

**NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL****MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON  
MONDAY 26 JUNE 2023 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	D A Rice-Mundy
p	G R Blunden	p	C Baker
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	J Baker	p	W Davies
p	R A Reid	p	P Moores
p	M Scott-Johns		R Murrow

In Attendance:

G Flexman - Town Clerk

H Ormerod – Administrative Assistant

C Rabbito – Town Development Manager

L Beardmore – Youth Coordinator

## Presentation

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, HCC Councillor Mel Kendal, Officers, Bryan Byrne NFDC, Insp Darren Ord, PS Sam Chapman, 3 members of the public and a representative of the press.

Bryan Byrne, Service Manager for Housing, Community Safety, CCTV and Safeguarding at NFDC updated the Council on work undertaken by the Safer New Forest Partnership (Police, Fire Service, Probation, Adult and Childrens services).

Every year a Strategic Partnership Plan is published – this year the main priorities being domestic abuse, drug and alcohol related harm and associated crime. He had recently chaired a meeting with a number of organisations in New Milton including the Town Council looking at collaborative working and to identify areas of priority. A further meeting was to take place next week to develop a work plan of priority areas/needs which would include problems experienced at the Recreation Ground. There was a NFDC commitment to the provision of wider CCTV coverage across the district including further cameras at the Recreation Ground and other areas in the Town and Bryan was asked to write to the Town Clerk once a timescale could be provided.

Inspector Darren Ord presented a quarterly report from the neighbourhood Policing team. He introduced Sgt Sam Chapman acting Sergeant for New Milton. The report provided offence statistics comparing the current 90 days with the previous 90 days. As expected in the summer months certain crimes were on the rise. The report also highlighted current areas of focus and operations and some of the successful outcomes.

The Police were aware of the unauthorised encampment on the cliff top and had attended together with Bryan Byrne who had undertaken a welfare assessment. A section 77 notice had been issued and a court hearing would take place on Thursday 29 June. Letters had been given to all residents on Marine Drive West advising them of the process and who to contact with any concerns.

**[Post Meeting Note: The encampment ended on 28<sup>th</sup> June, all persons vacating]**

Cllr J Adams asked that future reports include road traffic incidents data. There was some debate around enforcement of anti-social behaviour offences however Insp Ord did not consider enforcement to be the only solution and that there needed to be discretion around the circumstances of each incident. There was also concern about Police staff changes and inconsistency.

#### 15. APOLOGIES

Cllr R Murrow

#### 16. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

17 May 2023	Attended the Twinning AGM
23 May 2023	Attended Lymington Masonic Hall and presented with a cheque for £125 for the Mayors Charity - being the Ashley Hub
4 June 2023	Attended the Afternoon of Music on the Recreation Ground – Total Madness
10 June 2023	Attended Ashley Fun Day at the Rugby Club
15-19 June 2023	Visited Canteleu with the Town Clerk as part of the Town Twinning
22 June 2023	Attended meeting with the Headmaster of Arnewood School and the Chair of Governors – Agreed to restart joint meetings of the School Council and the Town Council
24 June 2023	Attended the Ballard Water Meadow Open Day
24 June 2023	Attended a summer fete at St Peters Church comprising three Church of England churches
25 June 2023	Attended Hampshire Scouts AGM

The Chairman asked that Councillors make the effort to attend future events

Cllr K Craze as Vice-Chairman reported on the following engagement:

24 June 2023	Attended the official opening of the new Milton Sand and Ballast premises
--------------	---

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

18. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting held on 15 May 2023 and moved their adoption.

It was,

**RESOLVED:**

***That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 15 May 2023, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.***

The Minutes were duly signed.

19. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following items of correspondence:

- a) A petition from residents of Marine Drive West regarding overnight parking on Marine Drive West which would be forwarded to HCC for consideration.
- b) A budget consultation document from HCC seeking views on its financial strategy and managing its budgets for the next 2 years up to April 2025. The consultation runs from 12 June until 23 July 2023.

