



Minutes of the Zoom online meeting of the Extraordinary Amenities Committee of the New Milton Town Council held on Tuesday 27 April 2021 at 6.30 pm via Zoom.

Chairman p G R Blunden

Vice Chairman p D E Hawkins

Councillors: p M Craze C V Ward
 p D A Rice-Mundy p A D O'Sullivan
 A W Rice p R Murrow
 p V E Schooling

In Attendance

Councillors: A Reid, H Wallis -Dowling

Officers: G Flexman - Town Clerk S Ramsaywack - Youth Services Manager
 E Towler - Youth Services Organiser M Jeffries - Estates Manager
 J Hayward - Communication Officer K Pressey - Youth Worker
 A McDermott - Youth Worker

The Chairman welcomed councillors, 11 members of the public, 7 officers and a press representative to the virtual meeting as well as NFDC Officer Jill Colclough.

The Chairman reminded those in attendance of meeting etiquette and noted that public participation will be taken after the presentation by Ms Colclough and the Estates Manager.

284. APOLOGIES - Cllrs A Rice and C Ward

285. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

286. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk referred to 11 emails received regarding the proposal with overall positive support for the playpark, but with questions from Rugby Club members regarding the proposed building location.

287. ASHLEY PLAY PARK

Ms Colclough and the Estates Manager provided a presentation, with plans of the proposed play park and youth facility building displayed on screen with improved car park and landscaping.

It was noted that the Recreation Ground is a space for all to enjoy with the proposals aimed to benefit all users.

The Youth Services Manager noted that this proposal is separate to having another youth facility building planned for the centre of the Town.

288. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman went out of session at 6.46pm to allow for public participation.

Cllr Alan O’Sullivan referred to an email received from a Rugby Club member, stating concerns over the proximity of the proposed youth facility building with the runoff of one of the rugby pitches, being a safety concern. Mr Duncan of the Rugby Club also expressed his concerns with the Chairman noting the comments and that the pitch could be moved if it is a potential safety issue.

Bob Lord supported the scheme but suggested hedgerows be maintained and that the Council consider wildlife and eco-friendly adaptations be made to the buildings such as solar panels, a rainwater collection system, swift bricks or “universal” bricks to attract different bird species. The Chairman noted these comments and stated that the gabion walls around the play park could be planted.

Duncan Conacher queried whether the new building would affect the outlook from the first floor Rugby Clubhouse / balcony as many members view the games from there. The Chairman confirmed that it would not. Mr Conacher also noted concerns over water collection. The Estates Manager confirmed that the Council are in the process of looking at the most suitable drainage system, with carpark lighting and CCTV also taken into consideration, the most suitable avenues for these also being looked into.

Sarah Conacher asked whether there would be any public toilet facilities which the Chairman confirmed were the responsibility of NFDC.

Andy Frend of the Rugby Club asked whether he and Duncan Conacher could be on the Working Party in order to stay in the loop during progression of the project. The Chairman confirmed that on-line and on-site meetings will take place to give the Rugby Club members and local residents a chance to engage with the Working Party.

Mike Hawkes, a local resident, asked who would keep an eye on noise pollution if the proposal attracted a larger crowd, his concerns being during the late evening and night. He also raised concerns over light pollution and queried whether a fence could be put along the hedge alongside Melrose Court due to people making holes in the hedging. The Chairman stated that the fencing can be looked at and the noise complaints followed up. Ms Colclough confirmed that suitable lighting will be sought so that it lights up just the intended carpark area with no light pollution. CCTV on the proposed building, and floodlight poles should mitigate any noise pollution issues.

Andy Frend asked what timescale the Council were looking at. A survey and questionnaire will be uploaded to the Town Council website on the 28th April to allow the public to provide feedback with the closing date being Wed 5th May. Jill Colclough suggested that the closing date be pushed back a week to Wed 12th May, the survey being live for two weekends including a bank holiday. This was agreed by members. Feedback will then go to the next Amenities Committee meeting on Tue 1st June followed by F&GP on Tue 15th May, and then Town Council on Mon 28th June. The survey can be viewed at <https://www.newmiltontowncouncil.gov.uk/>

Brandon Lynch, a Youth Council member, asked what the proposed opening hours of the new building would be and whether any staff would be present. The Youth



Services Manager stated that the building will work primarily as a youth facility but will be available for other under 25yr old community groups to use. It is expected that two youth club meetings will take place in the week, possibly a Tuesday and Wednesday, with office space for staff and toilet facilities onsite. Brandon Lynch also suggested a Trim Trail or zipwire would appeal to the older youths in the town.

There being no further questions, the Chairman went back into session at 7.35pm.

289. ANY OTHER MATTERS - None

290. ANY ITEMS THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT - None

291. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 1st June 2021 at 6.30pm venue to be agreed, subject to risk assessment.

The Chairman thanked Councillors, Officers, and members of the public for attending and closed the meeting at 7.39pm.

CHAIRMAN _____

DATE _____

Distribution:

Town Councillors
 Estates & Facilities Manager
 District Councillors J L Cleary
 County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter and K Mans
 New Milton Police, Press
 Alan Watson – FOCUS & NMRA
 Jill Colclough – NFDC
 Other attendees