

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee of New Milton Town Council held on Tuesday 27 May 2025 at 6.30pm at the Town Hall, Ashley Road, New Milton.

Present:

Chairman: p G R Blunden - Chairman p M Craze - Vice Chair

Councillors: p D E Hawkins R Murrow

 p J Baker p A D O’Sullivan

 p D Rice-Mundy V Schooling

 p K Trehorn

In attendance:

Councillors:

Officers: Graham Flexman - Town Clerk
 Mark Jeffries – Estates and Facilities Manager
 Sam Welch – Administration Officer

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, Officers, three members of the public and a member of the Press to the first meeting of this new civic year.

Three members of the public spoke under Public Participation.

Julia Stamper

Representing New Milton Residents Association, raised the following residents concerns:

Long Meadow Play Area: Asked about plans for upgrades to the aged play park.

Rubbish Bins: Noted a reduction in waste bins around town, specifically the removal of one at Southern Lane where it adjoins Moat Lane.

VE80 Event Toilets: Reported complaints about closed and unhygienic toilet facilities at the Recreation Ground during the VE80 event.

Manor Road Planters: Asked if there are plans to replant the currently empty planters at the corner.

Bradbeers Roundabout: Inquired about replanting plans.

Ballard Meadow Entrance: Requested information on any planned improvements to the entrance.

Alan Watson

President of the Lions Club of New Milton & District and representing the New Milton & Barton Fundraising Branch of the RNLI, spoke regarding the car boot sale held on 18 May. He noted that the event ran smoothly without the usual Car Boot Supervisor. Mr Watson asked if the supervisory fee could be waived for this event and proposed that future events proceed without the additional cost, as he questioned the need for the Supervisor's presence.

He also reminded Councillors of the upcoming official opening day of the New Milton Community Garden, to be held at 3:00pm on Sunday, 08 June 2025, at the Moore Close site within Fawcetts Field.

Lastly, he spoke regarding the recent passing of Ted Horne BEM, noting his long-standing involvement within New Milton. It was shared that a funeral and wake will be held on Friday 13 June, and the family would appreciate an indication of how many may attend.

Richard Jenner

A local resident spoke regarding a Green Loop identified footpath between Barton Common Lane through to the northern part of Barton Common to Barton Common Road in need of urgent maintenance and requested it be treated as a priority.

The meeting went into session at 6:43pm following the Public Participation period.

4. APOLOGIES

Cllr R Murrow

Cllr V Schooling



The Chairman asked the Town Clerk to read out the Terms of Reference of the Amenities Committee.

“The Amenities Committee shall: -

- a) Promote leisure activities and facilities which shall include maintenance of public recreation grounds, parks, sports fields, open spaces, allotment sites, flower/shrub beds, bus shelters and similar areas which are the responsibility of the Council.**
- b) As appropriate, monitor, liaise, advise and where necessary arrange activities or functions connected with powers relating to entertainment, the arts, welfare service, public library, and tourism. This shall include recommendations for financial assistance.**
- c) Decision to allow or refuse events on the War Memorial Recreation Ground in Whitefield Road (specifically) is delegated to the Amenities Chairman (or Deputy) and the Town Clerk (or Assistant) if there is no meeting in a reasonable timescale.**
- d) Monitor the provision and maintenance of all outdoor recreational sports and similar amenity services in the town area and make recommendations on these aspects as appropriate, to the Council or other responsible authority.**
- e) Be responsible for the provision of street markets and all aspects associated with it, together with Car Boot sales.**
- f) Be responsible for the provision and/or maintenance of public seats, litter bins and footpaths which are the recognised responsibility of the Council.**
- g) Arrange and publish its own programme of meetings.**
- h) Whenever possible meet on a Monday evening two weeks prior to the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.”**

The Chairman outlined a range of schemes and projects the Town Council aims to progress over the coming year. These include a combination of capital projects, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)-funded initiatives, and upcoming proposals to be submitted to New Forest District Council for CIL bids.



The Chairman also highlighted areas for delivery over the coming year including:

Capital Projects:

Fernhill: Boundary fencing improvements and work to the area surrounding the clubhouse.

Long Meadow: Installation of a new play park, footpath enhancements, and bridge replacement.

Town Centre Recreation Ground: Replacement play equipment for the multi-play area.

CIL-Funded Projects:

Ballard Water Meadow: Creation of footpath link across the southern boundary to link Woar Copse Green Route with Ballard Lake.

Carrick Wood: Footpath works and environmental improvements.

Ashley Recreation Ground: Installation of a new sports wall and sensory play board.

Hollands Wood Drive: Multi play unit and fencing around the area.

NFDC CIL Bids (Upcoming):

Fawcetts Field: Car park improvements/resurfacing.

Fawcetts Field: BMX Pump Track.

Barton Common: Footpath improvements.

