

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 28 JUNE 2021 AT 6.30PM AT THE ARNEWOOD SCHOOL.

Councillors:	p K E Craze (Chairman)	p R Murrow (Vice-Chairman)
	M Brownsea	D A Rice-Mundy
	p G R Blunden	p D Samber
	p S J Clarke	p V E Schooling
	p M Craze	p A D O'Sullivan
	p S P Davies	p D N Tungate
	p D E Hawkins	p C V Ward
	p R A Reid	J G Ward
	p A W Rice	p H Wallis-Dowling

In Attendance:	Officers:	G Flexman, Town Clerk
		H Ormerod – Administrative Assistant
		E Towler – Youth Services Co-ordinator
		S Ramsaywack – Youth Services Manager
		S King, Town Development Manager

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, five Officers and one member of the public to the meeting of the Town Council.

18. APOLOGIES

Cllrs M Brownsea, D A Rice-Mundy and J Ward and Hampshire County Councillors F Carpenter, M Kendal and K Mans.

19. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

The Chairman reported on his recent engagements.

11 th May 2021	Attended opening of the Age Concern Day Centre.
15 th May 2021	Laid centenary wreath for the Royal British Legion centenary commemorations at the War Memorial.
11 th June 2021	Met with representatives from Parkinson's Dance Programme, being one of the Chairman's nominated charities for his term in office.
22 nd June 2021	Attended the Dementia Allotment opening.

- 24th June 2021 Met with representatives from SCARF (Supporting children with additional needs, relatives and friends), being one of the Chairman's nominated charities during his term in office.
- 25th June 2021 Receipt of a cheque for £1,000 from Tesco in respect of the Number 1 project.
- 26th June 2021 Attended a party to celebrate Ted Horn's 100th birthday.
- 29th June 2021 Attended opening of Berties Fish Bar and the Toys & More Shop.

The Chairman reminded members of the continuing need to be vigilant regarding the spread of Covid 19. Members expressed concern about the seating arrangements and the difficulty in maintaining social distancing, together with acoustic issues. Hopefully, these issues will be addressed following Govt lifting of restrictions on 19 July 2021.

20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none

21. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 5 May 2021. It was noted that under minute 13b Amenities Committee minutes of 13 April 2021 should have read minutes 266 – 283 and not minutes 266 -263 as printed.

It was then,

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 5 May 2021, having been circulated, be confirmed, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the above amendment.

The amended Minutes were duly signed.

22. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to three items of correspondence:

- i) A letter from New Milton Youth Trust asking that the Town Council work jointly with the Trust to identify sites for a Youth Centre in the town and to ask the for the use of Town Council admin services for the purpose for the Youth Trust. Cllr H Wallis-Dowling, Chair of the Youth Trust reported that the issue of Trust secretary was a matter for discussion by the Trust and the matter would be referred back to the Town Council if and when appropriate.

- ii) An e-mail from Hampshire Traffic Police regarding speed enforcement monitoring undertaken at various locations during May and June including Becton Lane, Barton Court Avenue, Stem Lane and Bashley Common Road.
- iii) An e-mail from County Councillor M Kendal informing the Town Council that Ashley Infant School was seeking a new school Governor due to the resignation of Councillor D Hawkins on 23rd June.

The Chairman referred to two items of correspondence he had received.

- i) A local resident had contacted the Town Council regarding motorists parking and stopping overnight on the cliff top. There was currently no signage / bylaw to prevent this. The matter would be referred to NFDC in the first instance.
- ii) A local resident expressing concerns about potentially high levels of traffic pollution outside New Milton Junior School and the Nursery; the pedestrian crossing timing being insufficient for pedestrians / children to cross the road safely at the traffic lights near Lidl; and motorists speeding on Christchurch Road specifically near the One Stop crossing, both being HCC matters.

Town Clerk had already raised these issues with Hampshire County Council.

23. QUESTIONS – None

24. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Davies reported that work continued on the Council's draft waste strategy. The District Council was looking to introduce maximum stay limits for blue badge holders (currently no restrictions) and would be consulting users on these proposals. NFDC was to work jointly with BCP Council colleagues on the Christchurch Bay Strategy.

Cllr Clarke had chaired a Greener Housing Task & Finish Group. Work was being undertaken to develop a strategy for replacing heating systems in older housing stock and 50 properties across the new forest area had been identified. He had also chaired a Parking SPD Task & Finish Group relating to both commercial and residential parking allocations.

Cllr Blunden had chaired a Sustainable Waste Management Task & Finish Group and a Community Partnership & Well Being Overview and Scrutiny Task & Finish Group. The District Council had established two new Cabinet Portfolios with Cllr David Russell, Portfolio Holder for People & Places and Cllr Mark Steele, Portfolio Holder for Partnering & Wellbeing.

Cllr Tungate reported that the District Council had ratified the Local Plan. Work was being undertaken in respect of licencing managers at mobile home parks, which was very relevant to his ward as it included Hoburne Bashley, Westwood & Glendene Park.

Cllr Craze had attended HR meetings. Due to the retirement of the current postholders, NFDC would soon be appointing a new Chief Executive and Deputy.

