

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 15 MAY 2023 AT 6.30PM AT NEW MILTON TOWN

Councillors: p	J Adams	p	D Hawkins
p	C Baker	p	P Moores
p	J Baker	p	R Murrow
p	G Blunden	p	A D O'Sullivan
p	S Clarke	p	R A Reid
p	K Craze	p	D Rice-Mundy
p	M Craze	p	V Schooling
p	S Davies	p	M Scott-Johns
p	W Davies	p	D N Tungate

In Attendance:

G Flexman - Town Clerk

T Elliott – Assistant Town Clerk

H Ormerod – Administrative Assistant

J Bean, Committee/Comms Admin Assist

L Beardmore – Youth Co-ordinator

C Rabbito – Town Development Manager

M Jeffries – Estates & Facilities Manager

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, Officers, 5 members of the public and a representative of the press.

The Chairman attended the farewell party for Reverend Andrew Bailey on Saturday 13 May and presented Andrew with a piece of commemorative glassware to thank him for his 30 years of service to the community.

1. APOLOGIES – None.
2. ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR/CHAIRMAN FOR 2023/2024

The Chairman of the Council, Cllr K Craze in the Chair.

The Town Clerk read out a nomination for Chairman of the Council for 2023/24. Cllr D Hawkins was proposed by Cllr K Craze and seconded by Cllr M Craze

There being no other nominations

It was then

RESOLVED:

That Cllr D Hawkins be appointed Chairman/Mayor of the Council to remain in office until the next Annual meeting of the Council in 2024.

Cllr D Hawkins duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Mayor.

3. ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR/VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR 2023/24

The Chairman of the Council, Cllr D Hawkins in the Chair.

The Chairman called for nominations for Vice-Chairman/Deputy Mayor of the Council for 2023/24. The Town Clerk read out a nomination for Vice-Chairman for 2023/24.

Cllr K Craze was proposed by Cllr M Craze and seconded by Cllr D Ricro-Munday.

There being no other nominations

It was then

RESOLVED:

That Cllr K Craze be appointed Vice-Chairman/Deputy Mayor of the Council to remain in office until the next Annual Meeting of the Council in 2024.

Cllr K Craze then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Deputy Mayor.

4. TO APPOINT THE FOLLOWING STANDING COMMITTEES FOR 2023/24

The Town Clerk advised that the membership of Standing Committees comprising 9 Councillors on each would be as follows:

a) Finance & General Purposes Committee

That membership of the F & GP Committee for 2023/24 is as follows:

S J Clarke	K Craze	W Davies
R A Reid	A D O'Sullivan	D N Tungate
G Blunden	J Adams	M Scott-Johns

b) Amenities Committee

That membership of the Amenities Committee for 2023/24 is as follows:

G Blunden	D E Hawkins	A D O'Sullivan
B Murrow	V E Schooling	M Craze
J Baker	C Baker	D A Rice-Mundy

c) Planning Committee

That membership of the Planning Committee for 2023/24 is as follows:

S J Clarke	D E Hawkins	S P Davies
R A Reid	K E Craze	P Moores
B Murrow	M Scott-Johns	W Davies

d) Executive Committee

The Executive Committee comprises Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council and Chairs of Standing Committees.

5. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO LOCAL BODIES

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1, a schedule of existing appointments to external organisations.

Members then agreed the schedule of representatives to external bodies for 2023/24 with the addition of Cllr M Craze as representative on the Friends of the Indian Obelisk and Cllr B Murrow as representative of the Dementia Community Group.

6. TO APPROVE THE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2023/24

The Chairman moved that the proposed Calendar of Meetings (Appendix 2) having been circulated to all members prior to the meeting be adopted.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Calendar of Meetings for 2023/24 be approved and adopted.

7. TO CONFIRM AUTHORISED SIGNATORIES FOR 2023/24

It was agreed that the number of approved signatories is restricted to the Executive members and regular visitors to the Council offices.

8. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 27 March 2023.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27 March 2023, having been circulated, be confirmed, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The minutes were duly signed.

9. GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3, and the General Power of Competence.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That the Town Council still meets the criteria to take on the General Power of Competence and resolves to continue to do so, subject to the guidance notes previously approved and adopted by the Town Council.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following items of correspondence:

- a) Letters of thanks from performers and stallholders at the NMTC coronation event. The Town Clerk had received ten letters of thanks from attendees including Surrey Ices, We are Robot, Wessex Sound, Dorsal Fin, Topsy Toastie, Handmade, Sirius Catering and the 1st Milton Scouts.

The Town Clerk read from an email he had received from Margaret Dymond mother of one of the holders of the Handmade stall as follows: "I just wanted to say a huge thank you for enabling my daughter and her friends to host a stall at yesterdays coronation celebrations. They had a wonderful time, it was such a rich learning experience for them and a real boost to their confidence."

Cllr A Reid thanked all officers who had been involved in helping to make it such a tremendous day.