Danesbury Meadow: Footpath improvements.

The Chairman also noted plans to improve the Green Loop footpath network and confirmed that the Council will soon conclude its assessment of the proposed Nature Reserve designation at Ballard Water Meadow.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In response to Julia Stamper, The Chairman clarified that:

The planned upgrades to the Long Meadow play park would be addressed later in the meeting. Regarding the bins, the Chairman explained that the Town Council operates a number of bins located on Town Council-owned land. Many others across the parish, including the specific bin referenced at Southern Lane, are maintained by NFDC.

In relation to the toilet facilities at the VE80 event, he acknowledged that this is an ongoing matter across the district, with vandalism being a key issue. He confirmed that the comments raised, particularly concerning general cleanliness, would be taken on board.

Regarding the planters at Manor Road and planting at Bradbeers roundabout, it was confirmed that these matters are already in hand. As for the entrance to Ballard Water Meadow, the Chairman noted that this matter is currently on record for future attention.

In response to Alan Watson, the Chairman explained that it may not only be a matter of what the Car Boot Supervisor does but could also relate to insurance or oversight requirements. Mr. Watson's comments were noted, and the Town Clerk was asked to follow up accordingly.

[Post Meeting Note: The attendance of a Supervisor is an insurance requirement]

The Chairman and Members also took a moment to thank Mr. Watson and the Lions Club of New Milton & District for organising the recent VE80 event at the War Memorial Recreation Ground, which was acknowledged as a great success.

In response to Richard Jenner, the Chairman explained that the fore-mentioned footpath will be covered in the upcoming CIL bids.

7. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the previous Committee minutes of 07 April & 13 May 2025.

It was,

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meetings held on 07 April & 13 May 2025, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The minutes were duly signed.

8. MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman reviewed the action points from the previous committee meeting.

The Town Clerk confirmed that all action points had been addressed.

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
113c)	Insurance for container	ASAP	Town Clerk/ Estates Manager
113d)	Cricket Club advertising request	ASAP	Town Clerk
114	£10k CIL for No.1 Project	28.04.25	F&GP
115a)	Car Parking at Fawcetts	ASAP	Estates Manager
117	Xmas Lights enhancements	28.04.25	F&GP
118	Risk Management Strategy	28.04.25	F&GP
119	Men's Shed planning application	ASAP	Men's Shed

9. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following items of correspondence:

- a) An email from Wessex Internet requesting permission to install fibre optic cable that would pass under Fernhill Sports Ground and the Northern Field. The proposed route would be as close to the boundary as possible. Further details will be required to ensure the installation is "future proofed", with the Estates & Facilities Manager to meet a representative on site to agree the alignment and confirm that the route remains as near to the boundaries as possible.
- b) An email was received regarding the Town Council's involvement with the Memorial Hall. The Town Clerk clarified that the Memorial Hall is a separate charity and that the Town Council has no influence over its decisions. The Chairman added that the Council does try to listen to what the Memorial Hall has to say, offer thoughts where appropriate, and remains interested in the activities taking place there.

- c) An email was received from Alan Watson informing Members of the sad passing of Ted Horne BEM, at the age of 104, approaching his 105th birthday. In relation to the upcoming funeral and wake, the family has requested an idea of expected numbers.

The Town Clerk estimated that approximately 10 people, including staff and councillors, are likely to attend.

- d) An email was received from Angela Jackson reminding members that the official opening day of the Community Garden will take place at 3:00pm on Sunday 08 June. The garden is located within the Moore Close site at Fawcetts Field.

10. LAND USE REQUESTS

- a) A request was received from Sarah Evans enquiring about the possibility of renting land at the Northern Field off Fernhill Lane for the purpose of grazing her horses. Members agreed to the request, subject to market value.

RESOLVED: That Sarah Evans be permitted to use the Northern Field off Fernhill Lane for horse grazing, subject to a grazing license at market rental value.

- b) A request was received from Alan Watson, representing the Lions Club of New Milton & District, for use of the War Memorial Recreation Ground on Saturday, 06 September 2025 for “VJ80: The Homecoming Event” similar in format to the recent VE80 celebration, with the addition of a vintage and classic car show.

RESOLVED: That Lions Club of New Milton & District be permitted use of the Town Centre Recreation Ground on Saturday, 06 September 2025 to hold “VJ80: The Homecoming Event”, subject to our usual terms and conditions of use.

- c) A request was received from Emer Druce of Firefly Festivals for use of the Moore Close site on 16 and 17 May 2026 to host the Sham Rocks Festival. Members noted the positive feedback received following the recent 2025 Sham Rocks event.

RESOLVED: That Firefly Festivals be permitted use of the Moore Close site on 16 and 17 May 2026 to host the Sham Rocks Festival, subject to our usual terms and conditions of use.

