

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 6.30PM IN NEW MILTON TOWN HALL

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

In Attendance:

G Flexman - Town Clerk
S Welch – Administrative Officer

J Bean - Committee Administrator

The Town Clerk opened the meeting advising that neither the Chairman nor the Vice Chair were present. He sought nominations for a Chair for the meeting. Cllr R Murrow nominated Cllr D Hawkins, Cllr D N Tungate seconded the nomination. The Committee voted to confirm the nomination and Cllr D Hawkins took the Chair.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Mel Kendal, Town Councillors, Officers, and 2 members of the public.

56. APOLOGIES

Cllrs J Adams, M Craze and R A Reid.

57. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

As above.

58. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

59. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5 August 2024.

It was

RESOLVED:

That Minutes of Town Council Meeting held on 5 August 2024, having been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The minutes were duly signed.

60. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to:

- a) An email from Susan Day of SGN in relation to repairs to the gas pipe in Bashley. She advised that HCC have refused their permit to start work in late October as there are other significant utilities works in the wider areas which will impact on potential diversions. She said that the permit request will be re-submitted in January, and she will be back in touch when she has further details.
- b) An email sent by Debbie Everett of NFDC advising that elections for a Town and District Councillor for Barton and Becton Ward will take place on 24th October.
- c) A Town Council submission proposal in relation to the New Forest LCWIP consultation. The Planning Committee have proposed and supported the proposal from the Annex as follows:

“We request Hampshire County Council consider routes 3,4,5,10 and 11 (as referenced in the table) in the context of the current public consultation, as it looks at route options as may be necessary within the LCWIP process.

The routes have not been audited by the Town Council as this is the responsibility of the County Council as Highway Authority. Similarly, it is a matter for the County Council to identify the full scope of interventions required to minimise risks and hazards for cyclists (in particular) using these routes.

There is only one known major intervention on these routes being route 5a, subject to Hampshire County Council transport survey data, a new crossing point to A337 at Downton.”

Cllr S Clarke advised that Simon Quincey from sustainable travel group Transition Lymington and David Orme representing Christchurch Bicycle Club had given a presentation at the Planning meeting last week.

The LCWIP is Hampshire wide, and it is important for New Milton to be involved as the routes will encourage cyclists to visit. The idea is simple, and supporting the proposals will allow the group to get funding which will be used to make some roads better and safer.

The following proposal from the Annex was then ENDORSED by the Council:

“We request Hampshire County Council consider routes 3,4,5,10 and 11 (as referenced in the table) in the context of the current public consultation, as it looks at route options as may be necessary within the LCWIP process.

The routes have not been audited by the Town Council as this is the responsibility of the County Council as Highway Authority. Similarly, it is a matter for the County Council to identify the full scope of interventions required to minimise risks and hazards for cyclists (in particular) using these routes.

There is only one known major intervention on these routes being route 5a, subject to Hampshire County Council transport survey data, a new crossing point to A337 at Downton.”

61. **QUESTIONS**

None.

62. **REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

HCC Cllr Mel Kendal reported on news from HCC. He said that the County Council was still not clear on the difficult decisions it would be called to make, but there would be large budget cuts to meet the deficit. He said that one area which has been reduced is road maintenance. However, he was pleased to advise that the cancellation of HS2 had freed up some extra Govt money and that Hampshire would be receiving around £14.2 million extra in the next financial year, and the year thereafter. This amounts to a swing of £8 million more for road repairs overall, taking the cuts and the extra money into account. This is good news, but there is an issue around having sufficient personnel to deal with the roads but hopes this will be addressed.

Cllr Kendal also advised he has been pushing for a restriction on motorised caravans parking on Barton seafront overnight. But restricting overnight parking entailed a start and end time, which would need to be checked. At present, this would require a member of staff patrolling at the cut off times, and between to ensure the rules were being followed, but there was not the manpower to deal with it. An alternative perhaps is that an ANPR camera could be used.

Following the change of government, there were rumours swirling around in relation to Council Tax on second homes, and the single person allowance, but this would be cleared up when the budget is announced.

There is a meeting at the New Milton Community Centre on Wednesday afternoon at 3.30pm in relation to the future of Oakhaven Hospice. Cllr Kendal is Chairman of the Board of Trustees and is keen to hear what people want from Oakhaven. He said that

some publicity suggested the meeting was to be in the Memorial Centre, but it's in the Community Centre in New Milton.

Cllr W Davies asked if Cllr Kendal had seen the approach that Oxford City and Oxfordshire County Council were taking to potholes, enabling the public to report them direct to contractors. Cllr Kendal liked this idea and said he would look into it as it sounded sensible. Cllr Kendal then left the meeting.

Cllr Davies advised that he had nothing to report at this meeting, he would update at the next meeting.

Cllr Clarke said he had very little to report, the Local Plan Task & Finish Group is now underway and that meets once a month, programmed through until 2026.

Cllr Blunden gave an update on the District Council plans for a new waste collection service, being introduced in three phases, noting New Milton and Lymington would be first. The new service will include new food waste collections, wheelie bins for recycling and rubbish collections. Food waste will be collected every week, and recycling and rubbish will be collected on alternate weeks. He said this is great news for the local area as it will prevent the bird strikes which have been troubling residents for a while. Waste collection is the front face of the work done at NFDC and we want to do all we can to get the message across in stages.

