

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 10 AUGUST 2020 AT 6.30PM VIA ZOOM VIDEO COMMUNICATION.

Councillors:	p	A Reid (Chairman)	p	K E Craze (Vice-Chairman)
		M Brownsea		D A Rice-Mundy
	p	G R Blunden		A W Rice
	p	S J Clarke	p	A D O'Sullivan
	p	M Craze	p	V E Schooling
	p	S P Davies	p	D N Tungate
	p	D E Hawkins	p	C V Ward
		R Murrow	p	J G Ward
	p	H Wallis-Dowling		
In Attendance:	Officers:	G Flexman	-	Town Clerk
		J Hayward	-	Administrator
		M Jeffries	-	Estates & Facilities Manager
		S King	-	Town Development Manager

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, four Officers, eleven members of the public and a press representative to the virtual meeting of the Town Council as well as HCC Councillors M Kendal and F Carpenter.

The Chairman decided to change the order of business and introduced Public Participation at the beginning of the meeting, to enable members of the public to leave after that.

Julia Stamper, a resident living near Ballard Lake, referred to the Amenities Committee Meeting minutes of 13 July 2020, in particular minute 175, regarding the storage container at Ballard Meadow. Julia voiced concerns about the container, it being an attraction for anti-social behaviour and criminal behaviour resulting in a recent personal burglary and arson in the area. She suggested that if there was another serious incident then the container should be relocated elsewhere on the meadow.

The Chairman referred the matter to the Amenities Committee for further consideration.

Bob Lord, representing Friends of Ballard Water Meadow, restated the purpose of the storage container and the Chairman confirmed this matter had been referred to Amenities.

Bob Lord also referred to drone activity around Becton Lane and asked if there was a council policy regarding drones. The Chairman referred this matter to the Amenities Committee.

148. APOLOGIES

Cllrs M Brownsea, R Murrow, D Rice-Mundy, and A Rice.

149. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman provided a reminder about the Zoom meeting protocols.

150. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - none151. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 29 June 2020 and the Extraordinary Town Council Meeting held on 24 July 2020.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Town Council Meetings held on 29 June and 24 July 2020, having been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

It was agreed the Minutes will be signed when normal course of business resumes.

Cllr K Craze referred to the Extraordinary Town Council meeting minutes and minute 145, Road Closure, and the Chairman invited Cllrs to discuss the matter.

Cllr Davies was concerned about the Old Milton Road closure at the Nobel/Kimbers junction as it was leading to increased traffic in Whitefield Road and more car fumes and noise pollution for residents.

Cllr Schooling was also concerned about the road closure and particularly that there had been no consultation with residents or traders.

Cllr Clarke said that the road closure should be removed as it was causing an unacceptable delay for traffic in town.

Cllr K Craze noted that the rates of Covid infection were variable and that to stay safe the road closure should remain in place.

Cllr Blunden asked if we had received any feedback from the public and the Town Clerk referred to an email from two residents who were pleased with the road closure as it now felt like a much pleasanter place to visit and shop, suggesting that the Old Milton Road closure should become permanent and the area pedestrianised to provide more outdoor activities for shoppers.

Cllr Blunden was in favour of making New Milton a safe place for residents and visitors.

Cllr Tungate said the road closure should be removed as it was causing mayhem and annoyance in the town.

Cllr Hawkins was concerned about the traffic pollution being created in Whitefield Road but was also mindful about protecting the community from Covid stating that we should be cautious.

Cllr C Ward was also concerned about the confusion in town and said the road closure should be removed.

Cllr M Craze said that the road closure should stay in place for a bit longer as it appeared there was a spike in infections, and we do not want to go backwards in our war against Covid.

Cllr Wallis-Dowling said it was a difficult subject as there were pros and cons in the conversation, but we must look for an alternative solution.

Cllr J Ward was appalled that the discussion showed that we had little respect for the Government advisers and that we should do as much as we can to reduce the spread of Covid-19 by keeping the remaining road closure in place.

Cllr O'Sullivan said that the compromise to open eastbound from the Nobel/Kimbers junction would still mean a pinch-point for pedestrians on the Kimbers side of the road.

Cllr Davies proposed to remove the stress of traffic using Whitefield Road that the road closure at Old Milton Road be removed for eastbound traffic heading towards Ashley.

Cllr Blunden said that opening up part of the road would still cause congestion because of pedestrians crossing the road and we shouldn't rush through any changes and proposed that the road closure remain in place to be reviewed again in a month's time.

The Chairman asked for a show of hands for the counterproposal from Cllr Blunden with a 5 in favour and 7 against.

The Chairman asked for a show of hands for the former proposal from Cllr Davies with 7 in favour and 5 against.

Cllrs considered the next steps of review and it was suggested that the full town council should be consulted via an extraordinary meeting every two weeks.

Cllr Wallis-Dowling thought we should also be consulting with local people and encouraging their feedback.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That Hampshire Highways be asked to sanction a half-road closure at the junction of Station Road and Old Milton Road, such that eastbound traffic from Old Milton Road will be able to cross Station Road heading towards Ashley.

152. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the email from residents praising the Old Milton Road closure, previously read out at minute 151.

