

## NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 6.30 PM AT NEW MILTON TOWN HALL

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

#### In Attendance:

G Flexman - Town Clerk  
J Hayward – Communications Officer

H Ormerod – Administrative Assistant  
S King – Town Development Manager

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, Officers, a press representative and five members of the public.

The Chairman went out of session to enable a member of the public to speak regarding the '20 is plenty' campaign.

Mark King, a Bashley resident spoke in favour of introducing '20 is plenty' in Bashley. He spoke about how village life was currently affected as a result of speeding traffic including safety issues and the negative environmental impact.

The Chairman thanked Mr King and went back into session.

101. APOLOGIES - Cllrs M Brownsea, M Craze, B Murrow, A Reid, D Rice-Mundy, V Schooling and C Ward.

102. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr K Craze as Mayor reported on the following recent engagements:

2nd February      Attended Ashley Junior School and distributed 60 dictionaries for life to pupils

9<sup>th</sup> February      Along with the Mayor's Consort, the planting of a tulip tree to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at the Recreation Ground (noting within 48 hours of installation the commemorative plaque was vandalised and the Police had been informed)

- 11<sup>th</sup> February      Attended the official opening of Richards Events, a new recruitment agency business on Whitefield Road
- 11<sup>th</sup> February      Attended the funeral of former Town Councillor Roy 'Tink' Snudden at St Mary Magdalene Church

103. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

104. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 4 January 2022 and moved their adoption.

It was,

**RESOLVED:**

***That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 4 January 2022, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.***

The Minutes were duly signed.

105. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following items of correspondence:

- i) Correspondence from the appointed store manager of Marks & Spencer's confirming the new food hall would be opening in April 2022 and the company would be looking to recruit between 40 and 60 staff.
- ii) Letter from Sue Larking, secretary to the newly established Friends of the Indian Soldiers Memorial asking the Council to endorse Cllr M Craze as the Town Council's representative on this group. Members agreed to this proposal.
- iii) Continuing correspondence with HCC regarding application to Register Long Meadow as a Village Green. This matter would be referred to a future meeting of the Amenities Committee for final consideration and a decision made as to how to deal with the matter by 11 March 2022.

106. QUESTIONS

None

107. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

NFDC Cllr O'Sullivan had resigned as Chair of the NFDC Audit Committee and taken up the position of Chairman of the Community Partnership and Wellbeing Panel that Cllr Blunden previously chaired before appointment as a Portfolio Holder. He had also attended a meeting of the Safer New Forest Strategic Group and reported that road collisions and burglaries were on the decrease in the New Forest, however sexual and drug offenses were on the increase. He had also attended a Customer Task and Finish Group.

NFDC Cllr Blunden had chaired a meeting of the Safer New Forest Strategic group. He had also attended a meeting with the Police & Crime Commissioner – key points being discussed included police visibility, anti-social behaviour and the 101 service. He had also attended a Health and Wellbeing Task and Finish Group and the Freedom Partnership Board noting the District Council's rolling programme of improvements to leisure facilities including the replacement of gym equipment and vending machines. He had also attended the Community Partnership and Wellbeing Panel which had been looking at air quality issues.

NFDC Cllr Clarke had attended the Community Partnership and Wellbeing Panel and chaired the General Purposes & Licencing (GPL) Committee. He had also chaired a meeting of the Leisure Task & Finish Group and a meeting of the Greener Housing Group. The Litter Task & Finish Group was currently investigating the use of smart litter bins which involved using a gadget to identify when bins were full and therefore needed emptying. NMTC had been highlighted for particularly efficient working with NFDC on litter collection. NFDC had appointed a new Enforcement Manager and it was suggested that he be invited to attend a future meeting to talk about his role and priorities.

NFDC Cllr J Ward had attended meetings of the GPL and Audit Committees.

NFDC Cllr Davies reported that little progress had been made on the waste strategy due to lack of direction from central government. The deadline for formal adoption of this Strategy is July 2022 with an expected rollout in 2024. He would present an update on the strategy to NFALC at its meeting in April. Cllr Davies suggested that HCC be asked to consider the installation of life-sized silhouettes of people/animals (similar to those used in France) at casualty hot spots in the New Forest to encourage motorists to slow down.

He reported that officers were looking to introduce a Park & Stride scheme in New Milton using the Crossmeads Car Park (focussing on New Milton Infant and Junior schools). Such a scheme had been adopted successfully in Lymington and involved parents/carers displaying a disc which enabled them to park free of charge during drop off and pick up times thus reducing congestion around the schools. He also reported that Milford Road would be closed for a few days whilst it was resurfaced.

NFDC Cllr Tungate had attended a Housing and Homelessness Scrutiny Panel and a Film New Forest Task & Finish Group.

