

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE **ANNUAL MEETING** OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 14 MAY 2024 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	p	R A Reid
	p K Craze	p	D Rice-Mundy
	p M Craze		V Schooling
	p S Davies	p	M Scott-Johns
	p W Davies	p	K Trehorn
	p D Hawkins	p	D N Tungate

In Attendance:

G Flexman - Town Clerk

J Bean - Committee Administrator

C Rabbito – Town Development Manager

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, Officers, and 3 members of the public.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Cllrs J Adams and V Schooling.

2. **ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR/CHAIRMAN FOR 2024/2025**

The Chairman of the Council, Cllr D Hawkins asked for any nominations.

The Town Clerk read out a nomination for Chairman of the Council for 2024/25.
Cllr R A Reid was proposed by Cllr S Davies and seconded by Cllr S Clarke

There being no other nominations.

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 2025.

Cllr R A Reid duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chairman and Town Mayor.

Taking the opportunity to thank Cllr D Hawkins for the great job he had done as Mayor and Chairman over the past year, Cllr Reid said one of the most important duties as Mayor is to choose a charity to support. He was looking for a charity that was inclusive of all ages, of both sexes and that helps mental and physical health and offers fantastic support to the town. He went on to say that the charity he has chosen has supported Friends of Ballard Lake by making Bat Boxes and Poo bag holders, supported the New Milton Community Garden, had rebuilt the Playground Train for Tiptoe Primary School and will be doing the same for New Milton Infant School, built the pergola at the dementia allotment and is also making a replacement "Book Swap" cabinet to replace the one in Chiltern Avenue. The newly appointed Mayor nominated the Men's Shed as his charity for the year and pledged to raise as much money as possible for them, taking the meeting out of session to allow Martin Medhurst to speak.

Martin Medhurst advised that the New Milton Men's Shed had been formed at the beginning of 2019 and Cllr A Reid opened their temporary home at Fernhill Cricket Club in September that year. The group had grown from a handful of members to around 80 at present. There are two female members one of whom had been with them from the very start. He said that the new shed which is now almost ready could not have happened without the support of the Town Council and they appreciated that they have a lease at a nominal rent which has 20 years left to run. Building Control have just signed off on their building and the official opening takes place on 7th June. He is hoping that there will be an opportunity to open the shed in the evenings so that it can be used by younger people as it is only open during the day at the moment. Adrian Duckett who has been the chairman since the start has now stepped down. He finished by thanking the Town Council for their support and looked forward to the Men's Shed being the nominated charity for 2024/25.

3. ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR/VICE-CHAIR FOR 2024/25

The Chairman of the Council, Cllr R A Reid in the Chair.

The Chairman called for any nominations.

Cllr M Craze was proposed by Cllr A O' Sullivan and seconded by Cllr S Clarke.

There being no other nominations, it was,

RESOLVED:

That Cllr M Craze be appointed Vice-Chair/Deputy Mayor of the Council to remain in office until the next Annual Meeting of the Council in 2025.

Cllr M Craze duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Vice-Chair and Deputy Town Mayor.

4. **TO APPOINT THE FOLLOWING STANDING COMMITTEES FOR 2024/25**

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 2024/25 is as follows:

S J Clarke	K Craze	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 2024/25 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 2024/25 is as follows:

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

d) Executive Committee

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

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

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1, a schedule of existing appointments to external organisations.

Members then agreed the schedule of representatives to external bodies for 2024/25 would remain the same.

6. **TO APPROVE THE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2024/25**

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 2024/25 be approved and adopted.

7. TO CONFIRM AUTHORISED SIGNATORIES FOR 2024/25

It was agreed that the number of approved signatories be restricted to the Executive members and regular visitors to the Council offices as presently.

8. 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.

9. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 25 March 2024 and the Special Meeting on 3rd April 2024.

