

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2021 AT 6.30PM VIA ZOOM VIDEO COMMUNICATION.

Councillors:	p A Reid (Chairman)	p K E Craze (Vice-Chairman)
	p M Brownsea	p 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
	p R Murrow	p J G Ward
	p H Wallis-Dowling	p D Samber

Officers: G Flexman - Town Clerk J Hayward - Administrator S King - TDM

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, three Officers, one member of the public and a press representative as well as HCC Cllrs F Carpenter, M Kendal, and K Mans.

The Chairman invited Public Participation at the start of the meeting.

Alan Watson, representing New Milton Lions, advised the meeting on the cancellation of the Lions May Fayre and the VE & VJ Community Celebration events this year due to expected prevailing COVID-19 restrictions. However, it is hoped to host the Queens Platinum Anniversary event next year 2022. With the demise of NMTP, Lions would be taking on the Words & Literary Festival, the Young Person of the Year Award, the Town Show, and the New Milton Christmas Festival scheduled for 27 November 2021. [New Milton Lions - Events](#)

Alan Watson referred to the online meeting of the NMRA AGM on 13 March 2021 where a panel of NMTC Cllrs would be available to take questions from residents and invited all Cllrs to join the event to support the 'Meet the Council' session and to register for the event at [NMRA GENERAL MEETING by Zoom \(google.com\)](#)

217. APOLOGIES

Cllr A Rice

218. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman thanked the New Milton COVID-19 Support Group for all their good deeds and thanked the NHS staff, Doctors surgeries, vaccination centres and volunteers for all their efforts with the mass vaccination programme.

219. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

220. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 4 January 2021.

It was then,

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 4 January 2021, having been circulated, be confirmed, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The minutes will be signed at the first opportunity after lockdown.

221. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to letters that had been sent on behalf of NMTC.

- a) A letter of appreciation to Alison and David John at Ashley Baptist Church for their years of community service.
- b) A letter of appreciation to John Evans, Chairman of NMTP noting the efforts and events of the charity in previous years.
- c) A letter of appreciation to the Coastal Medical Partnership thanking them for their COVID-19 vaccination programme.

The Town Clerk referred to incoming correspondence.

- d) A letter from Paul Jepson, President of New Milton RBL, being disappointed about the Amenities Committee decision not to relocate the Col Wheeler VC plaque as previously requested. The matter was referred to the Amenities Committee.
- e) An email from former Cllr Wyn Davies advising that former Cllr David Hart had passed away. He had been a Town Councillor from 1992-1995.
- f) An email from Cllr S Clarke requesting consideration that NMTC meetings be recorded and made available online and on YouTube during lockdown.

222. QUESTIONS

Question under SO 24 from Cllr S J Clarke received on 15 February 2021:

“Although I look forward to returning to sitting around the Council table for meetings in a return to normality recent information has indicated that there has been an upsurge in interest in Council proceedings during lockdown and also greater access has been allowed to local democracy. Should this council as an innovative body consider recording/broadcasting our proceedings via video online through such media as YouTube, as is currently undertaken at NFDC and therefore allowing our community greater access to proceedings.”

This would be referred to F&GP for consideration.

223. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

HCC Chairman Cllr M Kendal referred to the upcoming HCC Budget meeting noting an expected increase of 4.99% to council tax to cover increased services costs of Adult Social Care. [Monthly meetings calendar - February 2021 | About the Council | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

HCC Leader Cllr K Mans said that COVID-19 infections on Hampshire were below 100 cases per 100,000 residents and continued to reduce. HCC were looking at support for the Hospitality sector and focus on the revival of town centres as well.

HCC Cllr F Carpenter referred to the HCC Local Transport Plan consultation and encouraged individual Town and Parish Councillors to take part on-line at: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/localtransportplan>

Cllr Carpenter also referred to the **Solar Together Hampshire** scheme [Solar panel community energy buying scheme launched to help Hampshire reach climate change targets | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#) and the New Forest Big Bee Rescue initiative launch this Friday <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-forest-big-bee-rescue-launch>.

Cllr S Clarke referred HCC Cllrs to his concerns about the size and number of potholes on the Sway Road and Osborne Road. Cllr K Mans advised that a grant of £39m had recently been received from the Government to address road repairs in Hampshire and both these roads would receive attention as soon as possible.

Cllrs S Davies, J Ward and N Tungate had nothing to report from NFDC.

Cllr G Blunden had attended the Environment Panel to receive an update on the Waste Strategy Consultation with feedback being analysed and awaiting the Environment Bill in May so expecting final results of the consultation in September. He also noted that NFDC Ash die-back policy was to plant 2 trees for 1, which NMTC had also adopted with £14k a year set aside for Ash die-back over the next 5 years.

Cllr Clarke and Cllr Davies had looked at the waste and litter problems at Davis Field where it appears that fly-tipping is happening in and around the communal bins area and of course this carries a heavy penalty.

Cllr Clarke had attended the Task & Finish Group for Health & Leisure Centres noting that it was progressing with Freedom Leisure, a not-for-profit organisation that had agreed to take on all NFDC employees under TUPE arrangements.

Cllr C Ward said she had given some of her NFDC community grant to the Mother & Baby accommodation unit along Ashley Road, as had Cllr Blunden.

Cllr K Craze referred to the Working Group looking at demolishing the public toilet blocks at Calshot and Barton beach. His concerns being with the loss of facilities and the demolition costs versus the refurbishment costs.

