

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 5 OCTOBER 2020 AT 6.30PM VIA ZOOM VIDEO COMMUNICATION.

Councillors:	p	A Reid (Chairman)	p	K E Craze (Vice-Chairman)
	p	M Brownsea		D A Rice-Mundy
	p	G R Blunden		A W Rice
	p	S J Clarke	p	A D O'Sullivan
	p	M Craze		V E Schooling
	p	S P Davies	p	D N Tungate
	p	D E Hawkins	p	C V Ward
	p	R Murrow	p	J G Ward
	p	H Wallis-Dowling	p	D Samber
In Attendance:	Officers:	G Flexman	-	Town Clerk
		J Hayward	-	Administrator
		M Jeffries	-	Estates & Facilities Manager
		S King	-	Town Development Manager

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, Officers, 2 members of the public and a press representative to the virtual meeting of the Town Council as well as HCC Councillors M Kendal and K Mans.

The Chairman reminded attendees on the required protocols of the meeting, and changed the order of business and introduced Public Participation at the beginning of the meeting, to enable members of the public to leave after that if they wished.

The Chairman referred to the sad news of the death of the Big Issue Seller, Ed Sirani, a well-liked and well-respected individual who was always cheerful and polite. He will be missed by many residents.

President of the New Milton Lions Club, Lion Steve Merrifield, spoke to give thanks to New Milton Town Council for supporting the delivery of over 1000 food parcels to local disadvantaged families during the last few months. A certificate of appreciation addressed to New Milton Town Council was shown on-screen.

172. APOLOGIES

Cllrs D Rice-Mundy, A Rice and Mrs V Schooling.

173. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had attended the New Milton & District Community Association for their Covid-restricted 60th anniversary and assisted in planting a rose bush in their gardens.

The Chairman plans to visit his nominated charity, Ashley Family Hub at Ashley Infants School, on Friday 9 October 2020 to present a cheque of £550 which is made up of donations from "Collect Coppers for Charity". He thanked the community for responding enthusiastically and for donating their spare change.

The Chairman referred to the revised office roster and Coronavirus Risk Assessment that applies to the New Milton Town Council offices. He encouraged all members to note and follow the restrictions to ensure the safety of all officers and members during the Pandemic.

174. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none

175. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 10 August 2020 and the Extraordinary Town Council Meeting held on 24 August 2020.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Town Council Meetings held on 10 and 24 August 2020, having been circulated, be confirmed, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

176. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following correspondence:

- a) An email from NMS inviting Members and Officers to visit their Downton site to see the restoration of the former quarry site, now a nature conservation area.
- b) An email from Steve Tolley, former Fire Chief Officer, who was saddened to hear the news of the passing of Ed Sirani and asked if a memorial plaque could be placed on the wall where Ed used to stand outside McColls. This matter was referred to Amenities for consideration.

177. QUESTIONS - None

178. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

HCC Leader Cllr K Mans provided an overview on Covid in Hampshire reporting there were 15.3 infections per 100k of the Hampshire population.

Arrangements were being considered for Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day and further guidance would be forthcoming by the end of the week.

HCC Cllr M Kendal would be filming a video of the wreath-laying with the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire and this would be available via a webinar event.

Cllr K Craze provided an update on behalf of HCC Cllr F Carpenter, who was going to meet with Managers at Morrisons in New Milton to discuss their community work and would suggest the focus be on loneliness and social isolation. Cllr Carpenter welcomed any ideas.

NFDC Cllrs N Tungate, J Ward, C Ward, K Craze and S Clarke had attended various Task & Finish Groups as well as Covid Recovery sessions at NFDC.

NFDC Cllr S Davies was pleased to report that the NFDC target of 600 new dwellings was being met and the Greener Housing Task & Finish group had recently received a presentation and he looked forward to sharing more updates in future.

NFDC Cllr G Blunden had attended the opening of the Ashley housing development which was a high-quality facility.

NFDC Cllr A O'Sullivan was disappointed at the mindless vandalism recently to Barton on Sea beach huts.

179. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Chairman asked Committee Chairmen to present their minutes in their entirety and not minute by minute.

a) Planning Committee

Cllr Clarke submitted the minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 13 & 27 August plus 10 & 24 September and moved their adoption.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 259 to 295 inclusive be received.

b) Amenities Committee

Cllr Blunden, Chairman of the Amenities Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 8 September 2020 and moved their adoption.

Cllr Blunden highlighted minute 199 which referred to the Plant a Tree Policy and this was an important part of our environmental plan.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 186 - 201 inclusive be received.

c) Finance and General Purposes Committee

Cllr Davies, Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 21 September and moved their adoption.

Cllr Davies referred to minute 178 which was the Town Council approved annual grant to Citizens Advice New Forest of £5k.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 154 - 168 inclusive be received.

180. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

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

RESOLVED:

That the Schedule of Payments 03/20/21 in the sum of £157,243.07 for the period 1 July to 31 August 2020 be approved.

The Schedule of Payments will be signed when normal course of business returns.

181. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

Cllr R Murrow said that the French Twinning Association were now hoping to visit in May 2021 and further details would be confirmed in due course.

