

Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee of New Milton Town Council held on Tuesday 6th September 2022 at 6.30 pm at 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
p D A Rice-Mundy p A D O’Sullivan
p A W Rice p R Murrow
p V E Schooling

In Attendance :

Councillors: Steve Clarke

Officers: G Flexman - Town Clerk C Rabbito - Town Development Manager
M Jeffries – Estates Manager J Bean – Committee Administrator

The Chairman welcomed 2 members of public to the meeting. He also welcomed and introduced Chiara Rabbito the newly appointed Town Development Manager.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

42. APOLOGIES

None

43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

44. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

45. MINUTES

There were no amendments to the Amenities Committee minutes and so it was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meetings held on 12th July 2022, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Minutes were duly signed.

46. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

The Town Clerk confirmed all action points listed had been addressed and that some appeared on this evening's agenda.

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
29a)	Arrange meeting with Tim Lawton	ASAP	Town Clerk
29b)	CANGO meeting with Sway/Hordle	18 July 2022	Town Clerk
30	Land Use Requests	ASAP	Admin Assistant
31	Ashley Rec improvements	ASAP	Estates Manager
32	Streetscene flower planters	ASAP	Estates Manager
34	Air Raid Shelter Costs	25 July 2022	F&GP
35	Community Garden CIL	25 th July 2022	F&GP
36	Plant three Sycamore Trees	As appropriate	Estates Manager
39	Additional CCTV on Rec	25 July 2022	F&GP

47. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) A letter from the RNLI advising that they had recently lost some storage space which had been lent to them by two aged volunteers who had recently died. They were asking if the Town Council would allow them to erect a shed on the Becton Lane Allotments site close to the dementia garden. There was a discussion, and it was agreed that the Town Clerk would consider whether we have any space to offer them.
- b) An email from a local resident in relation to the Ballard Water Meadow and their scheme to encourage dog owners to pick up their dog poo and a lady providing them with free poo bags. The resident was concerned that the Town Council would be asked to foot the bill for the free poo bags, and he was seeking reassurance that this would not happen.

There was some discussion about it. Cllr S Clarke stated that he thought that this had been a very good project and was to be commended, that the volume of dog poo on Ballard Water Meadow had reduced considerably from around 200 deposits at one stage to just a handful. He went on to advise that he had been approached by the lady concerned in his role as an NFDC councillor and that he was planning to give her a small grant to cover the cost of the bags from his NFDC allowance.



Cllr V Schooling asked how much this would be and he advised it would be around £50 - £60.

- c) A letter from a local resident praising the plants and displays around the town, stating that “New Milton ground staff have excelled themselves” and that “they blow all the other displays in the area out of the water”.

The Chairman asked that the letter be forwarded to all the grounds staff.

48. LAND USE REQUESTS

The Town Clerk advised there were none.

49. STREETSCENE ENHANCEMENT

The Estates Manager took the Committee through his report which had previously been circulated at Appendix 1.

The Chairman referred to the potential costs of the works being up £50K, depending on whether improvement works to the pavement as well as adding some floral enhancements is undertaken. In the current economic climate, it is likely that there would be significant price rises whatever is decided. He advised that the report had been forwarded to Cllr Mel Kendall seeking HCC support for the proposed improvements and financial assistance, a reply is awaited.

Cllr S Clarke expressed his anger that HCC had refused to repair the footways in Station Road, after the initial report of the defects to them. He advised that he had been visited by a 77-year-old lady whose 87-year-old husband had tripped and fallen in Station Road, had fractured his pelvis in two places and remained in hospital at this time. He expressed concern that there would be more serious accidents and injuries to the town’s older residents.

The Chairman stated that the Town Council could not take this on, that the Town Clerk and the Estates Manager had reported all defects to HCC and HCC had advised that the defects did not meet their criteria for immediate action.

Cllr V Schooling expressed her thanks to the Estates Manager for the detailed report and her dismay that HCC were not prepared to act on the reported issues

RESOLVED: The Estates Manager’s report would be brought back to the next meeting for further consideration.

50. NEW FOOTBRIDGE

The Town Clerk referred to the recent meeting with HCC officers previously circulated as Appendix 2. The project had no funding at the present time, would not start before May 2023 and the costs have risen by 40% since inception 12 years ago. The work would take 6 months once started.

