

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 6.30 PM AT NEW MILTON TOWN HALL

Councillors: p	K E Craze (Chairman)	p	R Murrow (Vice-Chairman)
	M Brownsea	p	D A Rice-Mundy
	G R Blunden	p	D Samber
	S J Clarke	p	V E Schooling
	M Craze		A D O'Sullivan
	S P Davies		D N Tungate
	D E Hawkins		C V Ward
	R A Reid	p	J G Ward
	A W Rice		H Wallis-Dowling

In Attendance:

G Flexman - Town Clerk

C Rabbito – Town Development Manager

J Hayward – Communications Officer

The Chairman invited Members to stand in 1 minute silence to remember Mrs Betty Tungate who had recently passed away.

63. APOLOGIES

Cllrs M Brownsea, M Craze, A O'Sullivan, D N Tungate, C Ward and H Wallis-Dowling.

64. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS / MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

The Chairman reminded members about the following events:

Wednesday 16 November 2022 Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire unveiling the Mencap Mural at 10.45am.

Saturday 26 November 2022 Christmas lights switch on at 5pm at the Christmas Festival.

Saturday 3 December 2022 NMTC Annual Carol Service at 6pm at St Mary Magdalene Church.

The Chairman reported on his recent engagements:

2 October	BUPA Ashley Lodge Quiz Afternoon
14 October	Launch of New Milton Poppy Appeal
14 October	Opening the Last Post Tapas Bar
29 October	Round Table Fireworks Display
11 November	Armistice Day at the War Memorial

13 November New Milton Remembrance Parade & Service
13 November Remembrance at the Indian Soldiers Memorial

The Chairman thanked the Town Clerk and his team for coordinating the arrangements for the Remembrance Sunday Parade, Act of Remembrance, and Remembrance Service. The event was very well-attended, fine weather prevailed, and our ground staff organised the road closures between them.

65. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

66. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 3 October 2022 and moved their adoption.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 3 October 2022, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Minutes were duly signed.

67. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following items of correspondence:

- a. A letter from Rebecca Drummond at NFDC regarding the expected costs of our local Elections in 2023 being £23k. The Town Clerk confirmed that £25k was budgeted for.
- b. Correspondence with Cllr Edward Heron at HCC regarding the reduction in funding for the Cango Bus service, that is likely to result in a reduced service. The C32/C33 New Milton to Lymington ceasing at 2.45pm on weekdays and on Saturdays. A further online meeting with interested parties is arranged for 1 December 2022.

68. QUESTIONS – None

69. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

HCC Cllr M Kendal referred to the £80m deficit in the budget which would mean savings had to be made and reserves used to cover the deficit in 2023/24. Together with Kent County Council, a joint letter had just been sent to the Prime Minister and Chancellor with concerns about this budget shortfall and estimated shortfall of £200m in 2024/25.

HCC had recently received a sustainability award for recycling road chippings. It was confirmed that Libraries would be open as warm spaces this winter.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Kendal who then left the meeting.

Cllr G Blunden referred to an upcoming Police Crime Commissioner Panel meeting to appoint a new Chief Constable, Olivia Pinkney leaving in April 2023.

Cllr S Davies reported on the completion of works to build up the shingle on Hurst Spit to Hurst Castle and the proposed drainage project trial at Barton on Sea in the near future, as part of the Christchurch Bay coastal protection.

He advised that four Electric Vehicle Charging Points were being connected in NFDC car parks, at Hurst Road Milford on Sea, Beaulieu, Paddy's Gap and Marine Drive West at Barton on Sea.

Cllrs S Clarke and J Ward had nothing to report.

Cllr K Craze reported that the public toilets at Barton would be the first to be refurbished by NFDC with potentially eight new toilets across the district.

70. COMMITTEE REPORTSa) Planning Committee

Cllr S Clarke, Chairman of the Planning Committee, submitted the minutes of the Committee meetings held on 13 and 27 October, and 10 November 2022 and moved their adoption.

