

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 27 JUNE 2022 AT 6.30 PM AT NEW MILTON TOWN HALL

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

In Attendance:

G Flexman - Town Clerk

H Ormerod – Administrative Assistant
S King – Town Development Manager

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, County Councillor Fran Carpenter, Officers and Police Inspector Darren Ord.

Inspector Ord presented an update on the New Forest West Neighbourhoods Team. He reported that there were a number of vacancies within the team which would be filled in September 2022 including the positions of Chief Inspector and New Milton's police Sergeant. He provided statistics regarding local crimes including anti-social behaviour, public order offences, possession of drugs and burglaries.

There was a high crime rise across Hampshire however the reported cases in New Milton remained low. Hampshire Constabulary had performance targets for out of court disposals / crimes closed at source of 17% and the New Forest team were currently achieving around 22%.

His team had been working on 'Operation Flight' looking at criminality, drug dealing and anti-social behaviour around the skate park which had resulted in a number of offenders being arrested. The Police & Crime Commissioner would be joining officers on patrol in New Milton in the near future and the first "barn" meet supporting residents in rural areas / landowners had been held in the east of the area.

Regarding the unauthorised encampment at Osborne Road car park, NFDC had served Section 77 papers and it was expected the travellers would be vacating on Wednesday morning (Post Meeting Note: They travelled to Highcliffe car park).

Members raised a number of issues including links with schools, cycling on pavements, road traffic offences, the 101 service and scamming. Members welcomed the presentation and Inspector Ord's attendance and looked forward to receiving regular updates at future Town Council meetings.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Ord for his report and hoped he would attend again.

16. APOLOGIES

Cllrs M Brownsea, M Craze, R Murrow, A D O'Sullivan, R A Reid, H Wallis-Dowling and J G Ward.

17. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

13 th May	Attended New Milton Junior School to meet with children
15 th May	Attended a dinner at Rhinefield Hotel with representatives from Canteleu, France – Town Twining
17 th May	Attended 1 st anniversary celebrations at Morningson Court
28 th May	Attended the Skate Park Jam on the Recreation Ground
29 th May	Hosted the Platinum Jubilee Civic Service at St Mary Magdalene Church
4 th June	Attended the French Market and Spitfire flypast organised by the Lions Club
10 th June	Judged the New Milton High Street window displays
12 th June	Attended the Afternoon of Music – Army Sandhurst Band
14 th June	Attended the Remembrance Service commemorating the 40 th anniversary of the end of the Falklands conflict
20 th June	Attended a turf cutting ceremony at Wooldridge View – Independent living scheme

18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr A Rice declared an interest in relation to minute 13a) of the F & GP minutes 13 June 2022 as a member of the Memorial Centre Management Committee.

19. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting held on 9 May 2022 and moved their adoption.

It was,

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting held on 9 May 2022, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Minutes were duly signed.

20. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following items of correspondence:

- i) A thank you letter from the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre congratulating the Council on the Jubilee Civic Service.
- ii) An e-mail from Bryan Byrne of NFDC updating us on the unauthorised encampment at Osborne Road Car Park. Complaints and summonses had been served to all occupants and a hearing will take place at Southampton Magistrates Court on Wednesday.

21. QUESTIONS - None22. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

HCC Cllr Fran Carpenter provided updates on the following:

- CC Rob Humby had been appointed Leader of the County Council and Nick Adams-King had been appointed Cabinet member for Highways Operations.
- She had attended a Task and Finish Group regarding autism in the criminal justice system and the need to assess individual needs whilst in custody.
- She had attended the “turf cutting” at Wooldridge View which will be providing 450 homes for people over the age of 55 with a care need (See article attached)
- The County Council would need to respond to the Government’s requirements in relation to the Fair Cost of Care - the provision of a sustainable care market.
- The County Council was in negotiations regarding a level 3 County Deal – level 3 reserved for areas that agree to establish the role of directly elected mayor and to take on powers including strategic planning and economic development.

NFDC Cllr S Davies had attended a site visit to Hurst Castle and spit to look at areas needing repair and regeneration.

NFDC Cllr S Clarke had attended interesting presentation by Catherine Gale of Hampshire Swifts who’s had been invited to attend our next Town Council meeting to talk about her work and what can be done to help protect swifts.

