p D Hawkins

Officers: G Flexman - Town Clerk  
J Hayward – Comms Officer

M Jeffries – Estates & Facilities Manager

The Chairman welcomed Committee members, including new members Cllrs C Baker and J Baker, as well as new Vice-Chair Cllr M Craze.

The Chairman was also pleased to welcome NMTC officers, 5 members of the public and 1 press representative.

### **Period of Public Participation**

**Julia Stamper**, representing the Community Garden project, provided a brief update on previous activity and the ongoing programme. The intention now is to focus on the main framework of the garden, including installation of a gazebo, pergola, twelve raised beds, and arranging an open day featuring a celebrity gardener.

Julia requested help in bringing forward the construction of a footpath across the field to allow easier access for project participants.

**Bob Lord** spoke on the following items:

- a) He circulated a leaflet on Swifts and in particular noting that the New Milton Swifts needed more homes.
- b) He also referred to the draft Management Plan for Barton Common, an item already on the agenda, and suggested this document be the long-term vision for the SINC site as well as a work plan for volunteers.
- c) He suggested that conservation grazing at Ballard Water Meadow continue to be undertaken by appropriate cattle who were not fussy eaters.
- d) The proposal on Local Nature Reserves would enable the Ballard and Barton SINC sites to have an extra level of statutory protection as Nature Reserves.

#### 4. APOLOGIES

Cllr B Murrow

#### 5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Blunden and A O'Sullivan as NFDC Councillors representing New Milton wards.  
Cllr Hawkins as Vice-Chair at NFDC and NFDC Cllr for Milford and Hordle.

## 6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman thanked Julia Stamper for the update on the Community Garden Project and responded to the request for a path which would be considered further.

The Chairman thanked Bob Lord for the information on the Swifts and advised that the Draft Management Plan, Conservation Grazing and LNR Proposal were already agenda items and would be discussed later in the meeting.

## 7. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the previous Committee minutes dated 28 February and 15 May 2023.

It was,

### **RESOLVED**

***That the Minutes of the meetings held on 28 February and 15 May 2023, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.***

## 8. MATTERS ARISING

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

Noting that the Friends of the Indian Memorial were going to set up a working party, to include Friends and NMTC representatives, to consider various options for the Obelisk environment.

Also referring to the current CANGO bus service which would carry on beyond June to September and that various options were being considered to continue with the scheduled service.

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
116	Indian Obelisk Mural review	30 May 2023	Friends Group
119	CANGO meeting at Sway	6 March 2023	Town Clerk
120 a)	Bee Fayre on the Rec	26 August 2023	Cllr Fran Carpenter
120 b)	Lions Club – Town Show on Rec	20 August 2023	Alan Watson
121	King's Coronation event on Rec	6 May 2023	Estates Manager
122	Vision Plan – Fawcetts Field	On-going	All
123	Community Garden initial works	13 March 2023	Estates Manager
124	Streetscene Improvements Ashley	On-going	Town Clerk / HCC
125	Recreation Ground Licencing rules	1 April 2023	Assistant Town Clerk
126	Higher Level Stewardship scheme	16 Feb 2023	Town Clerk
127	Festive Lights Report - contract	On-going	Assistant Town Clerk



## 9. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Town Clerk referred to Standing Orders, Version 16 dated April 2022, reminding the Committee of the Terms of Reference as follows:

*Amenities Committee - This 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 services, 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).*

*(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.*

*(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.*

## 10. WORKING PARTIES

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1, List of Working Parties, asking members to register their interest with the Town Clerk if they wished to participate and contribute to any of the groups listed.

## 11. PROJECT GROUPS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2, List of live and ongoing projects, and invited members to register their interest with the Town Clerk if they wished to participate and contribute to any of the projects listed.

## 12. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to an email from Cllr John Adams who expressed an interest in the Cango bus service and in particular the provision of a bus service for Bashley residents.

The Town Clerk provided an update about the unauthorised access by travellers of Ashley Recreation Ground on Bank Holiday Monday 29 May. Section 61 was available for the police to invoke however they need more complaints of anti-social behaviour to be reported, on top of the unauthorised access of more than six vehicles. The Town Clerk and the Estates Manager had visited the encampment and confirmed to the travellers that they should leave, and that we will be seeking an order for possession of the land they are illegally occupying.

The actions being taken to remove the travellers from Ashley was a multi-agency approach and NFDC would carry out a welfare assessment, and take appropriate action.

The Estates Manager would install a height barrier as soon as possible at Ashley and install gabions around the car park to provide extra protection to the site.

13. LAND USE REQUESTS

**a) New Forest National Park Toddle Group – Thursday 26 October 2023**

A request from New Forest Ranger Claire Sherwood who would like to use the Fawcetts Field trim trail for a families and young children walking group on Thursday 26 October 2023 from 10am – 1pm.

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

**b) New Milton Bowling Club – various dates during July and August**

A request from the Bowling Club to use the old skatepark hardstanding area as a car park for their members to use during the period of roofing works being undertaken at the Memorial Centre during July and August which will make parking difficult in this area.

Members declined the above request expressing their concerns for health and safety of visitors accessing the Recreation Ground and the associated risks of an unmarshalled temporary car park.