NFDC has launched a new scheme: the New Forest Heat Project where members of the public will be able to seek advice from trained volunteers who can help to advise them on steps to take at home to save energy costs. This is an excellent programme which has been entirely funded to the tune of £40k by the Govt Prosperity Fund.

Finally, two green routes have recently been opened at Carrick Wood and Ashington Park. Being delighted with the scheme, the footpaths are greatly improved and there are also seats for people to admire the views. This is excellent for wellbeing in general.

Cllr O' Sullivan advised that he is on the same planning committee as Steve Clarke. He also mentioned the Grants Committee is coming up very soon and he looked forward to considering a wide range of applications for Community Grants.

Cllr Tungate had nothing to report at this stage.

63. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) Planning Committee

Cllr S Clarke, Chairman of the Planning Committee, submitted the minutes of the Committee meetings held on 1, 13 and 29 August plus 10 September 2024 and moved their adoption.

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 54 to 93 inclusive of the meetings held on 1, 13 and 29 August plus 10 September 2024 be received.

Cllr Clarke referred to a recent Neighbourhood Planning meeting with contractors including AECOM (Architecture, Engineering, Construction, Operations, Management)

AECOM are a US-based organisation who have been awarded a 4-year contract to provide technical support via *Locality* who under the UK Government help fund and bring together local people to help them create neighbourhood plans.

b) Amenities Committee

Cllr G Blunden, Chairman of the Amenities Committee submitted Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 2 September 2024 and moved their adoption.

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 35 to 48 inclusive of the meeting held on 2 September 2024 be received.

c) Finance & General Purposes Committee

Cllr D N Tungate, Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee submitted Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 17 September 2024 and moved their adoption.

RESOLVED:

That minutes 38 to 53 inclusive of the meeting held on 17 September 2024 be received.

64. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

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

It was unanimously,

RESOLVED:

That the Schedule of Payments No 03/24/25 in the sum of £126,020.08 for the period 1 – 31 July 2024 be approved.

The Schedule of Payments was duly signed by the Chair & Town Clerk.

65. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

a) Cllr A D O' Sullivan advised that he had nothing to report on Forest Arts.

b) Cllr R Murrow reported that there were two open days on the dementia allotment over the summer and that they had gone well, he thanked the volunteers and Joanna for all their hard work.

Cllr Murrow said that residents of both Bethel House and White Rock Care Homes had attended. He also took the opportunity to thank Cllrs Fran Carpenter, Steve Davies and Geoff Blunden for their donations.

66. GRANT AID**New Milton Lions Club**

The Town Clerk referred to Appendix 1 – Grant Application from New Milton Lions Club in support of their annual Xmas event.

It had arrived too late for the last F&GP meeting and in any event, the requested amount was in excess of the level which F&GP could sanction.

Cllr A O' Sullivan queried the reference in the application to donations from NMSB, NMRA and NMTC. He asked what the donation from NMTC was, and how much.

The Chairman came out of session to ask Alan Watson, President of the Lions Club about it, who advised it was an error, donations came solely from NMSB and NMRA.

The Chairman then re-opened the meeting.

Following some further discussion and a vote

It was then

RESOLVED: That £3,000 be awarded to Lions Club from the Events Budget under the General Power of Competence.

67. EXTERNAL AUDIT

The Town Clerk referred to Appendix 2 being Certificate from the External Auditors.

He advised that the new auditors, BDO had looked at different things from their predecessors PKF who had considered Risk Assessments in detail, while BDO has focussed on Internal Audit.

BDO has given the Council a 'clean bill of health' but made some recommendations for consideration, regarding the appointment of Internal Auditors and their work that should be reviewed and "minuted" every year.

Members noted External Audit's review of Internal Audit work programme, as above.

68. PUBLICATION – NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF AUDIT

The Town Clerk referred to Appendix 3 – the 'Notice of Conclusion of Audit'.

This will be displayed in the window of the Town Hall for 3 months and on the website advising the public that they may obtain a copy of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return at a cost of £5 per copy.

RESOLVED: That Notice of Conclusion of Audit and AGAR be published for 3 months to the end of the year.

69. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

The Town Clerk referred to Appendix 4 - Calendar of Meetings now updated to take account of the 80th anniversary of VE Day on 8th May next year.

70. NEXT MEETING: Monday 11 November 2024 at 6.30pm – Town Hall, New Milton.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7.10pm for the Democratic Half Hour and invited comments from members of the public.

DEMOCRATIC HALF HOUR

Alan Watson, President of the Lions Club thanked the Town Council for the grant in respect of the Lions Christmas event.

A New Milton resident thanked the Town Council for the floral displays in the town, and for the support for the Afternoons of Music. He also thanked the group that tidied up New Milton station and the litter pickers who picked up a huge amount of litter around the station and the footpath. The footpath going towards the station is overgrown with ivy.

He stated that he had been pleased to see the improvements which HCC had made to the surface of Station Road but wondered if pressure could be applied on them to also sort out Fernhill Lane which is still in a disgusting state.

Cllr G Blunden thanked the resident for his kind words, and said he would make sure they were passed onto the ground staff. He advised that the footpath by the station is the responsibility of HCC, and that the issues with Fernhill Lane are well known and pressure would be applied to HCC in the hope that repairs follow.

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

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