

**NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL****MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON  
MONDAY 8 AUGUST 2022 AT 6.30 PM AT NEW MILTON TOWN HALL**

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

In Attendance:

G Flexman - Town Clerk

H Ormerod – Administrative Assistant

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, County Councillors Fran Carpenter and Mel Kendal, Inspector Darren Ord, 2 Officers and 3 members of the public.

The Chairman reported that unfortunately Professor Catharine Gale was stuck on a broken-down train and would not be able to make the meeting to deliver the Swift presentation.

Inspector Ord presented a quarterly report from the neighbourhood Policing team. The report included data comparing reported offences in the last 90 days (178) with the previous 90 days (141). Current operations included Op Flight looking at anti-social behaviour experienced in the recreational areas of New Milton. An event had been held to allow people to get their bikes security marked free of charge and further events were in the pipeline. He also reported on staffing changes in the Neighbourhood Team and Op Mountie, set up by colleagues from New Forest Heart in order to tackle animal deaths in the Forest caused by dangerous driving.

Cllr Blunden commented that it would be useful to receive feedback from the Safer New Forest roadshows and Insp Ord would seek to bring a PCSO along to a future meeting to provide feedback. Cllr Samber raised the issue of electric scooters used on pavements, and problems associated with the derelict property known as Cricket View at the entrance to Fernhill Cricket Ground.

Insp Ord reported that anyone caught misusing an electric scooter would have the scooter seized however it was difficult to track offenders after the event. With regard to Cricket View, the Police had received 11 calls over the last 12 years in relation to this near derelict property and in particular concerns regarding anti-social behaviour and suspected burglaries. This year 5 calls had been received and all of these had been attended. Several attempts had been made to discuss this with the owner of the property with limited success. Unfortunately, police powers around derelict properties were limited but they were keen to work with both the Town and District Councils to find a way forward.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Ord for the update and welcomed the opportunity to work with the police and NFDC to resolve issues at Cricket View.

34. APOLOGIES

Cllrs M Brownsea, S Clarke, D Hawkins, R Murrow, D Rice-Mundy and J Ward.

35. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

3 July	Attended the Afternoon on Music – Blue Tides and presented awards to the winners of the Queen's Jubilee window display competition
8 July	The Mayor's Consort Cllr M Craze attended Durlston Court prep School Speech Day
10 July	Attended the Indian Memorial Remembrance Service at Barton on Sea
14 July	Attended Ballard School Speech Day
19 July	Attended NMRA General Meeting at the Community Centre
23 July	The Mayor's Consort Cllr M Craze attended the Youth Music and Culture event at the Recreation Ground
7 August	Attended the Afternoon of Music – Caribbean ConneXion

The Chairman invited Councillors to attend a short service in remembrance of the New Milton citizens who lost their lives during World War II on 23 August 2022 at 11am at the Memorial Clock in Station Road.

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr A Rice declared an interest in relation to minute 26 of the F & GP minutes 25 July 2022 as a member of the Memorial Centre Management Committee.

37. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 27 June 2022 and moved their adoption.

It was,

**RESOLVED:**

***That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 27 June 2022, 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 items of correspondence:

- i) The Town Clerk had emailed the Managing Director of Morebus regarding the re-instatement of some yellow bus services and had requested a meeting to discuss services to New Milton and in particular the 1a service which would only be continuing as far as Christchurch, not New Milton.
- ii) An e-mail from the Elections Project Officer at NFDC enclosing a leaflet to be circulated to residents shortly informing them of a number of forthcoming changes affecting the delivery of elections in the New Forest from May 2023. Copies of the leaflet were made available at the meeting.

39. QUESTIONS - None40. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

HCC Cllr M Kendal reported that he was pleased to recommend a grant of £25,000 towards the repair of the roof at the Memorial Centre which had been approved by the Leader. He provided statistics of work undertaken by the County Council in relation to highways in the New Forest in the month of June: 24,000 sq miles of new road surfacing; 68,000sq miles of surface dressing; and 11,000 pot-holes repaired.

The County Council was facing an uphill battle in terms of the budget required to provide the current level of service and over the next 2 years there would be a £2M shortfall. He commented that HCC was one of the largest net contributors to the fiscal revenue of the country along with Kent.

