

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 6.30 PM AT NEW MILTON TOWN HALL

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

In Attendance:

G Flexman - Town Clerk

H Ormerod – Administrative Assistant

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, Officers, County Councillor Fran Carpenter, two members of the public and a press representative to the meeting.

64. APOLOGIES

Cllrs G Blunden, M Craze and V Schooling.

65. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

26 th October 2023	Attended a Toddler Walk at Fawcetts Field
2 nd November 2023	Attended a lunch at the Evangelical Church
11 th November 2023	Attended Armistice Day event in the Rec at 11am
12 th November 2023	Attended Remembrance Sunday event on the Rec

66. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

67. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 2 October 2023 and moved their adoption.

It was,

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 2 October 2023, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Minutes were duly signed.

68. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following correspondence:

- An e-mail from the Parking Enforcement team at NFDC confirming the Town Council's chosen date of Saturday 25th November for free Christmas parking. Additionally, parking would be free in NFDC car parks on Small Business Saturday on 2 December and the weekend of 16 and 17 December 2023.
- An e-mail from Insp Darren Ord updating the Council that a request had been made to the Police Crime Commissioner for a Police Station Enquiry Officer (SEO) at the Town Hall. He undertook to keep the Council updated on progress.
- An e-mail from Goff Beck, former Town Councillor, upon his retirement as the Parade Marshall for Remembrance Sunday events. He expressed his sincere appreciation to the Council and in particular the officers and ground staff for all their support over the last 12 years.

69. QUESTIONS - None70. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Hampshire County Councillor Fran Carpenter reported that the County Council had met to debate and vote on balancing future budget options. The County Council's financial position remained precarious, and a number of budget reductions had been identified including:

- A reduction in planned resurfacing works.
- A reduction in opening hours of Household waste recycling centres
- Cut grant funding to Hampshire Cultural Trust (incl. Forest Arts Centre)
- Cut funding for non-statutory transport including the CANGO service (unless local sources of funding can be found)
- Street lighting to be dimmed earlier.
- Cut funding on social care resulting in more reliance on volunteers, family and community organisations - the County Council would only continue to support the most vulnerable younger and older adults.

Cllr Murrow asked whether County Councillors retained small grant budgets, as he wished to apply for £100 contribution towards the Dementia allotment gardens. Cllr Carpenter confirmed she would be open to grant applications from February 2024.

Cllrs Clarke and S Davies had met with Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner on 27 October in the company of the Town Clerk. They had discussed ASB issues across the town and visited the Recreation Ground, the proposed site of the new Family Hub at Gore Road and the new youth facility at Ashley.

Cllr Clarke had assisted a local resident who was experiencing problems with her waste collection. Cllr Clarke is a member of three Task & Finish Groups: Affordable Housing, CIL Allocation and Car Parking. He had attended a meeting of the Licencing Committee and a licencing hearing.

Cllr S Davies reported that the Affordable Housing Task & Finish Group would assist him as Executive lead for Housing and Homelessness to ensure modern methods of construction are being considered for social housing. He had been to see the demolition of the former Hythe Hospital which would become 22 social housing units and work was underway at Moore Close for a small development of 16 social housing units. He had walked the North Milton Estate and Davies Field with Cllr Clarke and NFDC's Anti-Social Behaviour Officer looking at local fly tipping hotspots. He thanked Mandy Hayes and her team of litter pickers for their assistance in that area.

Cllr K Craze is a member of both the Car Parking and CIL Allocation Task & Finish Groups. He informed Councillors that the official opening of the new toilet block at Barton beach would take place on Wednesday 15 November 2023.

Cllr O'Sullivan said he is a member of the Community Grants Committee and this year, they had received twice as many applications whilst the budget remained the same as the previous year.

71. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Planning Committee

Cllr S J Clarke, Chairman of the Planning Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee meetings held on 12 and 26 October, and 9 November 2023 and moved their adoption.

It was,

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 109 to 139 inclusive of the meetings held on 12 and 26 October, and 9 November 2023 be received.

b) Amenities Committee

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Amenities Committee, Cllr D Hawkins submitted the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2023 and moved their adoption.

It was,

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 55 to 71 inclusive of the meeting held on 16 October 2023 be received.

c) Finance and General Purposes Committee

The Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 30 October 2023 were deferred until the next Town Council meeting on 2 January 2024.

d) Executive Committee

Cllr D Hawkins, Chairman of the Executive Committee submitted Minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2023 and moved their adoption.

It was,

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 1 to 10 inclusive of the meeting held on 27 October 2023 be received.

72. 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 04/23/24 in the sum of £191,852.53 for the period 1 – 30 September 2023 be approved.

The Schedule of Payments was duly signed.

73. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2024

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1 - Calendar of Meetings for 2024.

It was,

RESOLVED:

That the Calendar of meetings for 2024 be adopted.

74. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON ORGANISATIONS

Cllr O'Sullivan reported that following discussions with Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT) and the Forest Arts Centre he was optimistic about the future of the Centre despite rumours of its demise. He was aware that the County Council was considering reducing its grant to HCT as one of its budget reduction proposals, and whilst a budget reduction would likely impact the running of the Arts Centre it would not likely result in its closure. The Centre was in fact looking at internal refurbishment of the main performance area next year. He hoped to be visiting the Centre for many years to come.

75. TOWN DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2 - Town Development Report which was noted by members.

Cllr Clarke commented that the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party would be meeting on 5 December to talk with consultants about what assistance we might need to update the Plan.

76. ANY ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT/IMPORTANT

None.

77. NEXT MEETING – **Tuesday 2 January 2024 at 6.30 pm in the Town Hall.**

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and moved into the Democratic Half Hour at 7.20pm.

Chairman _____ Date _____

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Blackmore, a member of the public, praised the Council on its floral displays and the overall upkeep of the town. In particular, he wished to raise the issue of gulley drainage in the town and commented that they had not been emptied by the County Council for a number of years resulting in flooding and erosion of road surfaces.

The Chairman thanked Mr Blackmore for his comments, and it was agreed that the Town Clerk would write to Hampshire Highways regarding potholes, and the state of roads generally, especially Station Road.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.30pm.

Distribution:

Town Councillors

District Councillor Mrs J L Cleary

County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter, K Mans

New Milton Police

Press

Alan Watson – NewMilton.net

Sue Larking – NMRA

Mark Jeffries – Estates & Facilities Manager