He was pleased to confirm the commemorative tree, to honour the Twinning Association, would be planted at the end of November to coincide with National Tree Week.

Cllr A O'Sullivan reported that due to the Covid restrictions it was difficult for the Forest Arts Centre to host events, other than on-line.

182. TOWN DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

The Chairman referred to the latest report from the Town Development Manager, previously circulated, which was noted by members.

183. ANY ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

The Chairman referred to the plans for the Act of Remembrance on Remembrance Sunday which were being discussed in order to allow wreath-laying in compliance with Covid restrictions, and with public health & safety being of paramount importance.

There would be a brief Act of Remembrance at the Indian Memorial during the afternoon of Remembrance Sunday from 3pm.

The Chairman would lay wreaths on behalf of NMTC at both Memorials.

184. NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council Meeting will take place on **Monday 16 November 2020** at 6.30pm.

DEMOCRATIC HALF HOUR

1. Alan Watson, representing NMRA, was disappointed to report the general feeling that New Milton are 'playing second fiddle' to Lymington with the local Police now being referred to as Lymington and New Milton Cops on social media, the former having recently moved into the Town Hall at Lymington where there will be a front desk and beat surgeries. Nothing similar is planned for New Milton, albeit a much larger town than Lymington.

The Chairman and Town Clerk would write to the Police accordingly.

2. Alan Watson, also referred to the reduction in the opening hours at New Milton Library to 2.5 days in comparison to 3.5 days in Lymington

HCC Cllr Kendal would investigate further and advise, as attached.

The Chairman thanked members of the public, officers, and press for attending and closed the virtual meeting at 7.10 pm.

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



Joanna Hayward

From: Joanna Hayward
Sent: 07 October 2020 12:55
To: alan.osullivan@newmiltontc.org.uk; Alvin Reid alvin.reid@newmiltontc.org.uk; bob.murrow@newmiltontc.org.uk; cllr christine ward - (christine.ward@newmiltontc.org.uk); CLLR DEAN SAMBER (dean.samber@newmiltontc.org.uk); cllr john ward new email add (johngward@newmiltontc.org.uk); David Hawkins (david.hawkins@newmiltontc.org.uk); david.rice-mundy@newmiltontc.org.uk; Geoff Blunden (geoff.blunden@newmiltontc.org.uk); helen wallis-dowling; keith craze; madalaine craze; mark brownsea; neil.tungate@newmiltontc.org.uk; Steve Clarke; steve.davies@newmiltontc.org.uk; V Schooling (valya.schooling@newmiltontc.org.uk)
Cc: Graham Flexman; Mark Jeffries; Suna King
Subject: FW: New Mllton Library hours

From: Kendal, Cllr M J <mel.kendal@hants.gov.uk>
Sent: 07 October 2020 12:04
To: Joanna Hayward <Joanna.Hayward@newmiltontowncouncil.gov.uk>
Cc: alan watson (a.d.watson@btinternet.com) <a.d.watson@btinternet.com>; Chris March <chris.march@adt.press>
Subject: New Mllton Library hours

Dear Joanna,

Could you please circulate this email to all those present at Monday's Council Meeting.

The arrangements for library opening hours and services are based on community need and evidence of use over many years. Back in 2016, libraries were placed in a Tier system based on their performance, catchment and geography. As part of that process, Lymington was identified as a Tier 1 Library and New Milton was identified as a Tier 2 Library. This pattern of relative performance has held steady for many years; for example, in 2018-19, Lymington issued around 150,000 books and enjoyed around 175,000 visits, whereas New Milton had 105,000 visits and 100,000 issues (and the New Milton figures were adjusted upwards to take account of the period of closure due to refurbishment in that year).

For many years, Lymington has had longer opening hours than New Milton and, before the Executive Member decision, Lymington was open for 50 hours a week, compared to New Milton's 38 hours a week. As part of the current review and standardisation of opening hours, it was agreed that whilst libraries would lose an average of 20% of their opening hours, to ensure fairness across the County, similar size libraries with similar usage would be banded together. The result of this process is that Lymington reduces from 50 hours per week to 41.5 hours. This represents a reduction of 17% of Lymington's hours. Following representations made about New Milton's opening times, which caused it to be re-classified in the top group of Tier 2 libraries, the reduction of New Milton hours is now from 38 to 34 – only 10.5%. Therefore New Milton has a proportionately smaller reduction in hours.

The revised opening hours for New Milton are as follows:

Library	Original hours	Original opening times	New Hours	New opening times
New Milton (Tier 2)	38	Monday: 9am-5pm	34	Monday: 9.30am-5pm
		Tuesday: 9am-5pm		Tuesday: 9.30am-5pm
		Wednesday: Closed		Wednesday: 9.30am-5pm
		Thursday: 9am-7pm		Thursday: 9.30am-5pm
		Friday: 9am-5pm		Friday: 9.30am-5pm
		Saturday: 9am-1pm		Saturday: 9.30am-1pm
		Sunday: Closed		Sunday: Closed

These revised hours have not been fully publicised yet, but I hope that the fact that New Milton will now be opening for 4.5 days a week will go some way towards addressing concerns.

Regards
 Cllr. Melville Kendal
 Chairman
 Hampshire County Council