20. QUESTIONS

None

21. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

HCC Cllr Mel Kendal reported on the following Items:

The petition document from residents in relation to Marine Drive West requesting no overnight parking restriction signage. Cllr Kendal had himself last year offered to pay for signage from his budget and the response from NFDC had been that with limited funds works were prioritised on the basis of road safety and therefore this would not be a priority.

He also commented that he was pleased to provide a grant £1,000 towards the Community Garden and had been asked by the Men's Shed for a grant of £2,000 which he was also happy to support.

Cllr G Blunden asked how any parking restrictions placed on Marine Drive West would be enforced. HCC Cllr Kendal reported that prior to April 2023 NFDC was responsible for enforcement and this would have been on a 9 to 5 basis. More recently HCC had taken over responsibility for enforcement and sub-contracted this out to a private firm and as a result, they would probably operate over longer hours.

NFDC Cllr S Clarke had, along with other District Councillors, attended a number of training courses. He had been appointed Chair of the Housing and Community Scrutiny Panel and remained a member of the Licensing Panel.

NFDC Cllr S Davies had been given responsibility for the Housing and Homelessness portfolio. He was in the process of getting to grips with the scope and would be in a position to provide an update on his priorities for this portfolio for the next 4 years at the next Council meeting.

NFDC Cllr A O'Sullivan had been appointed Chair of the Resources Transformation Committee - looking at improving efficiency and the customer experience. He updated on a few of the positive things the District Council had achieved over the last 12 months including:

- 78% of residents are satisfied with how NFDC is run.
- Invested £29.3m in the district including completing the Platinum Jubilee Park project in Ringwood.
- Bought M&S building in New Milton
- Made 1133 planning decisions.
- Built 50 affordable homes.
- Sold 45k parking clocks generating £1.3m
- Installed 12 electric vehicle charging points including 4 at Barton.
- Councillors awarded various organisations £68,792 in grants.

NFDC Cllr G Blunden reported that he had been given the Environmental and Sustainability portfolio. He had attended the first Sustainability Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting last week. Discussions included the waste and recycling collection policy; fees and charges for green waste for the following year; and the 'No mow May' campaign, its main purpose being the reduction of the Council's carbon footprint however there had been some complaints and problems which needed to be considered. The toilets by the beach huts at Barton on Sea were to be replaced within the next few weeks, with toilets in the style of beach huts.

NFDC Cllr K Craze had been appointed Chair of the Employment Appeals Panel.

NFDC Cllr N Tungate had been appointed Chair of the General Purposes and Licencing Committee and was a member of the Housing and Community Scrutiny Panel.

22. COMMITTEE REPORTSa) Planning Committee

Cllr S J Clarke, Chairman of the Planning Committee, submitted the minutes of the Committee meetings held on 15 and 25 May plus 8 and 22 June 2023 and moved their adoption.

In relation to Minute 29, Station Road north, it was agreed that a further letter be sent to HCC highways seeking improvements to the road condition.

It was then

**RESOLVED:**

***That Minutes 1 to 34 inclusive of the meetings held on 15 and 25 May and 8 and 22 June 2023 be received.***

b) Amenities Committee

Cllr G Blunden, Chairman of Amenities Committee submitted Minutes of the meetings held on 15 and 30 May 2023 and moved their adoption.

In relation to Minutes 10 and 11, Working Parties and Project Groups, Cllr Blunden reminded members to notify the Town Clerk if they wished to participate in and contribute to any of the projects/working groups.

It was then

**RESOLVED:**

***That Minutes 1 to 23 inclusive of the meetings held on 9 and 30 May 2023 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 15 May and 12 June 2023 and moved their adoption.

