**NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of New Milton ANNUAL TOWNS’ Meeting held ON

FRIDAY 29 APRIL 2022 at 6.30pm at new milton town hall

CHAIRMAN Councillor Keith Craze

TOWN CLERK G P Flexman

IN ATTENDANCE 10 Town Councillors

 17 members of the public

 Joanna Hayward (Communications Officer)

 Joy Bean (Committee & Comms Admin Asst)

The Chairman welcomed Councillors and residents to the Annual Towns Meeting being the 42nd to take place since 1979, noting it should have been the 43rd but we were unable to hold the Annual Towns’ Meeting in 2020 due to prevailing Covid restrictions.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllrs J Ward, M Brownsea, D Rice-Mundy, A Rice, D Samber, A Reid, and H Wallis-Dowling.

1. MINUTES

It was

***RESOLVED:***

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 April 2021, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.**

The minutes were duly signed.

1. INTRODUCTIONS – CHAIRMEN OF STANDING COMMITTEES

**Amenities**

Cllr G Blunden, Chairman of Amenities Committee, explained that Amenities Committee are responsible for Town Council owned buildings, grounds, and facilities, including Allotments, Playparks, and 52 open spaces around the town. A copy of the Amenities Committee Report is attached.

**Finance & General Purposes**

Cllr D N Tungate, as Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, said that the remit of the Finance & General Purposes committee is broad with overall responsibility for Council finance and personnel functions, youth services, plus grant aid. A copy of the F&GP Committee Report is attached.

**Planning**

Cllr S Clarke, as Chairman of the Planning Committee, said his committee makes recommendations on all planning applications and issues related to development and tree works at meetings which are held fortnightly, as well as the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan. A copy of the Planning Committee Report is attached.

1. TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Chairman summarised the work of the Town Council last year noting the additional pressures arising from the pandemic and the expectation of tough financial decisions being made this year.

Thanks were expressed to our caring community including dedicated volunteers, charities and community groups, including Basics Bank, New Forest Mencap and Citizens Advice, who continue to support our community and those in need.

Looking forward to this year, the Chairman acknowledged the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations and continued efforts to raise funds for his nominated charities, Scarf New Forest, and Parkinson’s Dance Programme at Forest Arts Centre.

A copy of the Annual Report is attached to these minutes, as are those of NFALC and the War Memorial Recreation Ground charity.

1. SPECIAL MENTIONS

The Chairman referred to the nominations received for the Citizen of the Year award and gave special mention to Ken Hardy, Tracey King, Nicki & Eleanor Benoit-Means, Chris Davies, Karen Lloyd, Alan Watson, and David Whittington. Thanking them all for their incredible support for the community.

The Chairman remembered Bob Lowe, Citizen of the Year 2014, who had passed away aged 99 before Christmas, a few days short of his 100th birthday. Bob was a well-respected resident, as well as being a presenter for the New Milton Talking Newspaper, he also represented the charity Silverline as an Ambassador becoming close friends with Dame Esther Rantzen.

The Chairman was delighted to highlight the fund-raising efforts of Chris Carian, Citizen of the Year in 2013, who had raised £50,000 for local charities over the last 30 years. Chris has now hung up her collecting tin but will continue to support the New Forest Mencap Shop in New Milton.

1. CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2022

The Chairman was delighted to announce Ken Hardy as Citizen of the Year 2022, in recognition of his many years as a volunteer at Citizens Advice, and at 90 years young he continues to volunteer, as noted from their latest newsletter attached.

1. GUEST SPEAKER

The Chairman introduced Bart Small, recently awarded Best Young Person in Business by New Forest Business Partnership for starting up his business New Forest Fish & Shellfish. The already popular business involves his father fishing at sea and Bart selling the produce from Danestream Farm Shop as well as expanding into other local areas. Being a chef and caterer at outside events also added to his business success to date.

1. QUESTIONS

A resident referred to the problems with the public toilet facilities particularly, vandalism, being dirty, regular blockages and being closed by NFDC.

Cllr Blunden advised that NMTC continue to press NFDC who are aware of the toilet problems and working towards a resolution.

It was also noted that the Lions Easter Extravaganza was a great success with many people attending. Event organisers will have to arrange additional portable toilets for future large-scale public events on the Recreation Ground.

1. NEXT MEETING

The next Annual Towns’ Meeting will be held on Monday 20 March 2023.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and there being no further business to discuss, closed the Meeting at 7.23pm.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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