11. CIL BIDS

The Chairman noted the following three recently approved CIL bids:

- a) Carrick Wood – site clearance and an additional 330m footpath that matches the existing one.
- b) Hollands Wood Drive – development of a public open space off Fernhill Lane featuring a multi-play unit and fencing.
- c) Ashley Recreation Ground – provision of a sports wall and a sensory board near the Youth HUB.

Councillor D E Hawkins queried whether the installations at Ashley would integrate well with the area. The Estates Manager clarified that they are adjacent to the existing play area and are well-suited to the location. It would not impact on the Rugby playing area.

The Town Clerk noted that the next CIL funding window opens on 02 June 2025 for the 2026/27 financial year, with bids of up to £100,000. He also mentioned that on the same date, expressions of interest for CIL funding for projects up to £5 million will open.

12. ASHLEY YOUTH HUB

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1 and thanked Louise, the Youth Services Manager, for the report and for the positive work being carried out for the community, highlighting the successful and proactive use of the Ashley Youth Hub. Members supported this view.

The Town Clerk provided an update regarding HAF funding. Funding has been agreed for NMTC to run a HAF scheme at Ashley Youth Hub and Arnewood School. The scheme will deliver 20 places per day for 16 days, with activities including food, sports, crafts, a drugs workshop, and mindfulness sessions. Attendees will also do their own cooking and baking. At a value of £54.25 per place, the total scheme cost for 320 places is £17,360.

13. BARTON COMMON

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2 and provided an update and reminder regarding grazing at Barton Common, which was previously discussed. Grazing is scheduled to take place this winter, at an appropriate time. In addition to looking at Dexter cattle, consideration is also being given to British White cattle, a friendly and docile breed suited to open space grazing. Ponies may also be used in conjunction with the cattle. It was noted that fencing is now up to standard and the site is ready for grazing to begin.



14. LINK FOOTPATH

Referring to Appendix 3, the Estates Manager provided an update on the new link footpath at Ballard Water Meadow across the southern boundary to link the Woar Copse Green Route with Ballard Lake. He informed members that work is scheduled to commence in mid-June and is expected to take approximately 8 to 10 days. The path will be constructed using gravel with a suitable substrate, and a five-bar gate will be installed to complement the surrounding area.

15. BALLARD LAKE ENHANCEMENTS

Referring to Appendix 4, the Estates Manager provided an update on the phase 2 ongoing enhancements at Ballard Lake, led by NFDC. He reported delays in some of the planting works, with a contractor now scheduled for autumn. There have also been delays in the installation of the bench for the new seating area; however, this is expected to be completed by the end of June. Despite these issues, the remainder of the project is progressing on schedule and is due to be completed in a couple of weeks.

The Estates Manager noted that by the end of June, the site should be greatly improved, with the addition of a link path to the meadow allowing children to avoid walking along Lake Grove Road. Additional fairy doors will be added to the meadow. Members responded positively to the update, with the Chairman commenting that this is a strong example of the progress being made on footpath improvements and a worthwhile community investment.

16. LONG MEADOW PLAY AREA

The Chairman deferred this item to the next meeting, pending a recommendation from the working party regarding the Long Meadow Play Area as part of the capital expenditure schemes this year.

Dementia Allotment

The Chairman, speaking on behalf of Cllr R Murrow, then provided the following update on the Dementia Allotment located at the Becton Lane Allotment Site:

The Dementia Allotment re-opened for the summer season on 22 April 2025 and has been welcoming regular visitors from the Dementia Community. Currently, there are three regular visitors and two casual volunteers. However, more volunteers are needed to help greet visitors and perform tasks such as watering and weeding. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Joanna at joanna.hayward@newmiltontowncouncil.gov.uk.



A couple of sessions are being arranged for the summer, inviting visitors to join in some musical activities. Fiona Pritchard, Music Therapist for Colten Care, will lead one session, and the Coda Memory Choir has been booked for another day. Further details will be shared once these sessions are finalised.

A special thank you goes to Cllr Neil Tungate and the New Milton Residents Association for their generous donations.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 07 July 2025 at 6.30pm in the Town Hall, Ashley Road, New Milton.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7:17 pm.

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
4)	Nature Reserves WP	ASAP	Comms Officer
9a)	Wessex Internet	ASAP	Estates Manager
9c)	Ted Horne Funeral	13.06.25	Town Clerk
9d)	Community Garden Opening	08.06.25	Councillors
10)	Land Use Requests	ASAP	Comms Officer
11)	CIL Bids 2026/27	02.06.25	Asst. Town Clerk
16)	Long Meadow WP	ASAP	Town Clerk

Distribution:

Town Councillors
 Estates & Facilities Manager
 District Councillor J L Cleary
 County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter, and K Mans
 New Milton Police
 Press
 Sue Larking – NMRA