Cllr Clarke provided an update on Minute 139 b) having received an update from the landowners of the Gore Road strategic site.

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 121 to 150 inclusive of the meetings held on 13 and 27 October, and 10 November 2022, be received.

b) Amenities Committee

Cllr G Blunden, Chairman of the Amenities Committee, submitted Minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2022 and moved their adoption.

Regarding Minute 62 a) Cllr Blunden suggested that the Lions Club set up a steering group meeting to consider the Coronation event on 6 May 2023.

Regarding Minute 73, Cllr Blunden advised that HCC have no funding to enable street-scene enhancements at Old Milton Road and Ashley Parade. However, minor enhancements could be undertaken by NMTC.

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 56 to 75 inclusive of the meeting held on 6 September 2022 be received.

c) Finance and General Purposes Committee

Cllr S Davies, on behalf of the absent Chairman, submitted the minutes of F&GP Committee meetings held on 26 September and 31 October 2022, and moved their adoption

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 38 to 68 inclusive of the meetings held on 26 September and 31 October 2022 be received.

d) Executive Committee

Cllr K Craze, Chairman, submitted the minutes of the Executives meeting held on 28 October 2022.

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 25 to 34 inclusive of the meeting held on 28 October 2022 be received.

The Chairman came out of session, Sgt Arron Wood arriving at 7pm.

Sgt Wood provided an update on the current burglaries and the Police response to the situation. Sgt Wood was concerned about the vulnerability of some businesses who needed advice. Sgt Wood also reiterated the necessity for any incidents to be reported via 101 as this will ensure it is recorded and responded to as necessary. Emergency situations to be dealt with by calling 999.

Sgt Wood referred to his request to Police hierarchy for more CCTV in New Milton and Ashley to be presented to NFDC.

Cllrs suggested that another letter be written to PCC Donna Jones highlighting the issues and the lack of police resources, noting that her manifesto stated that “*we need more police visibility*”.

Sgt Wood left the meeting at 7.35pm, and the Chairman went back into session.

[Post meeting note: NMRA have arranged a public meeting entitled “Police In Focus” with Sgt Arron Wood on Tuesday 13 December 2022 starting at 7pm at the New Milton Community Centre.]

71. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

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

RESOLVED:

That the Schedule of Payments No 04/22/23 in the sum of £105,024.01 for the period 1 – 30 September 2022 be approved.

The Schedule of Payments was duly signed.

72. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

Cllr Murrow reported on the New Forest Mencap AGM that he attended the previous evening, highlighting the important services they provide. Also acknowledging the staff team they are building in strengthening their position going forward. There was also a plea from Mencap to attract more Volunteers to assist at their clubs and Trustees to support their committee.

The Chairman shared an update, on behalf of Cllr M Craze, regarding the Friends of the Indian Soldiers Memorial group who had held their first AGM in September, were building a website, and attracting new members to the friends group.

73. TOWN DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1, TDM Report, which was noted.

74. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2, Calendar of Meetings for 2023, and subject to Planning Committee dates from May 2023,

It was

RESOLVED: That Calendar of Meetings for the year 2022-23 be adopted.

The dates of Planning Meetings would be referred to the Planning Committee that is responsible for setting its own timetable.

75. ANY ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT/IMPORTANT

None

76. NEXT MEETING - Tuesday 3 January 2023 at 6.30 pm in the Town Hall.

Democratic Half Hour

Local resident K Witt shared his concerns about the condition of the road surfacing in Station Road and how he has contacted HCC about it without positive response to date.

Cllr Clarke referred to an online meeting that NMTC had with HCC Highways this morning, wherein HCC stated that there were worse roads elsewhere in the county and local roads in New Milton were not a priority at this time.

It was suggested that the Estates Manager and NMTC Members would log all road and pavement issues on the HCC system [Report a problem | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/report-a-problem).

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.55pm.

Chairman _____ Date _____

Distribution:

Town Councillors
District Councillor Mrs J L Cleary
County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter, K Mans
New Milton Police
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Alan Watson – NMRA
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