HCC Cllr Fran Carpenter commented that the County Council was hopeful that the County Deal would continue under the new Government leadership.

Further to the update from Insp Ord, she reported that following a number of recent burglaries in her area, she was pleased to have received a visit from a local PCSO who was visiting neighbouring properties offering advice and reassurance.

The County Council was currently consulting on 20mph zones and was looking at options regarding enforcement.

Chairman of NFDC Cllr A O'Sullivan had attended an Audit Committee meeting.

NFDC Cllr G Blunden had attended meetings to look at ways of supporting Freedom Leisure who were facing financial pressures caused by rising inflation and energy costs. NFDC Cllr S Davies had attended the New Forest Show and was pleased to see the Electric Car Show taking place at the Community Centre on 21 August 2022. NFDC Cllr N Tungate had attended a recent meeting to discuss local polling stations

41. COMMITTEE REPORTSa) Planning Committee

Cllr R A Reid, Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee, submitted the minutes of the Committee meetings held on 7 and 21 July and 4 August and moved their adoption.

He reminded Councillors that there was to be an Extraordinary Planning meeting regarding gravel extraction at Ashley Manor Farm on 19 August 2022 at 6.00pm at the Memorial Centre.

**RESOLVED:**

***That Minutes 52 to 83 inclusive of the meetings held on 7 and 21 July and 4 August 2022 be received.***

b) Amenities Committee

Cllr G Blunden, Chairman of Amenities Committee submitted Minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2022 and moved their adoption.

Regarding minute 31 Ashley Rec enhancement scheme, Cllr Blunden reported that Sport England had withdrawn its objection to the planning application therefore planning permission had been granted with minor conditions attached. The scheme would need to be re-costed due to inflation and increased building costs.

Cllr V Schooling asked what progress had been made regarding the resurfacing of Ashley Parade. Cllr Blunden said that based on HCC criteria, the current state of the pavement did not constitute a trip hazard. However, work had been undertaken to identify ownership and the Town Clerk undertook to raise the matter with Cllr Mel Kendal.

Regarding minute 33 the Town Clerk reported that due to 3 of the concerts being cancelled the Town Council only received £15,000 in revenue for the use of Fawcetts Field/Moore Close, £10 k for Buble and £5k for McFly.

**RESOLVED:**

***That Minutes 24 to 41 inclusive of the meeting held on 12 July 2022 be received.***

c) Finance and General Purposes Committee

Cllr D N Tungate, Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 25 July 2022 and moved their adoption.

**RESOLVED:**

***That Minutes 22 to 37 inclusive of the meeting held on 25 July 2022 be received.***

d) Executive Committee

Cllr K Craze, Chairman of the Executive Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 22 July 2022 and moved their adoption.

**RESOLVED:**

***That Minutes 1 to 12 inclusive of the meeting held on 22 July 2022 be received.***

42. 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 02/22/23 in the sum of £184,519.62 for the period 1 – 30 June 2022 be approved.***

The Schedule of Payments was duly signed.

43. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON ORGANISATIONS - None.44. TOWN DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

The Town Development Manager submitted a written report, previously circulated as Appendix 1, which was noted by members. The report updated the appointment of the new Town Development Manager Chiara Rabbito from 30 August 2022. There would be a handover period with the current TDM for the next few months. The report also reported Youth and Family Centre, green routes, the continuing socially prescribed cookery courses and widening the use of the Community Centre.

45. NEW FOREST PRIDE

The Chairman reported that the organisers of New Forest Pride had yet to reach an agreement with NFDC Safety Advisory Group (SAG) regarding the event on 20 August 2022, and in particular whether the event would need to be fenced.

Members expressed support for the event, but it was generally agreed the War Memorial Recreation Ground did not lend itself to being fenced, and it was suggested that a more appropriate location for a fenced event would be the Moore Close site at Fawcetts, however it was not available on the 20 August.

Cllr Reid proposed that the Town Council should not allow fencing of any events on the War Memorial Recreation Ground, which was seconded by Cllr H Wallis-Dowling and supported by the majority of members present.

It was then

***RESOLVED: That no fencing of events would be allowed on the War Memorial Recreation Ground.***

The Town Clerk undertook to keep members updated as and when further information became available, referring to the work of SAG (as attached).

46. ANY ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT/IMPORTANT

47. NEXT MEETING - Monday 19 September 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