Cllr C Ward referred to the overgrown areas behind the chain link fence and asked the Estates Manager why we don't just weed them.

The Estates Manager advised that some parts are inaccessible without closing the line down. He had been in touch with HCC about this and they had come back advising that the area was being "re-wilded".

Cllr V Schooling expressed her general frustration with the delays and her annoyance that land left to be overtaken by weeds is now described as "re-wilding". She proposed contact with the Transport Portfolio Holder at HCC advising of the length of the delay and seeking information about other bridge projects, hoping this might encourage some action.

RESOLVED: That Town Clerk update HCC Cllr Nick Adams-King regarding this.

51. WAR MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND

The Chairman suggested that a small Working Party be set up to consider the lessons learned from the two large external events – the Jubilee event and New Forest Pride which had taken place this year on the Recreation Ground, and report back. The Working Party would review the licencing arrangements for future events.

RESOLVED: A Small Working Party be set up to consider future events on the War Memorial Recreation Ground.

52. SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP

The Town Clerk referred to Appendix 3, previously circulated, which sets out the role of the Safety Advisory Group.

Cllr S Clarke was concerned that the Town Council was not invited to meetings with SAG in relation to the Jubilee event and felt the Town Council should have been there.

The Chairman advised that so far as New Forest Pride was concerned, Town Council representatives had attended. And that representation from the Town Council should be there for future events, the Town Clerk has suggested to SAG that landowners should be automatically included.

53. CANGO REPORT

The Town Clerk referred to Appendix 4, being the response to HCC Consultation from the Chairman of the Cango Users' Forum which had been previously circulated. Town Clerk completed the online consultation relating to proposed changes to the Bus/Transport services on behalf of the Town Council and referred to this hand written document as it was well written and made excellent points. The Town Clerk reiterated

our involvement as “Paymasters” of the CANGO Booking Service that was originally supported by Ken Thornber RIP, former leader of HCC.

Cllr D Hawkins stated that following the demise of Yellow buses in the town supporting Cango had become even more important.

Cllr A Rice was concerned that there was no information about the timetable but spoke in support of the service in particular for wheelchair users, for people attending hospital appointments and for shopping.

Cllr S Clarke was concerned that the service should raise its profile, buses were not generally running full, but that it is the only bus service which reaches parts of the parish.

Cllr C Ward wondered if the hospital could promote the service.

The Chairman concluded by expressing concern that the service is insufficiently promoted, but that it represents a great service for residents who do not have access to other transport or funds for taxis and so on.

54. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

- a) The Chairman advised that the Town Council HLS schemes would shortly be coming to an end. He did not know what the future arrangements would be but expressed the hope that there would be a seamless transition from EU to UK funding.
- b) The Chairman advised that the cattle have returned to Ballard Water Meadow and that the ponies continue to graze Barton Common.
- c) The Chairman advised that the resurfacing at the War Memorial Recreation Ground is due to start in mid to late September with the long-awaited rose garden being planted in October, with donated benches nearby.
- d) The Chairman advised that the Town Council had been notified that the borehole could be used again at Fawcetts Field, following recent low flows.
- e) The Chairman mentioned that following a very dry summer a huge amount of water had been used, namely around 1500m³ for the sports field and for watering floral displays. It would be sensible going forwards to look at planting more drought resistant plants around the town.

Cllr S Clarke asked if the trough at Ballard Water Meadow could be emptied when the cattle are not there as it was not needed.

- f) Cllr R Murrow asked about Minute 39 relating to CCTV and whether this was under consideration for implementation in areas besides the War Memorial Recreation Ground. The Chairman confirmed that NFDC will be considering other locations is.

55. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 17th October 2022 at 18.30 hours at the Town Council Offices, New Milton.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.20pm.

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
47a)	RNLI storage enquiry	ASAP	Town Clerk/Estates Manager
47b)	Town Clerk to respond	ASAP	Town Clerk
47c)	Congratulatory letter	ASAP	Estates Manager
49	Streetscene Enhancement	17 Oct 2022	Amenities Committee
50	New Footbridge update	17 Oct 2022	Town Clerk
51	Small Working Party	17 Oct 2022	Asst Town Clerk

Distribution:

Town Councillors
 Estates & Facilities Manager
 District Councillors J L Cleary
 County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter and K Mans
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