It was

**RESOLVED:**

***That Minutes 1 to 20 inclusive of the meetings held on 15 May and 12 June 2023 be received.***

23. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

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

**RESOLVED:**

***That the Schedule of Payments No 08/22/23 in the sum of £126,813.38 for the period 1 – 31 March 2023 be approved.***

The Schedule of Payments was duly signed.

24. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

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

**RESOLVED:**

***That the Schedule of Payments No 01/23/24 in the sum of £313,694.50 for the period 1 April – 31 May 2023 be approved.***

The Schedule of Payments was duly signed.

25. RISK ASSESSMENTS 2023-24

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1.

The Town Clerk presented the previously circulated schedule of risks that were recommended and endorsed by the Finance & General Purposes Committee, that also considered risk management and insurance coverage.

It was then

**RESOLVED:**

***That the Risk Assessments for 2023-24 be adopted by Town Council.***

26. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023, previously circulated as Appendix 2, were submitted for Council approval, noting there were no conflicts of interest, as evidenced by Notes 3 and 4 to the Accounts.

It was unanimously,

**RESOLVED:**

***That Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 be approved.***

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

27. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The Internal Audit Report for 2022/23, previously circulated as Appendix 3, was submitted for Council approval, with Recommendations at the end both noted.

It was then

**RESOLVED:**

***That the Internal Audit Report for 2022/23 be approved and that its recommendations be noted.***

28. ANNUAL RETURN

The Annual Return for 2022/23, 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 2022/23 be approved and signed as follows:***

***a) Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2022/23***

***b) Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2022/23***

The Annual Governance Statement and the Accounting Statements for 2022/23 were approved and signed off by the Town Clerk / RFO and Chairman.

The accounts are as yet unaudited by the appointed external Auditor BDO, and are subject to the exercise of public rights, in accordance with attached details.

29. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON ORGANISATIONS

Cllr M Craze updated on the Friends of the Indian Soldiers Memorial. Nick Saunders was producing a heritage trail leaflet which he was funding himself as the £500 grant awarded by the Town Council had been spent. Further funding was to be sought from the District Council.

30. TOWN DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

The Town Development Manager presented a written report, previously circulated as Appendix 5, which was noted by members.

Cllr G Blunden asked that the Council's thanks be expressed to the Estates Team staff for their assistance in setting up the Community Garden. He advised that it would be preferable if the boundary tree planting/fence installation took place this year. Councillor S Davies praised the Socially Prescribed Cookery courses.

31. STANDING ORDERS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 6 Standing Orders / Financial Regulations

Cllr A Reid commented that in relation to point 3i, persons are no longer required to stand when speaking at Town Council Meetings.

It was then

**RESOLVED:**

***That Standing Orders / Financial Regulations for year 2023-24 be adopted.***

32. ANY ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT/IMPORTANT

None

33. NEXT MEETING - Monday 7 August 2023 at 6.30 pm in the Town Hall.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and moved into the Democratic Half Hour at 8.00pm.

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

**DEMOCRATIC HALF HOUR**

Martin Medhurst, a member of the Men's Shed provided an update on the new premises at Fawcetts Field. Electricity had been installed and the waste was being installed this week but they were struggling to access water and access would require costly works at a cost of approximately £3,800. NFDC Cllr's S Clarke, S Davies and N Tungate offered to make a contribution. A newsletter would be circulated in due course and they would continue to promote the service.



A member of the public and her partner, who had attended the last Town Council meeting to raise problems with drinking and anti-social behaviour in the town, advised that since then, meetings had taken place with Cllr S Clarke, the Police and Safer New Forest Partnership. She wanted to know why the Council had not pursued the introduction of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO).

Cllr S Clarke informed the residents that it was the responsibility of the District Council to issue PSPO's and not the Town Council. It was generally agreed that despite the difficulties in reporting (IT systems/inadequate form), it was crucial that every incident was reported and that people be encouraged to do so. It was agreed that the Town Clerk write to the Chief Executive at NFDC and the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the need for a PSPO in the town centre and a commitment to tougher consequences for offenders.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

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