14. VISION PLAN

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3, Vision Plan for Fawcetts Field/Moore Close facilities, and provided an update.

Cllr O’Sullivan asked if a timeline for the Vision Plan was available, and the Chairman advised it would be once the planning process and purchase of the Gore Road site was completed by the developers and CIL monies became available which was some time in the future.

15. COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Chairman referred to Appendix 4, press article regarding the Community Garden project, and was pleased that the group had started digging the outline boundary at Moore Close and looked forward to the open day event.

16. MEN’S SHED

The Chairman referred to Appendix 5, press article regarding the Men’s Shed topping out at the new “shed” structure at Fawcetts Field and looked forward to their official opening event, sometime in September.

17. BARTON COMMON

The Chairman referred to Appendix 6, draft Management Plan for Barton Common, and thanked the Volunteer Ranger, Bob Lord, for his efforts in creating the comprehensive document.

Cllrs Schooling and Hawkins voiced their concerns about the Management Plan mentioning removal of some trees.

The Chairman went out of session at 7.20pm and asked Bob Lord to clarify. Bob referred to Barton Common being a very special and notably rare area of lowland heath-grassland which is a very diverse habitat requiring long term management to maintain it as such.

Going back into session at 7.21pm the Chairman confirmed that Barton Common is subject to HLS conditions which requires it being managed as a heathland habitat.

The Chairman asked members to vote for the adoption of the Management Plan, with Cllr Hawkins voting against, Cllr Schooling abstaining with the remainder of the committee voting for the Management Plan.

**RESOLVED:**

***That the Town Council adopt the Barton Common 10-year Wildlife Habitat Management Plan 2022-2032.***

18. BALLARD WATER MEADOW GRAZING

The Chairman confirmed that conservation grazing was still required at Ballard Water Meadow and other graziers and livestock were being reviewed.

19. LOCAL NATURE RESERVES

The Town Clerk circulated a document entitled Proposal to Designate Ballard Water Meadow & Woodland and Barton Common as Local Nature Reserves.

Referring to the SINC status of the Ballard and Barton sites, already well protected, there were additional safeguards available if the sites were further designated as Nature Reserves.

The Chairman suggested that Ballard Lake and its environs should also be included in the proposal for Ballard Meadow.

Members confirmed they wanted to read the proposal and then discuss at the next meeting.

20. CARRICK WAY WOODLAND

The Town Clerk referred to the works required at Carrick Way woodland and in particular the 11 trees damaged by a tornado in October. These trees have been further inspected and a full report of works identified which need to be undertaken, subject to the work plan for the proposed NFDC mitigation project at Carrick Way.

The Chairman asked the NFDC Landscape Architect, Jill Colclough, to provide an update on the Carrick Way project, which now appears to be a more complicated project because of the watercourse running through it.

Members supported the works to the damaged trees sooner rather than later as the Carrick Way Woodland project is yet to be agreed.

Cllr Hawkins asked that we communicate our tree works plans to the local residents at Wentwood Gardens and it was agreed to keep costs to a minimum.

21. ASHLEY RECREATION GROUND

The Estates & Facilities Manager provided an update on the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the Ashley Recreation Ground project which will start in the next couple of weeks with a 9-week programme of works including the construction of the Youth Building, gabion walls around the car park, to be completed by end of August. Landscaping and the final surfacing of the car park to be completed in the Autumn.

22. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

- a) The Chairman informed members that replacement signage would be placed at the entrances welcoming visitors to the sports sites at Fernhill Sports Ground, Fawcetts Field and Ashley Recreation Ground.
- b) The Communications Officer provided a brief update on the activity of the Dementia Community Allotment at the Becton Lane Allotment site and encouraged members to visit the site which is open on Tuesdays from 10 am – 1pm during the summer months.
- c) A reminder about the Afternoon of Music event on Saturday 2 June from 2-4pm on the Recreation Ground featuring a popular tribute band Total Madness.
- d) A reminder about the Afternoon of Music on 4 July, featuring the Strange Blues Band, which will also see the official opening, by the New Milton Mayor, of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Rose Walk and Pergola on the Recreation Ground in the centre of town.
- e) Cllr M Craze confirmed that there will be an Act of Remembrance at the Indian Soldiers Memorial on Monday 10 July starting at 1pm.

23. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Tuesday 11 July 2023** 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 7.45pm.

CHAIRMAN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
10	Working Party Membership	11.07.23	All Councillors
11	Project Group Membership	11.07.23	All Councillors
13 a)	NFNPA Toddle Group 26/10/23	Asap	Comms Officer
13 b)	Decline Bowling Club Car Parking request	Already notified	Town Clerk
17	Barton Common Draft Management Plan	26.06.23	Town Council
19	Proposal for Local Nature Reserves	11.07.23	Amenities Committee Members
20	Carrick Way Woodland Management	Asap	NMTC / NFDC

Distribution:

Town Councillors

Estates & Facilities Manager

District Councillor J L Cleary

County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter, and K Mans

New Milton Police

Press

Alan Watson – NewMilton.net

Sue Larking - NMRA