

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 7 AUGUST 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		C Baker
	p	S J Clarke	p	V E Schooling
		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

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, a member of the public and a representative of the press.

34. APOLOGIES

Cllrs R Murrow, M Craze and C Baker.

County Councillors F Carpenter and M Kendal.

35. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

1 July 2023	Visited the Guide Hut
2 July 2023	Attended an Afternoon of Music on the Recreation Ground
10 July 2023	Attended Act of Remembrance at Indian Memorial Obelisk
11 July 2023	Visited the Dementia Allotment
12 July 2023	Attended official opening of New Forest Crematorium
13 July 2023	Attended the Ballard School Speech Day and prize giving
13 July 2023	Attended the Ashley School Show
14 July 2023	Attended the Durlston School Speech Day and prize giving
14 July 2023	Attended the Dementia Social Club at the Memorial Centre
28 July 2023	Mayor Making Investiture at Ashley Rugby Club

6 August 2023 Attended an Afternoon of Music on the Recreation Ground and official opening of the pergola and table tennis tables

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Adams said he is a member of Parochial Church Council and Round Table.

37. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 26 June 2023 and moved their adoption.

It was,

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 26 June 2023, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Minutes were duly signed.

38. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following correspondence from Brian Hill of HCC

“I am sure you are aware I have been passed the recent enquiry from the Town Council and hopefully you have seen Phil Yexley’s email which contained the last inspection of the footbridge which you requested.

Firstly, I would like to assure the Town Council that the footbridge remains safe. I have seen the recent press article which referred to it as being ‘unsafe’, this is not the case. If a structure is ever deemed unsafe by HCC we immediately close it. As well as our inspections, Network Rail also undertake their own annual inspections on structures over their lines, whoever is the owner. If they have any concerns, they let the owners know and require remedial works.

I would also like to reassure you and the Town Council that the footbridge has not been forgotten about and remains on our list of structures for replacement. I know you are aware of the complexities of the scheme and the challenges with working with Network Rail. Unfortunately, we have seen unprecedented levels of requests for assistance for our services from other Teams and this has inevitably affected our ability to deliver. Combined with our recent large scheme at Holmsley and the ongoing major refurbishment of the 4 large bridges at Redbridge Causeway progress on other schemes has inevitably been affected. Redbridge will be drawing to a close at the end of the year at which time we will be reviewing all our resources.

I do completely understand the frustrations of the Town Council with respect to the footbridge replacement and I am sorry that it is taking so long to implement the design you were shown some time ago.”

39. QUESTIONS

None

40. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr S Davies provided an interesting insight to his work at New Forest District.

As Portfolio Holder for Housing and Homelessness, Cllr Davies said NFDC are delivering new high-quality, affordable council housing across the New Forest. This is a result of an ambitious house building and acquisitions programme, recently undertaking a tour of new buildings. This programme aims to deliver at least 600 new council homes by 2026. He had seen the future direction of housebuilding when visiting new housing projects, and he liked what he saw, including PVs, EVs and heat pumps being included in NFDC new semis at East Boldre & Lady Cross at Hythe, and soon new development at the Moore Close site in New Milton of 16 homes, including five shared ownership properties.

The Chairman commended the approach taken by NFDC towards new homes.

41. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Planning Committee

Cllr S J Clarke, Chairman of the Planning Committee, submitted the minutes of the Committee meetings held on 4 and 20 July and 3 August 2023 and moved their adoption.

It was

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 35 to 67 inclusive of the meetings held on 4 and 20 July and 3 August 2023 be received.

Cllr Clarke commented on Minute 55 e) Listed Buildings Working Party in particular Col Wheeler's grave and Minute 64 regards the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party membership and Gore Road development.

b) Amenities Committee

Cllr G Blunden, Chairman of Amenities Committee submitted Minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2023 and moved their adoption.

It was

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 24 to 38 inclusive of the meeting held on 11 July 2023 be received.

Cllr Blunden made reference to Minute 37 – Travellers and ASB especially as that covered a multitude of crimes that the Police need to tackle via Community Protection Notices (CPN) that Cllr Clarke had mentioned.

c) Finance and General Purposes Committee

Cllr D N Tungate, Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 July 2023 and moved their adoption.

It was

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 21 to 35 inclusive of the meeting held on 24 July 2023 be received.

At Minute 27 a) it was noted Estates Manager is preparing a report on the cost of ASB for the next Amenities Committee meeting on 4th September.

42. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

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

RESOLVED:

That the Schedule of Payments No 02/23/24 in the sum of £146,728.95 for the period 1 – 30 June 2023 be approved.

The Schedule of Payments was duly signed.

43. INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1, Investment Strategy endorsed by F&GP.

It was then,

RESOLVED:

That the Investment strategy for 2023-24 be adopted by Town Council.

44. RISK STRATEGY

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2, Risk Mngt Strategy endorsed by F&GP.

It was then,

RESOLVED:

That the Risk Management Strategy be adopted by Town Council.

45. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON ORGANISATIONS

In the absence of Cllr M Craze, the Vice Chairman updated members on the Indian Memorial Working Party that is seeking new members to £10 joining fee.

46. TOWN DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Town Development Manager report was previously circulated as Appendix 3.

Cllr O'Sullivan said the Street Trading Working Party had met recently to consider a proposal received from Southern Market Traders with a view to them running the street trading market. That requires further consideration at the next Amenities Committee meeting on 4 September following a public consultation exercise by the TDM to establish what local residents wanted from a 'market'.

Addressing antisocial behaviour, Cllr Clarke made the point ASB is committed not only by youths, but the majority nationally is committed by adults over 25. Having said that, ASBOC has helped tremendously in reducing youth ASB in the town over many years with their work on the Rec, but it will cease year end. Cllr Schooling wondered what effect ASB has had on the economy of the town.

The Town Clerk had written to Donna Jones, Police Crime Commissioner & Scott Chilton, Chief Constable, inviting them to attend one of our meetings, viz

Excerpt from 3 July 2023 letter:

"I wondered if you and / or the new Chief Constable Scott Chilton could come along and speak to the Town Council about the latest initiatives to drive down crime rates, referred to in the June Monthly Newsletter following introduction of a new Police Force operating model. It sounds promising and could well allay fears locally as to how ASB is tackled."

The Clerk was asked to write again, mentioning Community Protection Notices.

47. ANY ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT/IMPORTANT

None.

48. NEXT MEETING - Monday 2 October 2023 at 6.30 pm in the Town Hall.

Chairman _____ Date _____

There being no further business to discuss, with no members of the public wishing to speak, Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.30 pm.

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