He was also pleased to note that the NFDC 'Crabby' campaign had meant 10 tonnes less of litter resulting in savings of £10k. [Less litter thanks to NFDC getting 'Crabby' - New Forest District Council](#)

Cllr A O'Sullivan was sad to advise that Mr Eddie Franklin, local resident, and member of the RBL, had passed away. He was known for being very vocal and forthright when attending council meetings. www.advertiserandtimes.co.uk/obituary-eddie-franklin

Cllr O'Sullivan was also concerned about the proposed demolition of the public toilets at Barton Beach and encouraged the support of all councillors.

Cllrs Kendal and Mans left the meeting at 7.00pm.

224. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Planning Committee

Cllr Clarke, Chairman of the Planning Committee, submitted minutes of the Committee Meetings held on 14 and 28 January, plus 11 February 2021, and moved their adoption.

Cllr Clarke referred to minute 376, Brockhills Development and a letter received from a local group named RABL, confirming the standard response to be given that we will respond as appropriate when the planning application is in place.

Cllr H Wallis-Dowling referred to an article on the NMTC website which explains to residents how to make appropriate representations. [PROPOSED BROCKHILLS LANE DEVELOPMENT - New Milton \(newmiltontowncouncil.gov.uk\)](http://newmiltontowncouncil.gov.uk)

It was then,

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 353 to 381 inclusive be received.

b) Amenities Committee

Cllr Blunden, Chairman of the Amenities Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 18 January 2021 and moved their adoption.

Cllr Blunden referred to minute 241, Col Wheeler VC plaque, noting that a decision had been made at that meeting and the Town Clerk confirmed that decisions cannot normally be reversed within six months.

It was then,

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 234 to 248 inclusive be received.

c) Finance and General Purposes Committee

Cllr Davies, Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 1 February 2021 and moved their adoption.

It was,

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 213 to 226 inclusive be received.

d) Executive Committee

Cllr K Craze, Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 5 February 2021 and moved their adoption.

Cllr D Hawkins questioned the Collaborative Impact consultancy and the costs incurred for the workshops. Cllr K Craze advised that these workshops were previously agreed and budgeted for.

There followed a discussion about the Collaborative Impact workshops which the Chairman referred to Agenda item 11, Neighbourhood Plan Briefing Note Appendix 1.

It was then,

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 103 to 112 inclusive be received.

225. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

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

It was unanimously,

RESOLVED:

That the Schedule of Payments 06/20/21 in the sum of £178,460.92 for the period 1-31 December 2020 be approved.

The authorisation would be signed in due course after lockdown.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for a short comfort break from 7.40 to 7.45pm.

226. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

Cllr R Murrow gave an update on the hoped-for Dementia Community Forum setting up a network for Dementia Services providers and the Dementia Community. Dates for online Dementia Awareness sessions would be shared with Officers and Councillors to attend if they wished.

Cllr Murrow also referred to the NM Twinning Association and expected that the French Association visit would be postponed this year, due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, and hoped for it to happen next year.

He had also attended the NF Mencap Group regular “Chuesdays Chat” where he was warmly welcomed, and he thanked the NF Mencap staff Jackie and Christine for supporting the group members.

227. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1 and asked Cllr S Clarke to provide an update on the Neighbourhood Plan Referendum due on 6 May 2021.

Cllr Clarke referred to the aspirational Neighbourhood Plan, being a community input document, and the upcoming focus on communications and engagement with residents to encourage them to vote for the Neighbourhood Plan at the Referendum.

Cllr Blunden referred to the upcoming Collaborative Impact workshops regarding Core Values and Governance, suggesting that these be put on hold as the Officers and Councillors focus as a team on the Neighbourhood Plan at Referendum.

Cllr J Ward voiced his concerns about the Core Values referring to Standing Orders. Cllr H Wallis-Dowling said that Core Values are important for all, noting that the Standing Orders Aims and Objectives are different to Core Values.

The Chairman said Core Values are important. Cllr Blunden proposed that we concentrate on preparing the Neighbourhood Plan and Referendum for 6 May and then continue with the workshops thereafter.

There was a unanimous show of hands in support of this proposal.

It was then,

RESOLVED: That the Council concentrate its efforts on the Neighbourhood Plan and getting it past the Referendum on 6 May 2021.

[Post Meeting Note: Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12, paragraph 41 (1). Minutes of proceedings of a council and of its committees must be kept. They are intended to be formal records of official acts and decisions, not reports, still less verbatim reports, of the speeches made by councillors. Minutes should, therefore, be as short as is consistent with clarity and accuracy, and the arguments used in the discussion need be recorded only if the decision cannot be clearly expressed in any other way. Short, simple minutes are less likely to be defamatory than long reports... Arnold-Baker on Local Council Administration – 11th edition, Ed. Paul Clayden]

228. TOWN DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

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

Cllr Davies was pleased to note that Yellow Buses were to introduce a Sunday Service of the 1a bus route from Whitsun. Cllr O’Sullivan referred to the Neighbourhood Plan promotion and the TDM is working on a Campaign Proposal, including Calls to Action, advertising, and leaflet drops, will be made available shortly.

229. NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council Meeting will take place on **Monday 29 March 2021** at 6.30pm via Zoom.

The Chairman thanked members, officers, the public and press for attending and closed the meeting at 8.22pm.

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