

## NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 2 OCTOBER 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 Moores
p	J Baker	p	R Murrow
p	G R Blunden		A D O'Sullivan
p	S J Clarke		R A Reid
p	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

C Rabbitto – Town Development Manager

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, County Councillors F Carpenter and M Kendal, three Officers, two members of the public and PS Arron Wood to the meeting.

The Chairman led the Council in observing a minute's silence in memory of Cllr Charles Baker who had recently passed away.

PS Arron Wood reported that he was pleased to be back as the head of both the New Milton and Lymington beat teams. The New Milton team was currently understaffed due to officers attending training courses and sickness absence but would be back to full compliment by the end of the month at which time there would be more opportunity for officers to patrol the town. A new Neighbourhood Enforcement Team (NET) had been established covering the New Forest and Eastleigh and a 24-hour response team continued to be operational based in Lyndhurst. PS Wood was asked to provide data on crime trends etc at future meetings.

Cllr Hawkins requested a meeting with Inspector D Ord and PS Wood and the Town Clerk to discuss the most pressing concerns within the Town and how these could best be addressed.

#### 49. APOLOGIES

Cllrs P Moores, A D O'Sullivan, R A Reid and D N Tungate.

#### 50. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

9 September 2023 - Attended the Youth Festival on the Recreation Ground

10 September 2023 Attended a Welcome Service at BOS Methodist Church

51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None52. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 7 August 2023 and moved their adoption.

It was,

**RESOLVED:**

***That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 7 August 2023, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.***

The Minutes were duly signed.

53. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following correspondence:

- A Notice of Vacancy in Office of Councillor for the Ballard Ward had been advertised on 26 September 2023. Residents were given 14 days to request an election and if an election was called, it would take place no later than 18 December 2023. If no request for an election was received the vacancy would be filled by co-option.
- An e-mail from Patricia Salami, Interim Programme Manager at NFDC for the UK Shared Prosperity Funding confirming that New Milton had been awarded £15,000 to be spent on town centre improvements. The money would need to be spent before March 2025.
- An e-mail from Roxana Prior, Chair of Governors at Ashley Infant School seeking a volunteer for school Governor. Any Councillors interested in the voluntary role should contact Roxana.

4. QUESTIONS - None5. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Councillor Fran Carpenter reported that the County Council's financial situation remained difficult. Grants to museums would likely be cut and changes were being made to adult social care and in particular County run care homes where the focus would be on dementia and other specialist care services. She thanked the Chairman for his support in respect of the Bee Fayre in August.

County Councillor Mel Kendal reported that it had been mistakenly reported that the County Council was virtually bankrupt. Rather, the County Council had been forward-planning and highlighting to Government future budgetary concerns. Cuts of over £600m had been made in the last decade that had impacted on bus services and road repairs however essential services had been maintained.

This year the budget shortfall was approximately £80m which would be covered from reserves. Looking ahead to 2025/26, the budget shortfall was expected to be in the region of £152m. Adult social care costs were increasing rapidly, mainly due to an increase in adults with dementia. In response, the County Council would be investing £173m from the capital budget over the next 6 years to convert existing Care Homes into dementia and other specialist care facilities. An additional £200 per month had been awarded to households providing accommodation for Ukrainian families (Government funded).

District Cllr Clarke asked whether HCC would be contributing towards the cost of constructing a new Family Hub. Cllr Kendal suggested an approach might be to look at the facility in Ringwood which was funded by the County Council.

Cllr Adams raised concerns about speeding in Bashley and asked whether the County Council would support a 20mph speed limit on Bashley Common Road. Both County Councillors indicated that they would not be likely to support any blanket proposal in this location, it being a main arterial road.

District Cllrs S Clarke and S Davies recently met on 12 September with New Forest District Commander - Chief Inspector Nick Marsden, together with the Town Clerk and Brian Byrne from NFDC to discuss anti-social behaviour locally in Albert Road especially. Cllr Clarke was due to meet Cllr Davies and the District Council's new Anti-Social Behaviour Officer Chris Pike to walk the North Milton Estate and Davies Field and in particular they would be looking at local fly tipping hotspots. Cllr Clarke expressed his thanks to Mandy Hayes and her team of litter pickers for their efforts on the North Milton Estate.

