

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 6.30 PM AT NEW MILTON TOWN HALL

Councillors:	p D E Hawkins (Chairman)	p K E Craze (Vice-Chairman)	
	J Adams	p P Moores	
	p J Baker	p R Murrow	
	p G R Blunden	p A D O'Sullivan	
	p S J Clarke	p R A Reid	
	M Craze	D Rice-Mundy	
	p S P Davies	V E Schooling	
	W Davies	p M Scott-Johns	
	p D N Tungate	p K Trehorn	

In Attendance:

G Flexman - Town Clerk

H Ormerod – Administrative Assistant

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, Officers, 2 members of the public and a press representative to the meeting.

The Chairman presented Long Service Award plaques to former Cllrs Christine Ward and John Ward in recognition of their public service to the people of New Milton.

Christine Ward had served two terms as a New Milton Town Councillor from May 2011 to May 2015 and May 2019 to May 2023. John Ward had served four terms as a New Milton Town Councillor from May 2007 to May 2023 a total of 16 years.

Members applauded them both for their long and loyal service to the Town Council.

96. APOLOGIES

Cllrs J Adams, M Craze, W Davies, D Rice-Mundy and V Schooling.

97. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr D E Hawkins as Mayor reported on the following recent engagements:

10 January 2024	Attended a wheelchair dancing class at the Memorial Centre
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26 January 2024	Attended the 'Our House' school production at the Arnewood School
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98. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

99. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 2 January 2024 and moved their adoption.

It was,

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 2 January 2024, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Minutes were duly signed.

100. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following correspondence:

- a) An e-mail from Elaine Ramsdale confirming that the ASBOC charity had formally closed down and she thanked the Town Council for its support over the years both financially and vocally. The charity was founded in 2009 (prior to that operating as CJ's) and had provided an essential resource for young people aged 11 to 25 years in the Town. The Town Clerk would forward the e-mail to all Councillors and would respond accordingly. Members thanked them for 20 years' service to the town.
- b) An e-mail from Brian Byrne, Community Safety Service Manager at NFDC thanking the Council for participating in the CCTV expansion consultation and for confirming its preferred locations. The submissions had been reviewed by the CCTV Steering Group and contractors had commenced site visits to assess locations for feasibility and required infrastructure. These site visits were due to be completed by the end of March and once reviewed by the Steering Group, Brian would update on proposals for the Town.

A trial camera had been installed in Fordingbridge using a non-fibre connection which simplifies the installation and reduces overheads whilst providing high quality footage.
- c) A letter from the Police & Crime Commissioner (via Cllr Fran Carpenter) regarding an invitation to apply for financial assistance for local initiatives through the ASB fund. Funds would be provided to assist with persistent issues where neighbourhood policing teams needed extra support. Bids were to be submitted by Friday 8 March 2024 and a meeting had been arranged with officers at NFDC to discuss this further.
- d) A letter from Anthony Harris Solicitor, confirming a variation of transfer had been agreed relating to the construction and laying of drainage across the proposed car park area of the Youth & Family HUB site off Gore Road. The variation was signed by the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

101. QUESTIONS

None.

102. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Cllr K Craze had donated a community grant to the Youth Trust. He had attended a meeting of the CIL Task and Finish Group to consider bids for CIL monies. 61 bids had been submitted of which 14 were rejected by officers and 3 required further information.

Recommendations had been submitted to the Portfolio Holder for approval and monies when forthcoming would be allocated in 2024/25.

He had attended a meeting of the Parking Strategy Task and Finish Group which as part of a wider parking strategy across the district would be considering overnight parking restrictions for mobile homes and campervans both at Keyhaven and along Marine Drive East and West in Barton-on-Sea.

District Cllr A O'Sullivan had chaired the Resources & Transformation Overview and Scrutiny Panel. Work was continuing with the asset maintenance and replacement programme including £750,000 for maintenance of Leisure Centres which would be funded by increased contractual income. Work on ICT improvements continued, looking at improving internal and public interfaces. As part of the Council's Transformation Programme, a comprehensive review of working practices was being undertaken with a view to streamlining systems.