Cllr S Clarke acknowledged the hard work of the ground staff all of whom had helped the day to run smoothly.

- b) The Town Clerk advised that he had received a communication from Lisa Cook, Transport Manager of Hampshire County Council stating a report will be going to Cllr Adam-King's decision day on 15th May, giving authority to delay proposed savings on the Cango service until September, such that it will continue from 1 June while alternative methods of operating the service are investigated.

- c) The Town Clerk advised that he had received a communication from Anthony Harris the Town Council solicitor in relation to exercising the option to buy the land for the Gore Road Youth and Family Hub pointing out that before NMTC exchange contracts, we ought to do the usual searches – timescale about two weeks.

The Town Clerk was asked to progress the matter.

11. QUESTIONS – None

12. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Mel Kendal congratulated the Mayor on his appointment and then updated the committee on two matters:

a) Potholes

He advised that the winter had provided the worst weather for causing potholes, lots of rain and then freezing temperatures in an ongoing cycle. He said that many potholes had undergone temporary repairs, and this was because in the time taken to effect a full repair between 4 and 7 temporary repairs could be completed. Some of the temporary repairs were now beginning to fail. He stated that the government had now allocated 6 million pounds to Hampshire to deal with potholes and that full repairs to 39,000 potholes would be carried out over the summer.

b) Schools

Councillor Kendall advised that so far as school applications were concerned, 98% of Hampshire residents had been given one of their top 3 school choices for a reception place and over 90 percent had been given their top choice.

So far as the move from infants to junior schools is concerned, more than 99% had one of their top 3 schools and over 97% had their first choice.

He stated that if parents consider that their children will need some form of transport to get them to and from school they need to apply to the County Council by 10th June.

The Chairman then invited reports from the District Councillors:

Cllr A O' Sullivan advised that this is his final week as Chair of the District Council but had nothing further to report.

Cllr S Clarke advised that the first meeting of the District Council takes place next Monday when District Councillors will find out their NFDC roles.

Cllr G Blunden had nothing to report.

Cllr K Craze had nothing to report.

Cllr N Tungate said there had been no meetings and had nothing to report.

Cllr S Davies reported back in relation to a meeting about coastal management of the Hurst to Lymington Steering board and the Christchurch Bay strategy. He said that there is now a further, third strategy which covers Lymington to Redbridge. This is being carried out in conjunction with the Environment Agency.

The Chairman asked when we would hear back on this in relation to our own stretch of coastline. Cllr S Davies advised that shortlisted options and a report would be issued in July/August, and this would detail the projects to be raised.

13. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Planning Committee

Cllr S Clarke, Chairman of the Planning Committee, submitted the minutes of the Committee meetings held on 30 March, 13 and 27 April 2023 and moved their adoption.

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 235 to 265 inclusive of the meetings held on 30 March, 13 and 27 April 2023 be received.

Cllr S Clarke referred to Minute 264d the Roeshot Hill development within the BCP area, but it will have an impact on our town. The suggestion was made that the new administration should contact BCP and ask them to contact us when work is to be done that will likely impact the residents of this parish.

b) Executive Committee

Cllr K Craze, Chairman of the Executive Committee submitted Minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2023 and moved their adoption.

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 75 to 84 inclusive of the meeting held on 31 March 2023 be received.

Cllr S Clarke referred to Minute 81 relating to the new Youth Co-ordinator and welcomed her to her first Council meeting.

14. NEXT MEETING

Monday 26 June 2023 at 6.30 pm at the Town Hall.

The Chairman closed the public session of the meeting for the Democratic Half Hour.

DEMOCRATIC HALF HOUR

Alan Watson of the Lions Club congratulated Cllr Hawkins on his appointment as Mayor and spoke about the issues with the Car Boot sales suggesting that a meeting of car boot organisers should take place as the MVS car boot sale yesterday had been poorly attended in terms of both sellers and buyers.

A member of the public advised she was here with her partner as they've been struggling with drinking and anti-social behaviour in the town, having been in touch with the police about it, they wondered if there is anything the Town Council can do to help them. They have intervened in three serious incidents, attended court as witnesses and only yesterday they had a further visit from the local police. They were wondering about the mechanism for designating no drinking areas (PSPO's).

The Chairman said that we the Town Council has no legal powers to deal with this issue, we could put pressure on the police to act, but not much more. Cllr S Clarke mentioned the possibility of referring the issue to the District Council and in particular Safer New Forest.

The Chairman asked where the resident lives and she advised near the town centre. As such, local District Councillors are Steve Davies and Steve Clarke and they would have a chat with her after the meeting, with a view to referring the matter to Safer New Forest.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.15pm.

Chairman _____ Date _____

Distribution:

Town Councillors

District Councillors J L Cleary, C Ward

County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter, K Mans

New Milton Police

Press

Alan Watson – NewMilton.net

Sue Larking - NMRA

Mark Jeffries – Estates & Facilities Manager

Editor - Focus