

**Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee of New Milton Town Council held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 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	p	A O' Sullivan
		D Rice-Mundy		V Schooling
	p	K Trehorn		

In attendance:

Councillors:

Officers: G Flexman - Town Clerk  
T Elliott – Assistant Town Clerk  
J Bean – Committee and Civic Administrator

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

**Public Participation**

Alan Watson

Alan Watson spoke in his capacity as vice president of the Lions Club. He asked if the Town Council could give consideration to streamlining the process for applying for events on Town Council land. He felt that a lot of the information in the SAG form which is 37 pages long and the Town Council's own form which is 5 pages long amounts to duplication and is an arduous process.

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. She pointed out that as the democratic half hour falls at the end of the meeting, any comments to be made by members of the public in relation to matters which had previously been raised at Standing Committees and falling to be ratified at the Town Council meeting would have no effect as decisions would already have been made. She asked if this could be looked at again with a view to increased dialogue between the Town Council and members of the public.

She also mentioned the question of trees on Station Road and asked if this could be revisited. She was aware of the issues relating to CCTV but felt that this could be looked at again.

Mandy Hayes

Mandy came to report on her progress with the Station Master's house. She had set up a Steering Group with Nick Saunders, Nick John, Cllrs K Craze and A O' Sullivan and was keen to recruit the Estates Manager also and asked if he would be able to join them. They had met with Natasha at the station and made contact with the groups at Sway and Brockenhurst stations. She is waiting for details relating to the costs of the Station Master's House. She and Nick John had visited the house and have been advised that during the survey of the damp wall over the past two years it has not moved any further. She is hoping to take the matter forward with the forging of connections with other groups, by carrying out a mini consultation at the NMRA meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> July and has in mind that next year marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the railways which could prove to be a good reason for celebration.

Bob Lord

Bob Lord spoke about volunteering, as chairman of the Friends of Ballard Water Meadow he had noted that from 1/4/2023 – 31/3/2024 – 1,300man hours had been spent working on the ground by volunteers, and an additional 55 hours by school students. As the Ranger on Barton Common he advised in the same period, 357man hours had been spent by volunteers and a further 49 hours by school students. Neither of these totals included hours spent on administration. He felt that as the Town Council has officers dedicated to Youth Services and to Communications that it would be useful if there could also be a Volunteer Organiser Officer who could co-ordinate efforts across the town, provide support and perhaps an annual report.

The meeting was formally opened at 6.45pm.

116. APOLOGIES

Cllr V Schooling and Cllr D Rice Mundy

117. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

118. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman noted the public participants in order.

- a) The Chairman noted Alan Watson's comments on the paperwork. He could not provide a definitive answer, but the Town Council would look at the paperwork and see if it could be streamlined.
- b) In response to Julia Stamper, the Chairman said public participation is governed by our Standing Orders and these are reviewed on an annual basis in accordance with NALC guidelines. The Town Clerk confirmed that minutes are records of decisions and are not verbatim records of what is said at meetings. The Chairman stated that as elected representatives the Councillors are dutybound to consider matters on behalf of all their residents, not simply those that come to meetings.

Strictly speaking there is a 3-minute limit for public speeches and that so long as this is not taken advantage of there is flexibility allowed by all Chairman. So far as the trees are concerned, the Town Council has a robust planting policy and if any come down then two are planted to replace them. So far as Station Road is concerned this is subject to Hampshire Highways policies.

- c) The Chairman thanked Mandy Hayes for her report and for all of the efforts she has been making. He wished her well in the hope that some progress could be made towards the Station Master’s House being used for the good of the town.
- d) In response to Bob Lord, the Chairman took the opportunity to thank all the volunteers and volunteer groups who contribute so much to the town, he acknowledged that there are very many groups and that they contribute in myriad ways. From a Town Council perspective, he felt that the volunteers need to be in charge of their own destiny and while we can list them all on the website and signpost them to each other, it is not within our remit to organise or co-ordinate their activities. He took the opportunity to remind everyone that the only statutory duty the Town Council has is to provide allotments, everything else is an add on.

119. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the previous Committee minutes of 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

**RESOLVED:**

***That the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2024, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.***

The minutes were duly signed.