Cllrs A O'Sullivan and C Ward had attended meetings but had nothing to report.

25. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Planning Committee

Cllr Clarke submitted the minutes of the Committee Meetings held on 4 and 20 May and 3 and 17 June 2021 and moved their adoption.

It was,

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 435 to 444 inclusive of the 4 May meeting and Minutes 1 to 32 inclusive of the 20 May, 3 and 17 June 2021 meetings be received.

b) Amenities Committee

Cllr Blunden, Chairman of the Amenities Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Extra-ordinary Meeting held on 27 April and Committee meeting held on 1 June 2021 and moved their adoption.

Cllr Blunden reported that following the meeting of 1 June, officers and members had met with recreation ground users to discuss incidents of vandalism and to provide users with an opportunity to feed back on their requirements.

It was,

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 284 to 291 inclusive of the Extra-ordinary meeting held on 27 April 2021 and Minutes 1 to 15 inclusive of the 1 June 2021 meeting be received.

c) Finance and General Purposes Committee

Cllr Tungate, Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 15 June 2021 and moved their adoption.

It was,

RESOLVED: *That Minutes 1 to 20 inclusive of the meeting held on 15 June 2021 be received.*

26. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Schedule of Payments, previously circulated, was submitted for Council approval. It was noted that this included £60k spend relating to Fawcetts Field CAPEX project.

It was unanimously,

RESOLVED:

That the Schedule of Payments 01/21/22 in the sum of £240,676.19 for the period 1 April to 31 May 2021 be approved.

The Schedule of payments would be signed in due course.

27. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2020/21

The Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021, previously circulated as Appendix 1, were submitted for Council approval.

It was unanimously,

RESOLVED:

That the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 be approved.

The Financial Statements were signed off by the Town Clerk and the Chairman.

28. SUMMARY RESULTS

The Summary Results showing earmarked reserves and bank balances, previously circulated as Appendix 2, were noted by members as a useful aide memoire.

29. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The Internal Audit Report for 2020/21, previously circulated as Appendix 3, was submitted for Council approval.

The Town Clerk referred to the two recommendations at the end regarding reserves and investments, noting both had recently been reviewed and addressed by F&GP.

It was then unanimously,

RESOLVED:

That the Internal Audit Report for 2020/21 be approved and responses noted.

30. ANNUAL RETURN 2020/21

The Annual return for 2020/21, previously circulated as Appendix 4, was submitted for Council approval.

It was moved and seconded, with thanks expressed to both the Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk for their hard work in producing the end of year reports, especially given the Council had 2 months less this year than last to produce the data.

It was then unanimously,

RESOLVED: *That the Annual Return for 2020/21 be approved and signed:*

- a) ***Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2020/21***
- b) ***Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2020/21***

31. Annual Governance Statement, then Accounting Statements were approved / signed.
REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

The Vice-Chairman reported that representatives from the Council's Twin Town of Canteleu in France were due to visit in May 2022.

Cllr O'Sullivan reported that the Forest Arts Centre had re-opened and a number of outdoor ticketed events and a range of community projects were planned.

32. TOWN DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

The Town Development Manager referred to her report, previously circulated as Appendix 5, which was noted by members.

33. ANY ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT – none.

34. NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council Meeting will take place on **Monday 9 August 2021 at 6.30 pm – Venue to be agreed, but hopefully the Town Hall after lifting of restrictions.**

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7.15pm to allow for a period of Public Participation.

Alan Watson (New Milton Residents' Association) asked the Council to consider whether an event being organised jointly by the Lions Club / NMRA in 2022 to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee should be a civic event.

He also commented that he was disappointed to hear that New Milton was not on the list of areas due to receive high speed broadband albeit Cllr S Davies explained the underlying rationale and ways of achieving improved speeds using existing equipment.

The Chairman thanked Alan Watson for attending and closed the public part of the meeting at 7.25pm.

The Chairman moved to go into private session, as follows:

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

The Chairman moved that the public be excluded from the meeting for two items of business below 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.

35. YOUTH CENTRE

At its earlier meeting on 28 June 2021, the Executive Committee received an update from Cllr Clarke regarding a site for a Youth Centre and land that had been offered to the Council for £100k. The land is designated Green Belt and will remain so until an Exception Site is granted. The Executive Committee recommended that the Town Council accept the offer, subject to outline planning permission being granted.

It was then unanimously,

RESOLVED:

That the offer of land from HH as a site for a Youth Centre be accepted subject to outline planning permission being granted.

36. LAND AT FERNHILL

At its earlier meeting on 28 June 2021, the Executive Committee was informed that negotiations were underway via Anthony Harris, Solicitor regarding Mr Fry's land adjacent to existing Town Council land holdings at Fernhill. It had been suggested that the Council liaise with Claire Upton Brown of NFDC in the first instance regarding any intentions the District Council may have regarding the site.

It was then unanimously,

RESOLVED:

That the Town Council co-ordinate with NFDC regarding the Fernhill land site and prospective purchase of Mr Fry's land.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked officers and Councillors for attending and closed the meeting at 7.40pm.

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