District Cllr G Blunden had also donated a community grant to the Youth Trust and had also attended the Parking Strategy Task and Finish Group. He was pleased to report that Community recycling banks would be emptied more frequently. The district was fortunate to have a number of volunteer litter pick groups and in particular, in New Milton, the group led by Mandy Hayes did outstanding work. The Green Waste wheeled bin roll out had been very successful with approximately 20,000 bins being delivered in preparation for the 1 April 2024.

An on-line survey of beach front facilities, funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, was being undertaken seeking views on the accessibility and appearance of public facilities including beach shelters, toilets and other environmental concerns including litter.

[Barton and Milford Beachfront Opinion Survey - New Forest District Council](#)

He referred to the HCC public consultation on future services and urged residents to comment. He was particularly concerned that a reduction in the number of HWRC's may result in increased pressures of refuse collection services and increased fly tipping.

[Hampshire County Council Future Services Consultation | About the Council | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

District Cllr S J Clarke had also attended the CIL Task and Finish Group and the Parking Strategy Task and Finish Group. He mentioned that the focus was on providing value for money parking and Councillors had visited Lymington car parks as they typified the different types of car parking across the forest. The District Council was required to pay business rates and maintenance costs and therefore not all car parks provided good value for money.

Cllr Clarke, as Chair of the Housing & Communities Committee, reported that a new Tenant Engagement Strategy had been launched. He praised the District Council on its processes for interacting with tenants which was beyond what other councils were doing and tenant feedback was extremely favourable.

Cllr Clarke had also donated a community grant to the Youth Trust. Together with Mandy Hayes, he was running a project to enhance community pride by reviving a couple of neglected flower beds at Davis Field. Local residents will be encouraged to take part, and local businesses would also be asked to support the project.

Cllr S P Davies referred to HoneyPot saying he was so impressed with their grant aid submission to NMTC that he felt compelled to contribute £250 from his Cllr Community Grant, stating he had just received a delightful thank you email from them which perfectly restated their kind attention and support for our young folk. Cllr S Davies also mentioned that following a meeting with HCC's Cllr Nick Adams-King, he sent him a request for his team to consider a 20mph limit outside NM Junior School where there were a couple of recent traffic accidents.

In regard to Stem Lane, without consultation or confirmation a tall and unsightly green steel fence was erected by contractors working for Network Rail in front of one home just before the bridge. A Network Rail officer came to view the unsightly blot and have now arranged for the fence to be replaced by less imposing bollards similar to those used on the other bridge approaches. Cllr S P Davies also made reference to Tenants Housing Maintenance and will shortly be visiting VOIDS (empty council properties) to see what state some properties are left in.

Re Household Waste Recycling Centres, the Efford site is not at risk, but HCC are consulting on possible closures of some HWRC sites throughout Hampshire. Two within the District are at risk - Marchwood and Somerley (just to the north of Moors Valley). He suggested members may wish to place comments on the HCC portal raising concerns over increased risks of fly-tipping if access to local tips is reduced.

District Cllr D N Tungate as Chair of the Licensing Committee reported that fees and charges had been agreed and a revised Taxi Licencing policy was out for consultation. He had also attended meetings of the Housing Panel and the Affordable Housing Task & Finish Group and had donated a community grant to Mandy Hayes to reimburse her for out-of-pocket expenses.

103. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Planning Committee

Cllr S J Clarke, Chairman of the Planning Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee meetings held on 21 December 2023 and 16 January 2024 and moved their adoption.

Regarding Minute 168 - Neighbourhood Plan, Cllr Clarke reported Oneill Homer Consultants were progressing with the review of the Plan which would not include major revisions and a meeting was to be held with the District Council to ensure any changes to policy within the Neighbourhood Plan did not conflict with the local Plan that is also being reviewed.

