

## NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 25 MARCH 2024 AT 6.30 PM AT NEW MILTON TOWN HALL

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

#### In Attendance:

G Flexman - Town Clerk

H Ormerod – Administrative Assistant

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, Officers, a member of the public, a press representative, HCC Cllr M Kendal and PS Arron Wood to the meeting.

PS Arron Wood reported that he continued to lead both the Lymington and New Milton teams however he planned to relinquish responsibility for Lymington in the next few months enabling him to focus on the New Milton area. The Team was now the biggest Beat Team in the New Forest comprising 1 PS, five PC's, 2 PCSO's and one non-deployable PCSO.

There had been a directive to tackle shoplifting and one prolific offender had been located in Dorset and arrested by his team. It had recently been County Lines intensification week and the town was experiencing a high number of vehicle thefts, largely involving cloned keys. Residents are advised to take steps to prevent this eg not leaving car keys near front doors and using additional locks where possible. His team had been made aware of concerns regarding an XL Bully dog and following discussion with the owner, all legislative requirements surrounding this breed were being met.

He had been notified that the PCC did not consider New Milton the right site for an officer presence on the front desk however he supported the proposal and had the resources to provide such a service once or twice a week. This was discussed by members, and it was generally agreed that the Town Council write to Donna Jones asking her to reconsider as it would be extremely beneficial for residents and the Town Hall was the ideal location. In the meantime, PS Wood reminded members that residents could e-mail his team with questions. The email address covering the whole west side of the Forest is: [New.forest.west.police@hampshire.police.uk](mailto:New.forest.west.police@hampshire.police.uk)

***(Post Meeting Note: The Police Crime Commissioner Office subsequently contacted the Town Clerk suggesting an urgent meeting to discuss the residents' wish for a front counter in New Milton).***

Cllr Adams asked whether crime statistics could be provided at future meetings and PS Wood undertook to provide these wherever possible.

Cllr Clarke commented that it was good news that in certain situations, the police no longer needed to wait for the CPS to authorise a charge.

109. APOLOGIES

Cllrs G Blunden, R A Reid and V E Schooling.

110. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr D E Hawkins as Mayor reported on the following recent engagements:

24 February 2024 Hosted the Mayor's Tea Party at the South Lawns Hotel

6 March 2024 Attended the funeral service of former Councillor Paul Woods at New Milton Crematorium

8 March 2024 Cut the ribbon to officially open a refurbished first floor at Barton Lodge Residential Care Home

17 March 2024 Attended New Milton Music Gala Concert at the Arnewood School with the Town Clerk

24 March 2024 Attended the Annual Civic Service at St Mary Magdalene's

The Mayor expressed his thanks to all who had supported his fundraising activities, and reported that to date, £1,400 had been raised towards his chosen charity Ashley Family Hub.

111. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None.112. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 12 February 2024 and moved their adoption.

It was,

**RESOLVED:**

***That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 12 February 2024, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.***

The Minutes were duly signed.

113. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to an item of correspondence from the Town Council's Solicitor relating to a licence between the Town Council and the South-West Hampshire department of RAYNET UK, to permit a trailer and radio mast to be stored at Fernhill Cricket Club (area formerly occupied by the Men's Shed). The licence was signed by the Chairman, witnessed by the Town Clerk.

114. QUESTIONS - None.

## 115. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Hampshire County Councillor Kendal raised two matters – one being the County Council's consultation on future service provision which ends on 31 March 2024 and the second being the possible introduction of parking meters on the seafront at Barton on Sea.

HCC Cllr Kendal reported that he had requested signage to prohibit overnight parking and was surprised to hear that officers were recommending the introduction of parking meters along the seafront. He said he had witnessed a shift in decision making in local government from members to officers, namely in the treasury department. He said this was bad for democracy as members were democratically elected to take such decisions. He said that the introduction of parking meters was a money-making scheme to pay for the private firm employed to manage parking enforcement and he would be attending HCC Cllr Nick Adams-King's Decision Day to put forward his opposition to the proposals. He urged Councillors who also objected to write to Nick Adams-King prior to the Decision Day.

NFDC Cllr S P Davies updated on two housing related matters. He was impressed at the speed in which the social housing was being erected at Moore Close. He expected they would be available for tenants by the end of the year and residents are now able to apply for one of these properties via the NFDC website.

He commented that he had visited the newly built Wooldridge View Extra Care Home in New Milton and was very impressed with the building and its facilities. The Home comprised 50 apartments and residents would need to be assessed by the County Council as having a care need and NFDC as having a housing need to be eligible for a place.

