

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 13 MAY 2025 AT 6.30PM IN NEW MILTON TOWN HALL**

Councillors:	J Adams	p	P Moores
	p J Baker	p	R Murrow
	p G Blunden	p	A D O'Sullivan
	p S Clarke		R A Reid - Chairman
	P D Rice-Mundy	p	D N Tungate
	p M Craze – Vice Chairman		V Schooling
	p S Davies	p	M Scott-Johns
	p W Davies	p	K Trehorn
	p D Hawkins	p	R Maynard

In Attendance:

G Flexman - Town Clerk

J Bean – Administrative Officer

S Welch – Administrative Officer

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr R A Reid, the Vice-Chairman Cllr M Craze welcomed a County Councillor, Councillors, Officers, one member of the public and a representative of the press to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllrs R A Reid (attending funeral), V Schooling (in hospital) and J Adams.

2. ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR/CHAIRMAN FOR 2025/2026

In the absence of the Chairman of the Council, Cllr R A Reid, the Vice-Chairman Cllr M Craze asked for nominations

The Town Clerk read out a nomination for Chairman of the Council for 2025/26. Cllr R A Reid was proposed by Cllr S Davies and seconded by Cllr S Clarke who both spoke in support of Cllr R A Reid.

There being no other nominations, and as Cllr Reid was not present, the Town Clerk had taken advice from the Member Services Manager at HALC as follows:

“Yes, it is possible for a Chairman to be elected if they are absent, as long as the Council permits the declaration to be made at or before a later meeting. The declaration must be made in the presence of a member of the council or the council’s proper officer”

It was then,

RESOLVED:

That Cllr R A Reid be appointed Chairman/Mayor of the Council to remain in office until the next Annual Meeting of the Council in 2026, subject to declaration at or before a later meeting.

3. ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR/VICE-CHAIR FOR 2025/26

The Vice-Chairman of the Council, Cllr M Craze in the Chair.

The Vice-Chairman called for nominations.

Cllr D Rice-Mundy was proposed by Cllr D N Tungate and seconded by Cllr M Craze, who both spoke in support of Cllr D Rice-Mundy.

There being no other nominations, it was,

RESOLVED:

That Cllr D Rice-Mundy be appointed Vice-Chair/Deputy Mayor of the Council to remain in office until the next Annual Meeting of the Council in 2026.

Cllr D Rice-Mundy duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Vice-Chair and Deputy Town Mayor and took the chair, once Cllr M Craze handed over the Badge of Office.

4. TO APPOINT THE FOLLOWING STANDING COMMITTEES FOR 2025/26

The Town Clerk advised of the current membership of Standing Committees comprising 9 Councillors on each and this was agreed, as follows:

a) Finance & General Purposes Committee

That membership of the F & GP Committee for 2025/26 is as follows:

S J Clarke	R Maynard	W Davies
R A Reid	A D O'Sullivan	D N Tungate
G Blunden	J Adams	M Scott-Johns

b) Amenities Committee

That membership of the Amenities Committee for 2025/26 is as follows:

G Blunden	D E Hawkins	A D O'Sullivan
B Murrow	V E Schooling	M Craze
J Baker	K Trehorn	D A Rice-Mundy

c) Planning Committee

That membership of the Planning Committee for 2025/26 is as follows:

S J Clarke	D E Hawkins	S P Davies
R A Reid	R Maynard	P Moores
B Murrow	M Scott-Johns	W Davies

d) Executive Committee

The Executive Committee comprises Chairman and Vice-Chair of the Council plus Chairs of the Standing Committees.

5. **APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO LOCAL BODIES**

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1, a schedule of existing appointments to external organisations. Following a discussion, some changes were made as appear on the amended schedule attached.

Members then agreed the revised schedule of representatives to external bodies for 2025/26.

6. **TO APPROVE THE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2025/26**

The Chairman moved that the proposed Calendar of Meetings (Appendix 2) having been circulated to all members prior to the meeting be adopted. It was,

RESOLVED:

That the Calendar of Meetings for 2025/26 be approved and adopted.

7. **GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE**

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3, and the General Power of Competence.

RESOLVED:

That as the Town Council still meets the criteria to take on the General Power of Competence it resolves to continue to do so, subject to the guidance notes previously approved and adopted by the Town Council.

8. **MINUTES**

The Vice-Chairman referred to the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 31 March 2025.

It was,

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 31 March 2025, having been circulated, be confirmed, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The minutes were duly signed.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Town Clerk referred to:

a) An email from Emilia Moyce acting on behalf of Santander PLC:

“I am writing on behalf of our client, Santander PLC. As you may already know, Santander is closing 95 branches throughout the UK including your local branch in New Milton. However, they still want to maintain a presence within the local community and so are interested in leasing a room within your establishment on a weekly basis for an initial period of 12 months.”

Angie Hjerling, Information Offices Manager at NFDC has kindly offered to contact Santander to get the ball rolling.

b) An email, hot off the press from our accountants, DCK advising:

“The AGAR and Financial Statement have been prepared and proofread. I attach a full set of documents for you.”

The Clerk was today also advised that the Internal Audit will take place on 19th and 20th June ahead of the Town Council meeting on 23rd June where the AGAR and accounts for 2024/25 are due to be signed off.

10. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

HCC Cllr Fran Carpenter reported that the Decision Day in respect of the proposed paid parking at Barton on Sea is on Friday. She was aware that Cllr R Maynard had requested to speak at the meeting but had not been given permission. She said that this is normal protocol as the Town Council has already submitted comments which are considered during the decision-making process, but she would re-iterate the points raised.