District Cllr G Blunden had attended a Places and Sustainability Overview and Scrutiny Committee looking at car parking cost adjustments in Keyhaven. He raised the issue of fly tipping and would be working with partners to look for solutions including more prosecutions. He also reported on the solar installation scheme, a partnership with HCC, enabling solar panels to be purchased in bulk at a much-reduced rate. The Barton toilet replacement project had been delayed but would be completed within the next few weeks. On coastal matters, a major project to replenish the beach and repair groins at Milford-On-Sea was progressing. The District Council was awaiting information from Defra regarding waste/changes to net zero which might affect plans agreed by the Council in summer 2022; however, the introduction of green waste wheelie bins would go ahead as planned from April 2024.

District Councillor S Davies reported on the Disabled Facilities Grant funding, providing funding to improve accessibility and enable people to remain living independently in their own homes, thanks to Government funding that had been increased from £10k to a maximum of £30k per eligible person.

Cllr S Davies said a Task and Finish Group had been set up by NFDC to look at options to deliver affordable housing including alternative home ownership models and methods of construction. The District Council was required to acquire 10 properties across the district for Ukrainian families (2 currently identified) and 2 properties for Afghan families (funded by Government).

NFDC Cllr K Craze had chaired a meeting of the Council Tax Task and Finish Group, looking at those unable to pay full Council Tax.

## 56. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### a) Planning Committee

Cllr S J Clarke, Chairman of the Planning Committee, submitted the minutes of the Committee meetings held on 17 and 31 August, and 14 and 28 September 2023 and moved their adoption.

It was,

**RESOLVED:**

***That Minutes 68 to 108 inclusive of the meetings held on 17 and 31 August, and 14 and 28 September 2023 be received.***

### b) Amenities Committee

Cllr G Blunden, Chairman of the Amenities Committee submitted Minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2023 and moved their adoption.

Regarding minute 47 Grazing update, a new grazier had been found and a couple of Dexter cattle would be at Ballard Water Meadow in a few weeks.

It was then,

**RESOLVED:**

***That Minutes 39 to 54 inclusive of the meeting held on 4 September 2023 be received.***

### c) Finance and General Purposes Committee

In the absence of Cllrs D N Tungate Chairman & R A Reid Vice-Chairman, Cllr W Davies submitted the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 18 September 2023 and moved their adoption.

It was,

**RESOLVED:**

***That Minutes 36 to 50 inclusive of the meeting held on 18 September 2023 be received.***

57. 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 03/23/24 in the sum of £413,579.65 for the period 1 July – 31 August 2023 be approved.***

The Schedule of Payments was duly signed.

58. EXTERNAL AUDIT

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1, including External Auditors Report and Certificate for year 2022/23. The Town Clerk referred to completion of AGAR.

It was noted that the Notice of Conclusion of Audit was published as required by 30 September 2023 at the front of the Town Hall and on the Council website.

It was,

**RESOLVED:**

***That Notice of Conclusion of Audit and AGAR be published for 3 months.***

59. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2023-24

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2, Calendar of Meetings for 2023/24 highlighting a Planning Committee change of date next May.

It was,

**RESOLVED:**

***That the revised Calendar of meetings for 2023/24 be adopted.***

60. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON ORGANISATIONS

Cllr R Murrow updated the Council on the dementia allotment. Visitors had been asked for their views on the allotment and the findings would be presented to the Amenities Committee on 16 October 2023.

Cllr M Craze reported that a meeting of the Friends of the Indian Memorial was scheduled for 28 October 2023.

61. TOWN DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3 Town Development Report and the TDM provided a verbal update.

62. ANY ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT/IMPORTANT

None.

63. NEXT MEETING - **Monday 13 November 2023 at 6.30 pm in the Town Hall.**

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

There being no further business to discuss, and with no members of the public wishing to speak under a DEMOCRATIC HALF HOUR, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.45 pm.

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