

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF NEW MILTON ANNUAL TOWNS' MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 29 APRIL 2024 AT 6.30PM AT NEW MILTON TOWN HALL

CHAIRMAN

Councillor David Hawkins

TOWN CLERK

G P Flexman

IN ATTENDANCE

14 Town Councillors

47 members of the public

Joanna Hayward (Communications Officer)

Louise Beardmore (Youth Services Manager)

Joy Bean (Committee & Civic Administrator)

The Chairman welcomed Councillors and residents to the Annual Towns Meeting being the 44th to take place since 1979, noting it should have been the 45th but we were unable to hold the Annual Towns' Meeting in 2020 due to prevailing Covid restrictions.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllrs B Murrow, B M Scott-Johns, V Schooling and D Rice-Mundy.

2. MINUTES

It was

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2023, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The minutes were duly signed.

3. INTRODUCTIONS – CHAIRMEN OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Chairman introduced fellow Executives, as follows:

Planning

Cllr S Clarke, Chairman of the Planning Committee said that the committee make recommendations on all planning applications and issues related to development, he highlighted some of the applications which had provoked a lot of interest and been somewhat dominant over the course of the year. He also referred to New Milton's Neighbourhood Plan which is currently under review having been established nine years ago. The Planning Committee Annual Report is attached.

Amenities

Cllr G Blunden, Chairman of Amenities Committee, explained that the Amenities Committee are responsible for Town Council owned buildings, grounds, and facilities, including Allotments, Playparks, and 52 open spaces around the town. He reported that the Amenities Committee had been able to fund a large number of projects, this includes the improvements at Ballard Lake and Ashley Parade which are imminent. The youth building at Ashley Recreation Ground which is almost completed, the replacement of all but two bus shelters, in addition to the annual afternoons of music, the floral displays in the town and the Festive lighting at Christmas. A copy of the Amenities Committee Annual Report is attached.

Finance & General Purposes

Cllr N Tungate Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee said that the role of the Finance & General Purposes committee is to oversee Council spending, as well as youth services and grant aid. A copy of the F&GP Committee Annual Report is attached.

4. TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Chairman thanked the Committee Chairmen for their reports, and also thanked the officers who provide back up, as well as the Estates Manager and his team who help to keep the town looking so fantastic.

He then went on to summarise his own work as Council Chairman, he referred to various matters including: the Coronation Event, meetings with NFDC relating to unauthorised encampments on the cliff top at Barton and elsewhere at Fawcetts and Ashley, various meetings and contact with the police and residents concerning anti-social behaviour especially, and to the Special Meeting where Goff Beck was made a Freeman of the Town. A copy of the Annual Report of the Town Council 2023/24 is attached.

5. COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS AND CHARITIES

The Chairman paid tribute to all our local community groups and charities thanking them for their contribution and support and saying how lucky we were to have so many groups who achieved such great things for the town.

He then went on to present a cheque for £1,400 which had been raised over the course of the year from donations at the Carol Service and Civic Service as well as the Mayor's Tea Party, to Sarah Dibben of The Ashley Hub which had been his nominated charity as Mayor this year. He stated that the Ashley Hub was set up to provide parents of young children with support and advice and to deal with any problems they might encounter. Even Tesco had sent some representatives along to teach parents to cook. The brains behind it is Sarah Dibben who runs the hub alongside her very demanding role as head of Ashley Infant School.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2024

The Chairman was delighted to announce Barbara Berkhauer and the volunteers at Dementia Support Social Group as Citizen of the Year 2024, presenting her with a certificate and glass trophy. In recognition of their work with local people suffering with dementia and their families. The Mayor acknowledged them all, and presented Barbara with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the group.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Charlie Taylor and Elaine Ramsdale for their valued work with ASBOC. The Certificate for Stuart Plummer was passed to Charlie as Stuart was unable to attend. All three certificates acknowledged their hard work over the last 15 years, as attached.

6. GUEST SPEAKER

The Chairman introduced Alison Barnes, CEO of New Forest National Park Authority

Alison gave a very interesting talk and presentation about the New Forest National Park Partnership Plan, the history of that National Park and future plans to ensure the New Forest is accessible to all residents as it is such a wonderful asset and can affect physical and mental health as well as being a special ecosystem and offering the opportunity to uncover nature based climate solutions.

7. QUESTIONS

There were no questions from local residents, but they showed their appreciation with a round of applause for all concerned.

8. NEXT MEETING

To be confirmed.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and there being no further business to discuss, closed the Meeting at 8.05 pm.

Chairman _____

Date _____

Distribution:

Town Councillors

District Councillors

County Councillors

New Milton Library

Press

Alan Watson – FOCUS & NMRA

New Milton Police