153. QUESTIONS - None154. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

HCC Cllr Carpenter referred to a resident's concern regarding speeding on the Bashley Cross Road and privately owned hedges affecting the footpath along Fernhill Lane. Cllr Clarke informed Cllr Carpenter that HCC Cllr K Mans was also aware of the Bashley Cross Road speeding issue.

Cllr Carpenter also referred to the Keeping Hampshire Safe website - <https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/07082020keepinghampshiresafe>

There is currently a consultation process regarding vehicle electric charging points - <https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/07082020EVchargingsurvey>

HCC Cllr Kendal provided a reminder about the HCC Library proposed opening times consultation encouraging participation, noting New Milton Library is well-used. <https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/library-consultation>

District Cllr O'Sullivan said it is very important to respond to the library consultation because of the reduction in days and times that could affect New Milton Library.

Cllr O'Sullivan also referred to a van parked at the Institute with advertising boards which he is looking into but there are no laws to stop this from occurring.

Cllr O'Sullivan additionally referred to NFDC's new website and new phone system which has improved customer access and response times.

District Cllr J Ward confirmed he had attended NFDC Covid Recovery meetings and noted an upcoming meeting reviewing the District Council ward boundaries.

District Cllr Tungate had also attended Task & Finish Groups regarding Covid Recovery and was pleased to note that the district council were well placed to survive.

District Cllr Clarke referred to the Health & Leisure centres re-opening and a review of the impacts of the Covid crisis, together with the on-going management review.

District Cllr Blunden also attended Covid Recovery groups as previously mentioned by his NFDC colleagues. He was pleased to advise that a SID would be placed in Becton Lane to dissuade speeding.

District Cllr C Ward has also attended Covid Recovery groups but was sorry to report that First Opportunities had to close.

District Cllr K Craze was pleased to advise that NFDC had waived the £100 licence fee for restaurants to trade on pavements until 2021.

Cllr Craze also referred to a good neighbour story involving an elderly resident with an overgrown garden that was being addressed by his neighbours and local company Bin & Gone who had removed the rubbish for free. Cllr Craze wanted to record a thank you and applauded their contribution.

District Cllr Davies referred to the upcoming Greener Housing Task & Finish meeting which would look at and review greener opportunities for housing. He was also pleased to report that some books have now been taken downstairs at New Milton Library allowing easier access for those with disabilities.

155. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

a) Planning Committee

Cllr Clarke submitted the minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 2, 16 and 30 July and moved their adoption.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 235 to 258 inclusive be received.

b) Amenities Committee

Cllr Blunden, Chairman of the Amenities Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 13 July 2020 and moved their adoption.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 170 - 185 inclusive be received.

Cllr Blunden asked for the following Minutes to be noted, being “referred matters”.

Minute 179 – Men’s Shed recommended extension of licence for 12 months to 30 September 2021.

Minute 182 – Centenary Rose Garden recommended that up to £15k CIL monies be earmarked for this project.

Minute 183 – Children’s Fairy Doors Walk recommended that up to £3k CIL monies be earmarked for this project.

c) Finance and General Purposes Committee

Cllr Davies, Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 27 July 2020 and moved their adoption.

It was

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 154 - 168 inclusive be received.

Cllr Hawkins referred to the Community Cultural Hub and asked when the new charity rules would be available for comment. The Town Clerk said this is work in progress.

156. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

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

It was unanimously

RESOLVED:

That the Schedule of Payments 02/20/21 in the sum of £192,732.78 for the period 1 May to 30 June 2020 be approved.

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

157. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2019/20

The Financial Statements for 2019/20, previously circulated as Appendix 1, were submitted for Council approval.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED:

That the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020 be approved and signed.

158. ANNUAL RETURN 2019/20

The Annual Return for 2019/20, previously circulated as Appendix 2, was submitted for Council approval.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Return for 2019/20 be approved and signed as follows:

- i) Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2019/20.***
- ii) Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2019/20.***

159. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2019/20

The Internal Audit Report for 2019/20, previously circulated as Appendix 3, was submitted for Council approval.

The Town Clerk referred to the penultimate page, being the list of recommendations and confirmed recommendation (5) had now been implemented in accordance with the final page, being External Auditor requirements from the previous year 2018-19.

It was then unanimously

RESOLVED:

That the Internal Audit Report and responses for 2019/20 be approved.

160. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS – None

161. TOWN DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

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

162. ANY ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT – CO-OPTION

The Chairman referred to CVs and presentations from candidates for co-option.

163. NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council Meeting will take place on **Monday 5 October 2020** at 6.30pm.

DEMOCRATIC HALF HOUR

Chris March, reporter from the New Milton A&T, asked for clarification on when the amendment to the road closure will be effective and asked for a copy of the TDM report. The Chairman indicated the amendment will be introduced as soon as possible.

The Chairman thanked members of the public, officers and press for attending and closed the public session of the virtual meeting at 8.02 pm.

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, claiming publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reasons of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

164. CO-OPTION

The Chairman referred to the four candidates who presented for interview and outlined the procedure for voting. Each candidate would be interviewed individually, in alphabetical order, detailing their background, before taking questions from Cllrs.

Cllrs considered each candidate who had presented, and following a majority vote

It was

RESOLVED:

That Dean Samber be appointed by co-option as Cllr for the Barton Ward.

The Chairman thanked members for attending and then closed the meeting at 8.54pm.

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