

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 2 JANUARY 2024 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 Moores
p	J Baker	p	R Murrow
p	G R Blunden	p	A D O'Sullivan
p	S J Clarke		R A Reid
	M Craze	p	D Rice-Mundy
p	S P Davies	p	V E Schooling
p	W Davies	p	M Scott-Johns
			D N Tungate

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.

78. APOLOGIES

Cllrs. M Craze, P Moores, R A Reid and D N Tungate.

79. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

2 nd December 2023	Attended the Town Council Christmas Carol Service at St Mary Magdalene Church
4 th December 2023	Switched on the Christmas lights at Bethel House Residential Care Home
8 th December 2023	Attended Ballard School Christmas Carol Service with the Town Clerk at Christchurch Priory
9 th December 2023	Attended the Jubilee Singers Christmas Show
9 th December 2023	Attended the Town Brass Band of Christchurch concert at Barton Methodist Church
10 th December 2023	Attended the Lions Charter House lunch at Passford House Hotel

80. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

81. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 13 November 2023 and moved their adoption.

It was,

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 13 November 2023, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Minutes were duly signed.

82. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following correspondence:

- In response to a request from the Town Clerk, the County Council had repaired potholes on the road to Sammy Millers. An article from the Advertiser & Times was circulated to members regarding the allocation of a new 10-year £132 million funding package from the government to fix potholes, maintain roads and invest in 'longer term, proactive' highway maintenance. HS2 money would be repurposed to repair roads throughout Hampshire, HCC Universal Services spokesperson said.
- A thankyou letter from the Honey Pot Children's Charity for a grant from the Town Council of £1,000. The grant was enough to fund a residential respite break at Honey Pot House for two of the eighteen young carers aged 5-12 that Honey Pot supports from the BH25 postcode area.
- An article from the Advertiser & Times regarding Becton and District Rotary Club which was being forced to close due to a lack of members. The Club had donated the last of its charity money to NF Basics Bank.

83. QUESTIONS

On behalf of Cllr M Craze, Cllr K Craze asked members to consider planting trees for the purpose of providing shade at Council playparks. Cllr G Blunden said this was a good point and that there had already been extensive planting at the new playpark at Ashley and at Doe Copse Way.

84. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Cllr S Davies reported that he had attended a number of housing related meetings and towards the end of November, had taken part in the annual rough sleeper count which was a mandatory requirement between midnight and 5am for every local Housing Authority across the country. During the evening no rough sleepers were identified in the town centre, in Ashley or at Barton on Sea.

District Cllr S Clarke reported that he had chaired two meetings of the Affordable Housing Task and Finish Group taking 2 hours to define "Affordable Housing" and had also attended a meeting of the Parking Task & Finish Group.

District Cllr G Blunden reported that the recent storms had caused very challenging situations particularly at Milford on Sea and Hordle. The current count of beach huts likely to be damaged at Milford was circa 50 and there were problems with the sea wall. Barton On Sea cliff top was currently stable.

District Cllr A D O'Sullivan had attended a meeting of the Community Grants Committee at which 43 applications were considered. He attended a further meeting in December to consider 15 applications for Capital grants.

District Cllr K Craze reported that in response to a request from a resident regarding her partner's headstone which had been damaged, he had arranged for the District Council to get it replaced this month. He would be attending a tour of NFDC car parking sites later in the month.

85. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Planning Committee

Cllr S J Clarke, Chairman of the Planning Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee meetings held on 23 November and 5 December 2023 and moved their adoption.

It was,

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 140 to 160 inclusive of the meetings held on 23 November and 5 December 2023 be received.

b) Amenities Committee

Cllr G Blunden, Chairman of the Amenities Committee, submitted the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2023 and moved their adoption.

Regarding minute 83 - CCTV, Cllr Blunden was pleased to work with the Police to identify locations for additional CCTV based on need across the town. This would need to be considered by NFDC however Cllr Blunden was hopeful that the proposed locations would be approved and address the lack of CCTV coverage in New Milton compared with other large towns across the District.

It was then,

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 72 to 86 inclusive of the meeting held on 27 November 2023 be received.

c) Finance and General Purposes Committee

In the absence of both the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, Cllr A O'Sullivan submitted the Minutes of the meetings held on 30 October and 12 December 2023 and moved their adoption.

It was,

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 51 to 82 inclusive of the meetings held on 30 October and 12 December 2023 be received.

d) Executive Committee

Cllr D Hawkins, Chairman of the Executive Committee submitted Minutes of the meetings held on 17 November 2023 and moved their adoption.

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2023 were deferred until the next meeting.

It was,

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 11 to 20 inclusive of the meetings held on 17 November 2023 be received.

86. 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 05/23/24 in the sum of £354,249.14 for the period 1 October – 30 November 2023 be approved.

The Schedule of Payments was duly signed.

87. COUNCIL BUDGET / PRECEPT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1 - Budget and Precept papers endorsed by the F&GP Committee on 12 December 2023, proposing a budget of £1,358,929 & revised Precept of £1,325,429.

It was,

RESOLVED:

That the 2024/25 budget of £1,358,929 be accepted and a precept of £1,325,429 be approved.

The Town Clerk signed the Precept Request Form and will forward to NFDC.

88. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The Chairman referred to the Internal Audit report and Recommendations, with proposed responses which had previously been circulated at Appendix 2.

RESOLVED:

That the First Interim Audit report for 2023-24 and recommendations be noted with responses.

89. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2024

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3 – being Calendar of Meetings for 2024, highlighting the addition of the Civic Service on 24 March 2024.

It was,

RESOLVED:

That the revised Calendar of meetings for 2024 be adopted.

90. CHARITY COMMISSION – ANNUAL RETURN

The Town Clerk referred to Appendix 4, the Annual Return for 2022/23 for the War Memorial Recreation Ground Charity for the year ending 31 March 2023. The net cost of running the Recreation Ground of £1,339.57 was noted.

The Town Clerk will forward the report to the Charity Commission accordingly.

91. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON ORGANISATIONS

Cllr R Murrow said he would be attending a meeting of the New Milton Residents Association with Joanna Hayward who is doing a talk on the Dementia Allotment. He would be seeking further funding for the Dementia Allotment from the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

92. ANY ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT - None.93. NEXT MEETING – Monday 12 February 2024 at 6.30 pm in the Town Hall.

Council Chairman thanked members of the public for attending and closed the public part of the meeting at 7.10pm, moving into Private Session with members agreement.

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.

94. AWARDS FOR COUNCILLORS

Members agreed to the nomination of former Cllr Goff Beck as the third recipient of the prestigious award of Honorary Freeman of New Milton, that the Town Council is entitled to bestow upon those who have rendered eminent service to the Town. The Clerk outlined plans for the occasion.

Regarding Council plaques, after discussion

It was,

RESOLVED:

That former Cllrs John Ward and Christine Ward each receive a plaque in recognition of their public service to the people of New Milton.

95. BALLARD WARD CO-OPTION

Three candidates expressed an interest in the Ballard Ward vacancy.

Cllr S Clarke proposed Kani Trehorn, this was seconded by Cllr R Murrow.

Being agreed by majority vote

It was then,

RESOLVED:

That Kani Trehorn be appointed Town Councillor for the Ballard Ward.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.00 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 – NewMilton.net
Sue Larking – NMRA
Mark Jeffries – Estates & Facilities Manager