NFDC Cllr G Blunden had attended a Community Partnership and Well-being O & S Panel at which a number of issues were raised : Terry Norton had been appointed Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner; an application had been made to change the name of the force to Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Constabulary; the need for greater visibility of police in the New Forest had been recognised; in response to a rise in bicycle theft a new technique for bicycle marking had been introduced; the Community Safety Team would be surveying residents in New Milton regarding anti-social behaviour and crime and disorder; Cllr Blunden would be meeting with Parish Councils to discuss increasing CCTV coverage.

NFDC Cllr C Ward reported that the District Council was on target to meet the needs of the people on the housing need register – some 6,000 + homes.

NFDC Cllr D N Tungate had attended a Licencing meeting to review and consider taxi fare increases, the first for 10 years.

NFDC Cllr K Craze had recently been appointed Chair of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

23. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Planning Committee

Cllr S J Clarke, Chairman of the Planning Committee, submitted the minutes of the Committee meetings held on 3, 9,12, 26 and 27 May and 9 and 23 June and moved their adoption.

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 263 to 268 inclusive of the meeting held on 3 May, and Minutes 1 to 51 inclusive of the meetings held on 9,12,26 and 27 May and 9 and 23 June 2022 be received.

b) Amenities Committee

Cllr G Blunden, Chairman of Amenities Committee submitted Minutes of the meetings held on 9 and 30 May 2022 and moved their adoption.

Regarding minute 20 of the meeting held on 30 May, Cllr Blunden expressed his thanks to the Estates team for their prompt action in tidying up and planting at the site next to KFC.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 1 to 23 inclusive of the meetings held on 9 and 30 May 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 Meetings held on 9 May and 13 June 2022 and moved their adoption.

Regarding minute 13b) of the meeting held on 13 June, Cllr Rice did not support the recommendation to grant £500 to the Friends of the Indian Soldiers Memorial; however, members did not agree and welcomed the assistance of volunteers in helping to maintain it and raise its profile.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 1 to 21 inclusive of the meetings held on 9 May and 13 June 2022 be received.

24. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

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

RESOLVED:

That the Schedule of Payments No 01/22/23 in the sum of £361,323.02 for the period 1 April – 31 May 2022 be approved.

The Schedule of Payments was duly signed.

25. MARCH ACCOUNTS

The Town Clerk presented amended Management Accounts, previously circulated as Appendix 1, noting two budget virements agreed at F&GP.

RESOLVED:

That the revised management accounts including budget virements be noted.

26. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022, previously circulated as Appendix 2, were submitted for Council approval.

It was unanimously,

RESOLVED:

That the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 be approved.

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

27. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The Internal Audit Report for 2021/22, previously circulated as Appendix 3, was submitted for Council approval.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Internal Audit Report for 2021/22 be approved and that its recommendations be noted.

28. ANNUAL RETURN

The Annual Return for 2021/22, previously circulated as Appendix 4, was submitted for Council approval.

Council members expressed thanks to the Town Clerk and staff for their hard work in producing the year end reports.

It was then unanimously,

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Return for 2021/22 be approved and signed as follows:

a) Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2021/22**b) Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2021/22**

The Annual Governance Statement and the Accounting Statements for 2021/22 were approved and signed off.

29. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON ORGANISATIONS - None.30. TOWN DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

The Town Development Manager presented a written report, previously circulated as Appendix 5, which was noted by members. The report provided updates on the Neighbourhood Plan, the on-going success of the socially prescribed cookery courses, increases in the Town's footfall and in particular the launch of the M & S Foodhall appeared to be having an impact, increased usage of the Town Council's websites and the Jubilee window competition with winners to be announced at the Afternoon of Music on Sunday 3 July.

31. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 6, Calendar of Meetings for year 2022-23 previously circulated, suggesting a change of date for an Amenities Committee meeting from Monday 5th to Tuesday 6th September 2022 due to a clash with a recently arranged NFDC meeting. This was agreed by members and

It was

RESOLVED: That Calendar of Meetings for the year 2022-23 be adopted.

32. ANY ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT/IMPORTANT

Cllr A Rice referred to the recommendation at the end of the Internal Audit Report that only items of business published on Agenda may be discussed at the corresponding meetings of the Council or its Standing Committees. The Chairman advised that this matter had previously been noted by members.

33. NEXT MEETING - **Monday 8 August 2022 at 6.30 pm in the Town Hall.**

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.10pm.

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