120. 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 Minute 108 the funding for Ashley Parade, this is on the agenda and will be discussed later in the meeting.

<b>Minute</b>	<b>Action Points</b>	<b>Action by date</b>	<b>To be actioned by</b>
102	Declaration of Interest	ASAP	Alvin Reid to sign Interests book
106	Operational Matters	ASAP	Estates Manager/Comms Officer
107	Land Use Requests	ASAP	Comms Officer

108	Ashley Parade agreement	ASAP	Town Clerk
109	Ashley Project completion	April 2024	Estates Manager
110	Lions Club Xmas Event	ASAP	Town Clerk
111	Cricket Club upgrade Changing Rooms	ASAP	Estates Manager
112	Fernhill Storage licence	ASAP	Town Clerk
113	Bus Shelter CIL fund	11.03.24	F&GP

## 121. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) An email from Kevin Holland the Secretary of New Milton Bowling Club. He advised on the progress of the preparations for their centenary celebration.
- “We had a meeting with Mark on Monday, and discussed all the progress being made by both the Council team and the Club Team on getting the Club House and grounds ready for our celebrations and it is going fantastically well. The whole of the clubhouse has been painted outside and inside by ys, and all the lighting throughout and replaced with LED lights. We now just need to replace those in the main assembly room, as they consist of a variety of types and colours. Clearly the LED are much more beneficial, and we wondered if the Council would be happy to provide the costs of the LED lights.”

The Chairman reminded the Committee that the terms of the bowling club lease is that they are responsible for the building including the lights and this is reflected in the leasing costs.

- b) An email from the New Milton Youth Trust seeking assistance with improvements to the Empire Skate Building. The Town Clerk stated that this building and indeed the Indoor Bowling Club are now both at the end of their lives. Any improvements, in particular windows, are likely to be expensive and of limited duration given the fact that the building is out of life and improvements would need to comply with up to date legislation.

## 122. XMAS LIGHTS 2023-24

The Chairman brought forward items 13 and 14. The Assistant Town Clerk referred to Appendix 2 the report on the Christmas Lighting Display which had previously been circulated. She stated that this was the final year of the contract with SparkX. The lights had been a big success but there had been some deliberate vandalism to some of the lights. This was the first year with trunk wrapped trees at the Fire Station and at Old Milton Green. She thanked the local organisations and traders for their continued support.

The Chairman stated that the feedback on the Christmas lights this year has been excellent from residents, visitors and holidaymakers. None of this can be done without the generous support and sponsorship of local businesses. There is now an aspiration to extend the display along mature trees to the South of the War Memorial Recreation Ground. And it is hoped that the parade at Ashley could also be involved.

Cllr A O' Sullivan said that he thought the display had really come on over the years and thanked the Assistant Town Clerk for all her hard work on it.

123. XMAS LIGHTS CONTRACT

The Assistant Town Clerk then referred to Appendix 3 the tender for the Christmas Lights Contract from 2024 – 26 previously circulated. The contract will go out to the main players and specialist contractors, but also to the local electrical contractors in the hope of supporting a local business. However, because of the need to open lamp columns, specialist HERS training is needed. Members noted the report.

124. LAND USE REQUESTS

- a) A request from Wipeout World to use Moore Close for two weekends, namely 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May for their inflatable event which proved to be a big success last year.

It was,

**RESOLVED: That this be agreed, subject to our usual terms and conditions of use.**

- b) A request from New Milton Rugby Club to use the new youth building at Ashley on their annual family fun day to create an experience for young people, possibly with Crazy Creatures bringing along some small animals. Permission to hold the family fun day at Ashley has already been given.

It was,

**RESOLVED: That this be agreed, subject to our usual terms and conditions of use.**



125. ASHLEY PARADE PROJECT

The Chairman referred to the Estates Manager's report previously circulated. At the previous meeting it was noted that £15K was coming from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund via NFDC but this is to be match funded from our CIL monies. The Estates Manager has managed to incorporate three flowering cherry trees into the scheme. Work is due to commence on this project in early May.