NFDC Cllr Craze reported on the Public Conveniences Review Programme with the total refurbishment of 8 sites across the district including Barton-on-Sea.

108. COMMITTEE REPORTSa) Planning Committee

Cllr Clarke, Chairman of the Planning Committee, submitted the minutes of the Committee meetings held on 6 and 20 January, and 3 February 2022 and moved their adoption.

Cllrs Rice and Clarke referred to minute 188 e) expressing disappointment that the layby north of the post office at Bashley had recently had yellow lines re-instated.

Cllr Rice also referred to minute 188 f) commenting that the crossing at Swallows Ridge/Osbourne Road would likely fail most of the HCC crossing criteria considerations.

It was then

**RESOLVED:**

***That Minutes 171 to 199 inclusive of the meetings held on 6 and 20 January and 3 February 2022 be received.***

b) Amenities Committee

Cllr Blunden, Chairman of the Amenities Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 17 January 2022 and moved their adoption.

It was,

**RESOLVED:**

***That Minutes 99 to 112 inclusive of the meetings held on 17 January 2022 be received.***

c) Finance and General Purposes Committee

Cllr D N Tungate, Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 31 January 2022 and moved their adoption.

Cllr Blunden referred to minute 91 being Amenities Referred Matters regarding the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Cllrs Blunden and O'Sullivan had been in discussions with MENCAP regarding the painting of a commemorative mural on the wall to the side of Boots the chemist, which was considered affordable and achievable given the timescale. Feedback on the installation of a landmark feature in the town had been mixed and it was considered that given the current economic pressures and the potential cost of such a feature this proposal be put on hold.

Cllr Clarke referred to minute 93 being the Youth report and commented that as a result of problems with anti-social behaviour a number of Councillors and representatives from the Safer New Forest team had attended Ashley Recreation ground on a couple of occasions to engage with young people on Wednesday evenings.

Cllr Clarke also referred to minute 96 Chairman's Items regarding Meadow Day and thanked the Estates & Facilities Manager and his team for their hard work in ensuring necessary arrangements had been made for parking.

Cllr Rice referred to minute 99 the Memorial Hall and declared an interest as a member of the Memorial Hall Management Committee.

It was then,

**RESOLVED:**

***That Minutes 83 to 99 inclusive of the meeting held on 31 January 2022 be received.***

109. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

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

**RESOLVED:**

***That the Schedule of Payments No 06/21/22 in the sum of £147,603.52 for the period 1 – 31 December 2021 be approved.***

The Schedule of Payments was duly signed.

110. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

In Cllr B Murrow's absence, Cllr K Craze reported that representatives from Canteleu would be visiting New Milton from Thurs 12 to Monday 16 May 2022.

111. TOWN DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

The Town Development Manager presented a written report, previously circulated, which was noted by members. The report provided updates on the Christmas campaign, work on the Neighbourhood Plan and the High Street and Social Infrastructure Fund including a 3-year programme of socially prescribed diabetic-friendly cookery lessons.

Cllr Blunden expressed his thanks to the Town Development Manager and the Communications & Community Engagement officer for their hard work on progressing work through the Green Routes Working Group.

112. CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN

The Town Development Manager presented a written report on the Christmas communications campaign which was previously circulated. It was noted, compared to last year, the campaign had resulted in an 8% increase in footfall in New Milton, the Go New Milton website traffic had increased by 508% and the catchment area for repeat shoppers had significantly increased to include Highcliffe, Christchurch and Hurn.

113. PLANNING REFERRED MATTER

Members debated a Planning Referred Matter re the proposed '20 is plenty'.

There was considerable debate about this item and several areas across New Milton, including Bashley, were identified as potential likely locations.

However, it was agreed that further consideration would need to be given to specific locations prior to making recommendations to the Highways Authority, that is reviewing the situation across Hampshire, not solely New Milton.

It was agreed the Town Council support the Recommendation from Planning.

It was than

**RESOLVED:**

***That the 20 is Plenty campaign be supported for selected areas - rather than a blanket lowered speed limit throughout the town - to cover roads near schools and anywhere else appropriate.***

The Town Clerk was requested to raise the '20 is plenty' campaign at a future NFALC meeting to seek wider views and that the Town Council write to HCC Cllr Keith Mans seeking support.

114. NEXT MEETING **Monday 28 March 2022 at 6.30 pm at the Town Hall.**

Council Chairman thanked members of the public for attending and closed the public part of the meeting at 7.55pm, 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.**

115. LAND MATTERS

The Chairman referred to the Chewton Glen Musical Events taking place from 13-19 July 2022 as discussed at F&GP on 31<sup>st</sup> January. It was agreed that authority be given to the Chairman of Amenities and the Town Clerk to finalise the terms of the agreement in consultation with the Town Council's solicitor.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.20 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 – Focus & NMRA

Mark Jeffries – Estates & Facilities Manager