



Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of New Milton Town Council held on Monday 31 January 2022 at 6.30 pm in New Milton Town Hall.

	Chairman	p	D N Tungate	
	Vice-Chairman	p	S P Davies	
<u>Councillors:</u>	p	K Craze	p	S J Clarke
	p	R A Reid	p	A D O'Sullivan
	p	J Ward		M Brownsea
	p	G R Blunden		

In Attendance:

Councillors D E Hawkins

Officers: G Flexman - Town Clerk E Towler - Youth Services Organiser

The Chairman welcomed members, two officers and a member of the public to the meeting.

Alan Watson from the NMRA referred to the Application for the Registration of Land at Long Meadow as a Town or Village Green and asked for some clarification due to the fact that the land is owned by the Town Council.

83. APOLOGIES - Cllr Brownsea

84. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Reid declared an interest in Grant Aid, minute 95, due to being a member of the Lions Club and therefore did not take part in the discussion or vote.

85. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman confirmed that the Application for Registration of Long Meadow as a Town or Village Green would be addressed under correspondence.

86. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2021, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Minutes were duly signed.


87. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

The Town Clerk referred to minute 82, regarding a proposed easement over Common Land, noting this is proceeding with the assistance of Anthony Harris, our solicitor.

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
73 a)	To grant extra leave days for 30 - 31 December 2021	ASAP	Town Clerk
73 b)	Use £13.5k of General Reserves to reduce Precept increase	4 January 2022	Town Council
73 c)	Appoint Landscape Architect Vision Plan for Moore Close	ASAP	Town Clerk
73 d)	Naish Estate tree programme	ASAP	Asst Town Clerk
74 a)	Amenities Fees & Charges Amenities Budget for 2022/23	4 January 2022	Town Council
74 b)	F&GP Budget for 2022/23 Overall Budget & Precept	4 January 2022	Town Council
75	Schedule of Payments 05/21/22 1 October – 30 November 2021	4 January 2022	Town Council
82	Easement over Common land	4 January 2022	Town Council

88. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following items of correspondence:

- a) A letter of resignation from the Town Development Manager giving 3 months' notice. Members thanked her for her work with the Council over the past 5 years and were pleased to hear her experience working for the Town Council was such a positive one.
- b) A letter from Quilter Cheviot, noting that our investment had increased in value to £323k.
- c) A letter from HCC referring to an Application to Register Long Meadow as a Town or Village Green, noting this was made by a former local resident of Meadow Way back in 2011. Members suggested that it did not need additional protection as part of it is already common land. It was suggested the Town Clerk liaise with the Countryside Access Team in order to glean more information before referring it to Town Council, if required.



(Post Meeting Note: Whilst it is unusual for land which is already registered as common to be the subject of an application for village green status, it not precluded in law. It is likely that the pre-existing status of part of the application land as a common will have a bearing on the outcome – Harry Goodchild, Map Review Manager, HCC Countryside Access Team – 27.01.22)

89. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2, Schedule of Payments, for the period 1 - 31 December 2021, in the sum of £147,603.52 as previously distributed.

The Town Clerk highlighted the following items over £1,000 (excl. Pensions, PAYE)

- a) Lombard - Vehicle leasing Navara Pickup and Peugeot Boxer - £1,945.99
- b) Lombard - New contract hire vehicle - £1,491.41
- c) A&T - Christmas Sponsors and ASBOC Youth Workers advert - £1,185.73
- d) Autocross Euroshell - Replacement bus shelter Gore Rd / Stem Lane junction - £7,654.80
- e) Christchurch Garden Machinery - Annual machinery servicing - £1,446.77
- f) Empire Industrial Doors - Installation of entrance/toilet/hospitality doors - Fawcetts Field changing rooms project (CAPEX) - £21,006
- g) Gristwood & Toms - Completed tree works carried out in November 2021 - £6,775.93
- h) Juice - Go New Milton/Neighbourhood Plan website Xmas campaign/leaflets/ - £1,826.40
- i) NFDC - Professional fees for Arboricultural Cyclical inspections 2021/22 - £4,224
- j) PDP Architecture - Architectural services re Ashley Rec Planning Application - £1,765
- k) Play Inspection - Provide routine inspection course (Recharge Hordle £492) - £1,098
- l) Rejuvenate - Monthly IT support/telephone service/ and £5.5k new server - £6,337.86
- m) J Still Installations - Roof repairs £2,166 cricket/bowls & FF windows £8,640 - £10,806
- n) South Coast Social - Facebook advertising and Xmas campaign radio advert - £1,260
- o) Xch Garden Machinery - 2 x cordless hedge trimmers/batteries/quick chargers - £1,276
- p) John Shutler Tree Services – HLS Felling & shrub clearance at Barton Common - £5,952
- q) L Kitcher Fencing & Gates - Lower Ashley allotments £1,176 & Fawcetts £1,740 - £2,916
- r) NFDC - Professional fees for Reactive System Arboricultural inspections 2021 - £1,056
- s) Westcotec - Replacement SLR subject to insurance claim - £3,150

Cllr Davies wished to thank the Sway Hand Bell ringers & NF Choir for their performances at the Annual Carol Service held at St Mary Magdalene Church on Saturday 4 December 2021.