She then advised that Hampshire has a new Fire Chief, Sabrina Cohen-Hatton, who will be taking up office in August.

Several councillors, including Cllr D Hawkins, A O' Sullivan and M Craze expressed their dismay that Cllr Maynard was not permitted to speak at the meeting on Friday, and asked that Fran pass on their concerns to the County Council. Cllr B M Scott Johns asked when the decision would be made official and Fran advised that it would be communicated at the meeting on Friday.

Cllr S Davies reported that in his role as Portfolio Holder for Housing and Homelessness he had attended the groundbreaking at Brockhills and was looking forward to the 61 houses which would be available there over the next three years.

He had also attended a Board meeting at Exxon and was then taken on a tour of the site where there are 2 new plants, one producing Ultra Low Sulphur Diesel and the other producing hydrogen which will be used in the production

of low carbon ammonia. The increase in production has led to new jobs at the plant.

Cllr S Clarke advised that he is now the Chair of the Task and Finish Group for Climate Change. The Local Plan group at NFDC will shortly be reconvening after a 2-month sabbatical, they will be looking forward to completion of the Local Plan, he could not say more as the outcomes of the meetings remain confidential. He will report in greater detail over the next few months.

Cllr G Blunden advised that he is also on the Task and Finish Group on Climate Change. He said that NFDC are implementing a *relaxed grass cutting* schedule and leaving it to grow in some places as part of the Let it Bee initiative to encourage pollinators. He invited residents to let part of their gardens grow wild to assist with this. He advised that NFDC have taken part in this for the last three years, and there have been good results.

In regard to Wheelie Bin roll out 11,000 of the 27,000 households involved in phase 1 have now received their bins in preparation for the switch to wheelie bins and food bins.

He mentioned that there will be some drop-in sessions coming up in relation to the coastal erosion at Hurst Spit giving residents the opportunity to provide input for strategies to deal with coastal erosion.

Cllr A D O' Sullivan advised that he had nothing to report from NFDC but took the opportunity to thank the Lions Club for a fantastic VE80 day on 4th May on the War Memorial Recreation Ground.

Cllr D N Tungate said that he had nothing to report from the district, but he, the Town Clerk and Cllr B Murrow have just come back from a twinning visit to Canteleu where they laid wreaths at the Canteleu war memorial for VE80 day and exchanged gifts of framed photos and copies of his book.

He is now in the early stages of planning a cycle trip to Canteleu for later in the year.

He also took the opportunity to remind everyone about his sponsored walk for Oakhaven, stating that all sponsorship would be welcome.

11. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Chairman referred to the draft pre-submission documents which had previously been circulated. Cllr S Clarke advised that these documents represent a significant milestone in the review of the Neighbourhood Plan, they are virtually the final documents which will go forward, together with the Housing Needs Assessment and the Design Codes and Guidance. The case will be made that the modifications are not so significant as to require a new Neighbourhood Plan, simply some changes to the old one.

He said that the modified documents represent a strong aspirational document for the future of the town. And he hoped that developers would now come forward to fulfil the visions within it. He had been impressed with the number of people who had engaged with the consultation which took place some six weeks ago in the Town Hall on a Friday afternoon and Saturday morning.

The Neighbourhood Plan will shortly undergo a further period of consultation known as Regulation 14, followed by submission to District and then to the national body in Bristol.

Cllr Clarke took the opportunity to express his gratitude to all members of the Working Group and in particular to the Town Development Manager who had risen to this challenge exceptionally well.

Following a vote, it was:

RESOLVED

The Neighbourhood Plan Documents (Housing Needs Assessment, Design Codes and Guidance, Area of Special Character Study, New Milton Neighbourhood Plan pre-submission draft Modification Proposal, Modification Statement and the draft New Milton Modified Neighbourhood Plan 2024-2042 be approved.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Planning Committee

Cllr S Clarke, Chairman of the Planning Committee, submitted the minutes of the Committee meetings held on 8 and 24 April plus 6 May 2025 and moved their adoption.

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 230 to 260 inclusive of the meetings held on 8 and 24 April plus 6 May 2025 be received.

b) Amenities Committee

Cllr G Blunden, Chairman of the Amenities Committee submitted Minutes of the meeting held on 7 April 2025 and moved their adoption.

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 108 - 122 inclusive of the meeting held on 7 April 2025 be received.

c) Finance & General Purposes Committee

Cllr D N Tungate, Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee submitted Minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2025 and moved their adoption.

RESOLVED:

That minutes 116 to 132 inclusive of the meeting held on 28 April 2025 be received.

It was noted that a financial contribution of £10k CIL monies towards the Station Master's House project was recommended by Amenities and endorsed by F&GP. Cllr Reid had previously highlighted the need for both financial and practical assistance. The Town Council approved the payment.

13. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Schedule of Payments covering February and March previously endorsed by F&GP, was submitted for Council approval.

It was unanimously,

RESOLVED

That the Schedule of Payments No. 10/24/25 in the sum of £241,381.41 for the period 1 February to 31 March be approved.

14. NEXT MEETING

Monday 23 June 2025 at 6.30 pm at the Town Hall.

The Chairman closed the public session of the meeting for the Democratic Half Hour, but as no members of the public wished to speak, he closed the meeting at 7.16 pm.

Chairman _____ Date _____

Distribution:

Town Councillors

District Councillors J L Cleary, C Ward

County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter, K Mans

New Milton Police

Press

Alan Watson – NewMilton.net

Sue Larking - NMRA

Mark Jeffries – Estates & Facilities Manager

Editor - Focus