[Reviewing our Local Plan - New Forest District Council](#)

Re Minute 180 – New Forest NPA Southwest Quadrant - Notice of Election - Cllr S J Clarke confirmed Cllr John Adams had recently been appointed as the SW Quadrant representative. (Post Meeting Note: The appointment is subject to confirmation from DEFRA, which can take up to two months apparently)

It was then,

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 161 to 182 inclusive of the meetings held on 21 December 2023 and 16 January 2024 be received.

b) Amenities Committee

Cllr G Blunden, Chairman of the Amenities Committee, submitted the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2024 and moved their adoption.

Regarding Minute 91b – Cllr S Davies was delighted to hear that Hampshire Cultural Trust was able to continue supporting the Forest Arts Centre in New Milton.

It was then,

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 87 to 100 inclusive of the meeting held on 15 January 2024 be received.

c) Finance and General Purposes Committee

Cllr D N Tungate, Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, submitted the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2024 and moved their adoption.

Regarding Minute 92 – Youth Co-Ordinator, Cllr S Clarke was pleased to report that representatives of the Youth Trust had commenced activities with young people at the Empire Skate Building on the War Memorial Recreation Ground including a Pizza & “Pom-Pom” event which was attended by 18 young people.

It was then,

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 83 to 95 inclusive of the meeting held on 29 January 2024 be received.

d) Executive Committee

Cllr D Hawkins, Chairman of the Executive Committee submitted Minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2023 and moved their adoption.

It was,

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 21 to 30 inclusive of the meeting held on 1 December 2023 be received.

104. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Schedule of Payments, previously considered by F&GP, was submitted for Council approval. It was unanimously,

RESOLVED:

That the Schedule of Payments No 06/23/24 in the sum of £143,334.65 for the period 1 – 31 December 2023 be approved.

The Schedule of Payments was duly signed.

105. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON ORGANISATIONS

Cllr A O’Sullivan was delighted to report that Hampshire Cultural Trust would continue to fund the Forest Arts Centre.

Cllr B Murrow reported that 14 representatives from Canteleu would be visiting the Town from 8 to 12 May 2024 and he looked forward to welcoming them.

106. HCC FUTURE SERVICES CONSULTATION

The Town Clerk reported on the County Council’s future services consultation inviting views on proposals to change some services delivered after April 2025 including:

- Road Maintenance and winter gritting
- Public Transport
- Streetlights
- School Crossing Patrols
- Parking charges at rural countryside car parks
- Homelessness support
- Library stock levels
- Adult social care contributions
- Grants for voluntary and community organisations
- Funding to Hampshire Cultural Trust
- Household Waste Recycling Centres

Following discussion, it was agreed that local residents should be encouraged to respond to the HCC Future Services Consultation and the Town Clerk was asked to ensure the link was added to the Town Council’s website.

[Hampshire County Council Future Services Consultation | About the Council | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

107. NEXT MEETING – **Monday 25 March 2024 at 6.30 pm in the Town Hall.**

DEMOCRATIC HALF HOUR - No member of the public wished to speak.

The Chairman thanked members of the public for attending and closed the public part of the meeting at 7.30pm, moving into Private Session with members agreement.

PRIVATE SESSION

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

The Chairman moved that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business 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.

108. CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

The Town Clerk read out a proposal for members of ASBOC to receive an award of a Council Certificate.

It was agreed that the award be made to the three lead officers being Charlie Taylor, Stuart Plummer and Elaine Ramsdale.

It was proposed and agreed that the Awards be presented at the Annual Towns Meeting on 29 April 2024.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.40 pm.

Chairman _____ Date _____

Distribution:

- Town Councillors
- District Councillor Mrs J L Cleary
- County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter, K Mans
- New Milton Police
- Press
- Sue Larking – NMRA
- Mark Jeffries – Estates & Facilities Manager