Following discussion and a vote

It was,

**RECOMMENDED:**

***That £15k from CIL monies be allocated to match fund the monies from the Shared Prosperity Fund for the Ashley Parade Project.***

126. ASHLEY YOUTH FACILITY

The Estates Manager advised that the works are now nearing completion. Currently the Fire Management plan is being completed. Once the building is finished and the car park has been resurfaced there will be an official launch and it is hoped that this will coincide with completion of works along Ashley Parade.

127. LIONS CLUB

The Chairman referred to discussion at the previous meeting recorded at Minute 110 where the cost of supporting road closures was estimated to be £2k and which culminated with

“It was agreed that the Town Council would give further consideration to the matter and work with the Lions to make sure the event can take place at the end of November.”

After some discussion it was agreed that the Estates Manager and his team would continue to work with the Lions Club and that the costs would be met from the annual Events Budget that was increased this coming year.

128. CRICKET CLUB

The Town Clerk advised that negotiation continues in relation to the new 25-year lease at the Cricket Club which would be backdated to 1/4/2024 once it is agreed. He had recently visited and seen the improvements made to the changing rooms, and the lease is now in the hands of respective solicitors. The cricket club will be taking ownership and on-going maintenance of equipment currently owned and maintained by the Council.

129 FERNHILL STORAGE

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1. The Town Clerk was pleased to advise that the licence for Raynet to use the storage area at Fernhill Sports Ground is now being drawn up as the Men's Shed had finally vacated their premises behind the cricket pavilion. Storage of the radio mast may be beneficial to Emergency Planning being overseen by NFDC.

130. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

- a) The Chairman reported that with the Town Clerk and Estates Manager, he had attended a meeting with the Trustees of the Community Garden that had proved useful and clarified matters. The new housing development in Moore Close, utility service connections, fencing and adverse weather conditions have all severely affected the construction of the community garden at Fawcett's Field. Safe access to the site to enable volunteers to help in the garden construction has also been extremely difficult due to waterlogged ground conditions. It is therefore proposed to construct the access path from the car park/car boot area to the community garden as part of the overall Fawcetts Field vision plan rather than a temporary path. This will be subject to approval of Community Infrastructure Levy funding. The housing development construction, fencing and new access footpath is programmed to be completed by the autumn to enable the final work on the community garden to be finished. It is hoped that the orchard tree planting will be carried out shortly, but ground conditions are a challenge. A letter confirming the above is attached by way of a joint statement.
- b) The Chairman reported that unfortunately there had been further vandalism on the recreation ground to fencing around the play area and the outdoor bowling club and the lock on the tennis courts had been smashed. The Estates Manager confirmed that he would be looking to see if there's any CCTV footage which would help identify the culprits. The damage has been reported to the police via 101. The estimated cost to repair these items is £1000.

115. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May 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 7.40pm.

CHAIRMAN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS**

<b>Minute</b>	<b>Action Points</b>	<b>Action by date</b>	<b>To be actioned by</b>
118a)	Look into streamlining events paperwork	28.05.24	Assistant Town Clerk
118b)	Review Standing Orders	28.05.24	Assistant Town 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

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



# New Milton Town Council

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9 April, 2024

Julia Stamper  
Chair of Trustees  
New Milton Community Garden

Dear Julia

Further to our meeting yesterday with you and your fellow Trustees, together with Cllr Geoff Blunden, Chairman of our Amenities Committee and Mark Jeffries, our Estates & Facilities Manager, we confirm the following regarding the Community Garden project at Fawcetts Field, adjacent to Moore Close.

The new housing development in Moore Close, utility service connections, fencing and adverse weather conditions have severely affected the construction of the community garden at Fawcett's Field.

Safe access to the site to enable volunteers to help in the garden construction has also been extremely difficult due to waterlogged ground conditions.

It is therefore proposed to construct the access path from the car park/ car boot area to the community garden as part of the overall Fawcetts Field vision plan rather than a temporary path.

This will be subject to approval of Community Infrastructure Levy funding.

The housing development construction, fencing and new access footpath is programmed to be completed by the autumn to enable the final work on the community garden to be finished.

It is hoped that the orchard tree planting will be carried out shortly, but ground conditions are a challenge.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Graham Flexman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Graham Flexman  
Town Clerk