It was,

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25 March 2024, and of the Special Meeting held on 3rd April 2024, having been circulated, be confirmed, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The minutes were duly signed.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to:

a) An email from Chris Douglas, Chair of the Twinning Committee, as follows:

“From the twinning committee I would just like to officially thank you Bob for your personal efforts and the council for supporting you in the generous contribution to the costs of the weekend we have just enjoyed with our twinning counterparts from Canteleu. It made events possible which could not have happened just out of our own funds. This link with our twin town in France is much appreciated by both sides and we look forward to our return visit to them next May when hopefully several councillors and town hall officials will be amongst the party travelling across.”

b) Cllr B Murrow read out a letter received from the French Twinning group:

“Just a few words to thank you for the lovely time we spent at New Milton thanks to your support of the twinning. On Friday we discovered Jane Austen’s house and the pretty village of Chawton – it was funny and refreshing to do the quiz. In the afternoon we took the steam train from Alton to Alresford, a lovely journey! On Saturday, we had an afternoon tea at the South Lawns hotel at Milford on Sea. A splendid hotel with a beautiful dining room – there were lots of different fancy cakes each one better than the previous one. We can only have such a cream tea in England. On Sunday, we met all together for a party at the guide hut, Lake Grove Road – once again a lovely afternoon with games and songs in English and French. We love these moments of sharing and friendship. The weekend finished with a breakfast at the Beefeater at Somerford. It’s always difficult to say goodbye but you could see everybody’s pleasure in their faces. We know you help to finance our weekend and see the interest you take in the twinning and the organisation for welcoming us. So, it’s very important for all of us to tell you how happy we are when we meet you in New Milton or in Canteleu and we look forward to welcoming you next year.”

- c) The Town Clerk referred to a letter from NFDC confirming a £20,000 grant from CIL monies towards the Ballard Lake Enhancements. He went on to explain that additionally, the project was receiving £40,000 from S106 drainage monies and £100,000 from NFDC mitigation funds. All in all, a total of £160,000 towards this project which will be managed jointly by the NMTC Estates Manager and Jill Colclough, NFDC Landscape Architect.

The project is due to commence on 10th June 2024 with the completion for phase 1 on 19th July 2024 under the supervision of NMTC and the second phase costing £100k will be supervised by NFDC in the Autumn with completion by the year end.

11. **QUESTIONS**

None

12. **REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

There being no County Cllrs present, the Chairman invited reports from the District Councillors.

Cllr D N Tungate said that he had nothing to report since the last meeting.

Cllr S Davies reported that in his role as Portfolio Holder for Housing and Homelessness he had met with the representatives of a new regulatory organisation for social housing.

This new body would be making snap inspections of housing departments and even though the housing department at NFDC has been found to be doing well, it can still be assessed, and the inspectors will be looking for improvements which can be made.

He had visited Rollalong who make modular housing and had been impressed by what they have to offer. There is a real need to speed up building whilst continuing to use sustainable materials. On June 18th he and other members of the Housing committee will be going on a housing tour which will take in various places including Lyndhurst and New Milton.

Cllr S Clarke advised that he is now the Chair of the Housing and Communities Scrutiny Committee.

He confirmed that he had enjoyed the visit to the Rollalong factory, he advised that they have 15 variations of houses they can make and that they look attractive when finished. They can be built very quickly and an estate of 100 houses could be built in four months. He stated that he has also been appointed to the Local Plan Task and Finish group.

Cllr G Blunden advised that he had nothing to report save that he is still the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability.

Cllr K Craze advised that he has been appointed as Vice Chair of the Audit Committee.

Cllr A D O' Sullivan advised that he has been re-elected as Chairman of the Resources and Transformation Overview and Scrutiny panel last night. He said that the highlight of last evening had been Cllr D Hawkins being elected Chairman of NFDC.

Members applauded Cllr Hawkins on his appointment as Chairman of NFDC.

13. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) Planning Committee

Cllr S Clarke, Chairman of the Planning Committee, submitted the minutes of the Committee meetings held on 28 March, 11 and 25 April 2023 plus 7 May and moved their adoption.

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 225 to 264 inclusive of the meetings held on 28 March, 11 and 25 April 2023 plus 7 May 2024 be received.

b) Amenities Committee

Cllr G Blunden, Chairman of the Amenities Committee submitted Minutes of the meeting held on 9 April 2024 and moved their adoption.

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 116 to 131 inclusive of the meeting held on 9 April 2024 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 22 April 2024 and moved their adoption.

RESOLVED:

That minutes 111 to 126 inclusive of the meeting held on 22 April 2024 be received.

14. **NEXT MEETING**

Monday 24 June 2024 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 7.10 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