## 116. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### a) Planning Committee

Cllr S J Clarke, Chairman of the Planning Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee meetings held on 1, 15, 29 February and 12 March 2024 and moved their adoption.

Regarding Minute 211 – '20 mph policy', Cllr John Adams asked whether any progress had been made. Cllr Clarke reported that full guidance from HCC was yet to be provided.

Regarding minute 223 b) – Field surface water issues, Cllr Clarke had been in discussion with HCC Cllr Nick Adams-King who said that it falls to landowners to clear ditches. He would forward a letter for the Town Council to send out to landowners and riparian owners encouraging them to maintain their ditches and encouraged Town Councillors to report known issues to the County Council.

**(Note: Previously referred to at Min 60 f) of Amenities Committee meeting of 16 Oct 2023).**

It was then,

### **RESOLVED:**

***That Minutes 183 to 224 inclusive of the meetings held on 1, 15 and 29 February and 12 March be received.***

b) Amenities Committee

In the Chairman's absence, Cllr M Craze, Vice-Chairman of the Amenities Committee, submitted the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2024 and moved their adoption.

It was,

**RESOLVED:**

***That Minutes 101 to 115 inclusive of the meeting held on 27 February 2024 be received.***

c) Finance and General Purposes Committee

Cllr D N Tungate, Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, submitted the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2024 and moved their adoption.

Regarding Minute 102 a) New Milton Youth Trust, Cllr Clarke reported that the Youth Trust was grateful for the £11,500 grant and the Trust had recently been successful in receiving a substantial grant from another source for other work. (**Post Meeting Note: £19k from Awards for All to fund Detached Youth Work for a year.**)

Cllr A O'Sullivan said the £11,500 given to the Youth Trust was not a grant as such, rather it had been funded by moving money from earmarked reserves. (**Post Meeting Note: It related to £12k unspent Youth Grant Aid from the previous year.**)

It was then,

**RESOLVED:**

***That Minutes 96 to 110 inclusive of the meeting held on 11 March 2024 be received.***

117. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Schedule of Payments, previously considered by F&GP, was submitted for Council approval. It was unanimously,

**RESOLVED:**

***That the Schedule of Payments No 07/23/24 in the sum of £219,467.21 for the period 1 January – 29 February 2024 be approved.***

The Schedule of Payments was duly signed.

118. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON ORGANISATIONS

Cllr A O'Sullivan confirmed that the Hampshire Cultural Trust would continue to fund the Forest Arts Centre. The Centre was in a much better financial situation due to holding over 100 workshops/classes, 33 shows in the last 6 months, holding an Arts Exhibition of 73 pieces and numerous community lead workshops. The Centre was currently looking for grants to install concertina type seating at a cost of approximately £100,000 to enable it to hold more and different functions.

119. TOWN DEVELOPMENT REPORT

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1.

The Town Development Manager had presented a written report, which was noted by members.

120. RISK ASSESSMENTS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2.

The Town Clerk elaborated on highlighted risk assessments for 2024-25 which had been endorsed by the Finance & General Purposes Committee on 11 March 2024.

It was then,

**RESOLVED:**

***That the Town Council adopts the Risk Assessments for 2024-25.***

121. HCC FUTURE SERVICES CONSULTATION

Councillors were reminded that the deadline for responding to the County Council's consultation on future services was 31 March 2024.

122. NEXT MEETING

**Special Meeting (Freedom of the Town) Wednesday 3 April 2024 at 6.30pm**

**Annual Towns' (Community) Meeting Monday 29 April 2024 at 6.30pm**

**Annual Meeting Tuesday 14 May 2024 at 6.30 pm in the Town Hall.**

**DEMOCRATIC HALF HOUR**

No member of the public wished to speak.

The Chairman then thanked members of the public for attending and closed the public session of the meeting at 7.25pm, moving into Private Session with members agreement.

**PRIVATE SESSION****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.**

123. FREEDOM OF THE TOWN

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3.

The Town Clerk presented details regarding the Special Town Council meeting on 3 April 2024 for the purpose of conferring the Honorary Freedom of New Milton upon Godfrey Charles Beck.

It was then,

**RECOMMENDED:**

***That the Town Council confer upon Godfrey Charles Beck the rights, privileges and advantages attaching to the style, rank and title of Honorary Freeman of New Milton and present to him an illuminated scroll so inscribed.***

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.27pm.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution:

Town Councillors  
District Councillor Mrs J L Cleary  
County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter, K Mans  
New Milton Police  
Press  
Sue Larking – NMRA  
Mark Jeffries – Estates & Facilities Manager