Cllr O’Sullivan questioned the payments on behalf of the New Milton Youth Trust, with the Town Clerk confirming they are in the process of setting up their own bank account, with the Town Council providing the charity with some initial financial support, as previously agreed.

It was then

ENDORSED:

That the Schedule of Payments No. 06/21/22 covering 1 - 31 December 2021, in the sum of £147,603.52 be duly ENDORSED for Town Council approval.



90. MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2, monthly accounts for December 2021.

Town Clerk noted £9k pitch fees have just been invoiced, so overall we are on budget.

91. AMENITIES REFERRED MATTERS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3, in respect of the upcoming Queens Platinum Jubilee.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That suggestions for a pergola structure at the Rose Garden and the installation of five benches be agreed in principle subject to funding and that officers be requested to report back to the next meeting regarding suggested designs, locations and costings. The suggested landmark feature be agreed in principle subject to public feedback and funding.

Cllr O’Sullivan stated that Mencap would like to do something to recognise the Jubilee such as a Mural made from painted ceramics. It was suggested that this could be displayed on the wall next to Boots. It would be self-funded by Mencap. Members were in support of this.

ENDORSED: The Pergola structure and five benches be approved by Town Council.

RECOMMENDED: Suggested Landmark Feature be considered by the Town Council.

92. NEW MILTON YOUTH TRUST

The Chairman referred to Appendix 4, being minutes of New Milton Youth Trust meeting, which was noted by members. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Trust is becoming more self-reliant and less Council run, with new Trustees appointed as Treasurer and Secretary.

93. YOUTH REPORT

The Chairman referred to the Youth Services Manager report, which was noted by members.

Cllr Clarke referred to recent anti-social behaviour and noted there is not so much variety of youth work on offer in the town due to COVID. He voiced his disappointment that the police have not had more of a presence at the Ashley Youth Club on Wednesday evenings, noting the anti-social behaviour nearby needs urgent intervention.

Cllr Hawkins voiced his concern over potential closure of the Youth Club that is providing an essential service for young people and is well attended. Cllr Blunden confirmed that Nikki Swift and Paul Baker from NFDC Safer New Forest Partnership will be attending this Wednesday’s Youth Club, prior to a meeting on the matter at NFDC next Monday.

94. YOUTH GRANT AID - None



95. GRANT AID

New Milton Lions Club requested up to £3.5k for various events on Barton cliff top on the 2 June 2022 to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Cllr Reid declared an interest being a Lions Club member and therefore abstained from the discussion and vote.

It was then

RECOMMENDED: That the Lions Club of New Milton be granted £3,500 Grant Aid towards the 2 June 2022 Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebration, under the General Power of Competence, subject to Town Council approval.

96. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

With the Chairman's permission, Cllr Clarke informed members that Meadow Day is taking place on 2 July 2022 at Ballard Water Meadow and encouraged Councillors to attend this event celebrating the country's meadows to see how conservation is taking place locally.

97. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 14 March 2022 at 6.30pm in the Town Hall, New Milton.

The Chairman thanked members of the public for attending and closed the public session at 7.33pm.

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

The Chairman moved that the public be excluded from the meeting for item(s) of business below pursuant to section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reasons of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

98. CHEWTON GLEN

Members discussed the Chewton Glen Musical Events taking place from 13-19 July 2022 and referred the matter to Town Council for further consideration.

99. MEMORIAL HALL

Members noted an issue of parking around the Memorial Hall and implementation of charges and referred the matter to the Amenities Committee for further discussion.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone and closed the meeting at 8pm.

CHAIRMAN _____

DATE _____



Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
88 a)	Town Development Manager post	30 April 2022	Town Clerk
88 c)	Long Meadow Village Green status	11 March 2022	Town Clerk
91	Pergola structure and five benches	14 February 2022	Town Council
91	Landmark Feature consideration	14 February 2022	Town Council
95	Grant Aid Lions Club of New Milton	14 February 2022	Town Council
96	Meadow Day at Ballard Meadow	2 July 2022	Councillors
98	Chewton Glen Musical Events	14 February 2022	Town Council
99	Memorial Hall car parking issue	28 February 2022	Amenities

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