

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 3 OCTOBER 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
	p	G R Blunden		D Samber
		S J Clarke		V E Schooling
		M Craze		A D O’Sullivan
		S P Davies		D N Tungate
	p	D E Hawkins		C V Ward
		R A Reid	p	J G Ward
	p	A W Rice	p	H Wallis-Dowling

In Attendance:

G Flexman - Town Clerk

C Rabbito – Town Development Manager

H Ormerod – Administrative Assistant

S King – Town Development Officer

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, Professor Catharine Gale, PS Andrew Gwyer, 4 Officers and 2 members of the public.

Cllr A Rice informed members that former Councillor David Burns had sadly passed away. He had been Chair of the Neighbourhood Council from 1974 – 1977 (as mentioned at the beginning of the F&GP minutes of 26 September 2022).

The Chairman went out of session to enable a member of the public to speak regarding criminal damage in the Town, above the former Barclays Bank that was.

Mr Blackler, a resident raised the issue of criminal damage and vandalism above Barclays Bank. His property had also been vandalised twice in the last 6 months and he was concerned that this anti-social behaviour/criminal damage was going unchecked. He asked whether the Town Council would consider installing CCTV in this area. He commented that both the Conservative Club and Shaws Accountants had CCTV cameras but to his knowledge neither had been approached by the Police.

The Chairman informed Mr Blackler that the Town Council would work with the Police and assist where possible and thanked him for his comments. PS Andrew Gwyer addressed his main points of concern.

Mr Watson, speaking as a resident, raised the issue of the coronation of King Charles III which was likely to take place next year, quite possibly on Friday 2 June 2023 (being the 70th anniversary of the Queen’s Coronation). He asked that if any celebrations be planned, a working party is established comprising Town Councillors and officers plus representatives of key organisations within the town to ensure a co-ordinated approach. The Chairman thanked Mr Watson and went back into session.

PS Andy Gwyer presented an update on the New Forest West Neighbourhood Team. The team currently comprised 3 police officers, 3 PCSO's and a recently qualified student. In the next couple of months 1 Constable and 1 PCSO would be joining the team and PS Aaron Wood would be taking over responsibility for the New Milton team.

He reported that crime in New Milton had increased by 9% in the last 12 months (force average 9.3%). This was mainly due to the covid restrictions resulting in fewer dwelling burglaries and some crimes being recoded twice eg harassment – violent crime and public order offence.

The Police and Crime Commissioner had instructed officers to prioritise attendance at reported dwelling burglaries and in the first two weeks the team had attended approximately 98%. However, this would result in incidents of anti-social behaviour being less of a priority.

As a team, rural crime, drug related harm and violence against girls remained priorities. Regarding the recent break ins in the town, members of the Team would be patrolling the area as resources allowed. Drugs were prevalent in every town and despite it not being possible to eradicate the problem, Police efforts were targeted at keeping the public out of harms' way.

Cllr H Wallis -Dowling reported that a resident had waited an hour and 20 minutes for Police to attend an incident. PS Gwyer reported that with regard to prioritising resources, when a 999 is made, staff in the control room assess the risk and calls are graded 1 (being highest priority) to 4 (lowest priority). There was a target of 20 minutes for grade 1 calls. He undertook to obtain performance data and feedback via the Town Clerk, but as with ambulances, attendance may be delayed.

It was agreed that where possible, Councillors forward questions to PS Gwyer via the Town Clerk a week in advance of the Town Council meeting to give him time to prepare a detailed and accurate response.

The Chairman thanked PS Gwyer for his update.

Professor Catharine Gale delivered a presentation regarding Swifts – birds who need our help. She reported that the swift population is in decline across the UK mainly due to the reduction in insects as a result of habitat loss and loss of nest places due to demolition, roof repairs, renovations and the installation of UPVC soffits/fascias. She highlighted what we can do in our own homes to help swifts including putting up swift boxes/bricks.

The Chairman thanked Professor Gale for her interesting presentation, hard copies of which would be circulated to all Councillors together with Catharine's contact details.

48. APOLOGIES

Cllrs M Brownsea, S Clarke, M Craze, S Davies, A O'Sullivan, R A Reid, D Samber, V Schooling, D N Tungate and C Ward.

49. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr K Craze as Mayor reported on the following recent engagements:

23 August	Attended the commemoration of WW II bombing at the Memorial Clock
27 August	Attended the Bee Fayre at the Recreation Ground
4 September	Attended the Afternoon of Music - We Are Robot on the Recreation Ground
18 September	Attended minutes silence for the passing of the Queen and the proclamation for King Charles III at the Memorial Clock

The Chairman updated Councillors on progress with regard to the opening of a Co-Op at Barton. He had been informed that external works were due to commence on 17 October and the Co-Op would take over the site on 1 November 2022.

Regards the No 1 New Milton Project, the Estates & Facilities Manager had recently met with representatives of Network Rail from Glasgow and York to look at drainage at the site and it was anticipated that the project would be completed next Spring.

50. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr A Rice declared an interest in relation to item 5 as a member of the Royal British Legion.

51. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 8 August 2022 and moved their adoption.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 8 August 2022, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Minutes were duly signed.

52. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following items of correspondence:

- i) An email from Goff Beck, Vice-Chair of the New Milton branch of the RBL asking the Town Council to sponsor the Annual Poppy Appeal launch. This had been endorsed by F & GP on 26 September and was submitted to Town Council for approval. With those present in favour

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Town Council sponsor the New Milton branch of the Royal British Legion in the sum of £300.00 towards this year's Poppy Appeal.

- ii) The lease for the Bowls Club was due for renewal and this was signed by the Chairman ahead of a meeting with the Bowls Club tomorrow.
- iii) An e-mail from the New Life Church asking the Town Council to promote activities being undertaken in half term to support families struggling including the provision of hot food and family friendly activities. Members agreed subject to all necessary hygiene standards being met.

53. QUESTIONS - None54. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

HCC Cllrs F Carpenter and M Kendal had tendered their apologies.

NFDC Cllrs J Ward and G Blunden had both attended the NFDC organised proclamation of King Charles III at Lyndhurst which was also attended by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, Hallam Mills Esq.

55. COMMITTEE REPORTSa) Planning Committee

Cllr D Hawkins, in the absence of both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee, submitted the minutes of the Committee meetings held on 18/19 August and 1 / 29 September 2022 and moved their adoption.

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 84 to 120 inclusive of the meetings held on 18 and 19 August and 1 and 29 September 2022 be received.

b) Amenities Committee

Cllr G Blunden, Chairman of the Amenities Committee submitted Minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2022 and moved their adoption.

Regarding Minute 49 Streetscene enhancement and the footways in Old Milton Road and Ashley Parade, Cllr Blunden and the Town Clerk had been in contact with HCC Cllr Mel Kendal who had passed the matter on to Cllr Nick Adams-King, Executive Member for Highways Operations and a response had yet to be received.

(Post Meeting Note: See press article attached)

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 42 to 55 inclusive of the meeting held on 6 September 2022 be received.

c) Finance and General Purposes Committee

Only one member of the F & G Committee present at the meeting on 26 September was in attendance therefore there was no-one to second the minutes, and they will be adopted at the next Town Council Meeting.

RESOLVED:

That adoption of Minutes 38 to 53 inclusive of the meeting held on 26 September 2022 be deferred until the next Town Council meeting.

56. 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 03/22/23 in the sum of £224,705.01 for the period 1 July – 31 August 2022 be approved.

The Schedule of Payments was duly signed.

57. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

None.

58. TOWN DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

The Town Development Manager submitted a written report, previously circulated as Appendix 1, which was noted by members. The report referred to the Town Council's response to the cost-of-living crisis, progression of the socially prescribed cookery courses, the Green Infrastructure Strategy and the Youth and Family Centre off Gore Road.

59. EXTERNAL AUDIT 2021/22

The Town Clerk referred to Appendix 2, being External Auditors Report and Certificate for 2021/22. The Town Council having received a clean bill of health, Members expressed their gratitude to the Town Clerk and his team for all their hard work in preparing for the Audits both internal and external.

It was noted that the Notice of Conclusion of Audit was published as required by 30 September 2022 at the front of the Town Hall and on the Council website.

60. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3, Calendar of Meetings for year 2022-23 previously circulated, highlighting a change of date for the next Town Council meeting from Monday 14 to Tuesday 15 November 2022 due to a clash with a recently arranged NFDC meeting. This was agreed by members present and

It was

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

61. ANY ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT/IMPORTANT

None

62. NEXT MEETING - Tuesday 15 November at 6.30 pm in the Town Hall.

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

Press

Alan Watson – Focus & NMRA

Mark Jeffries – Estates & Facilities Manager