

132. CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman read out an email received from Arron Wood of the New Milton Police Station reporting a decrease in crime in the town due to the Coronavirus restrictions. Officers have been carrying out patrols to ensure people are abiding by the current legislation as well as patrols to combat drug-related violence and drug use. It was asked that people continue to report issues as, even if they do not receive a reply, all reports are reviewed. It was asked that reports include as much detail as possible (times, locations, suspect descriptions/photos, vehicle registrations, etc).

Cllr Hawkins noted that he had received several emails regarding camper vans parked at Barton sea front and restricting road access which has been reported to NFDC.

133. QUESTIONS - None134. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

HCC Cllr K Mans highlighted the three aims of the County Council at the beginning of the pandemic being 1) Reduce the spread of the virus 2) Work together 3) Look after each other. Cllr Mans thanked the Town Council and volunteer groups for their work during the pandemic and believes these aims have been met.

Cllr Mans also reported on the number of Care Home deaths decreasing considerably with some HCC reserves used to support these Care Homes.

It is hoped that children will all be back at school as soon as possible but noted it will be difficult. Hampshire county has one of the highest number of children back at school since the pandemic with over 1/3 of children now back at school every day.

The County Council are in the process of starting an Outbreak Board with the Committee hoping to start up within the next few weeks. Their aims include highlighting buildings most vulnerable to an outbreak of the virus.

Due to the pandemic, the County Council have been spending their reserves with an estimate of being £100 million adrift by the end of the financial year and are looking to see how it can best manage this crisis level financial situation.

HCC Cllr M Kendal reported receiving several complaints over the Efford Waste Recycling Centre concerning online bookings. It was asked that members of the public consider the amount of waste they have before making bookings. It is planned for appointments to move to half hourly and bookings being made 7 days ahead rather than the current 2. These appointments will be in place for the foreseeable future and at least as long as social distancing is in place.

HCC Cllr F Carpenter provided an email update informing members that residents are asked by Southern Water and other water boards to take care with their water use as the water supply is under great pressure. To avoid water bans, it was asked to use water carefully.

The virus has seen an “explosion” of digital library use across the county and everyone can take advantage of the Ready Reads system, where you choose a genre and get a selection of books chosen for you, to collect in a bag from your nearest library.

District Cllr C Ward reported on attending several Task & Finish Groups including the Coronavirus Recovery Groups. The importance of advertising for people to use and support our High Street was also noted. NFDC Planning meetings have now gone back to monthly.

NFDC Cllr S Clarke reported concerns over the change of regulations on licensing with a briefing due to take place on the matter with the Town Council keen to support local businesses.

NFDC Cllr A O’Sullivan has attended the Customer Services Group with the new NFDC website to be launched on the 14th July 2020.

NFDC Cllrs G Blunden, K Craze, N Tungate and J Ward have also attended Coronavirus Recovery Groups.

135. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Chairman asked Committee Chairman to present their minutes in their entirety and not minute by minute.

a) Planning Committee

Cllr S Clarke submitted the minutes of the Committee Meetings held on 4 and 18 June 2020 and moved their adoption.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 217 to 234 inclusive be received.

Minute 224f - The Chairman highlighted the reopening of the high-street and the message from the Mayor which can be found on the Town Council website.

b) Amenities Committee

Cllr G Blunden, Chairman of the Amenities Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee Meetings held on 1 June 2020 and moved their adoption.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 154 to 169 inclusive be received.

Cllr Blunden asked for the following Minutes to be noted;

Minute 161 - It was recommended that the Town Council provide up to £10k CIL monies towards the Green Loop Project survey work. This was resolved at F&GP under minute 147.

Minute 163 - It was confirmed that the NMTC playparks, MUGA and adult gym equipment on the Recreation Ground will be open from the 4th July 2020.

Minute 168 - Cllr Blunden thanked the Estates & Facilities Manager and his team for all of their work delivering food bank parcels.

c) Finance and General Purposes Committee

Cllr N Tungate, Vice-Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee Meetings held on 15 June 2020 and moved their adoption.

It was

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 138 to 153 inclusive be received.

136. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Schedule of Payments, previously circulated, was submitted for Council approval.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED:

That the Schedule of Payments 01/20/21 in the sum of £50,929.83 for the period 1 to 30 April 2020 be approved.

The Schedule of payments will be signed when normal course of business returns.

137. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

Cllr O'Sullivan noted that whilst the Forest Arts Centre is still closed, there is a lot being uploaded to their website.

138. TOWN DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

The Chairman referred to the report from the Town Development Manager, previously circulated, which was noted by members.

139. ANY ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

The Chairman welcomed Laura Mulcahy, Senior Youth Worker, to the Council and her first meeting.

140. NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council Meeting will take place on **Monday 10 August 2020** at 6.30 pm.

DEMOCRATIC HALF HOUR

Alan Watson of the NMRA reported receiving emails on the reopening of the high-street as well as concerns as to how Lidl has been operating since the start of the pandemic. He will be writing to Lidl head office on the matter.

[Post meeting note: The Chairman has spoken to Nichola Johnston from the NFDC Environmental Health team who is aware of the issue and is monitoring activities].

A Watson also reported there is a potential 10 volunteers for Community Speed Watch.

The Chairman thanked Councillors, members of the public, officers and press for attending and closed the virtual meeting at 7.35 pm.

Chairman _____ Date _____

Distribution:
Town Councillors
District Councillor Mrs J L Cleary
County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter, K Mans
New Milton Police
Press
Alan Watson – Focus & NMRA
Mark Jeffries – Estates & Facilities Manager