

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee of New Milton Town Council held on Tuesday 9th July 2024 at 6.30pm at the Town Hall, Ashley Road, New Milton, BH25 6AS.

Chairman:	p G R Blunden (Chair)	p M Craze (Vice Chair)
Councillors:	p D Hawkins	p B Murrow
	J Baker	A O'Sullivan
	p D Rice-Mundy	p V Schooling
	p K Trehorn	

In attendance:

Councillors: Cllr A Reid

Cllr S Clarke

Officers: G Flexman - Town Clerk

M Jeffries - Estates and Facilities Manager

J Bean - Committee and Civic Administrator

S Welch – Administrative Officer

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, Officers, Jill Colclough of NFDC and Byron McGrail, Kevin Frenchum and Iain Park of NFDC.

Attendees enjoyed a presentation by Byron McGrail, Kevin Frenchum and Iain Park from NFDC regarding an Overview of grounds maintenance and litter challenges.

19. APOLOGIES

Cllr A O' Sullivan and Cllr J Baker

20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman made a Declaration of Interest due to his responsibilities as NFDC Portfolio Holder – Environment and Sustainability

21. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

22. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the previous Committee minutes of 28th May 2024.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 28th May 2024, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The minutes were duly signed.

23. MATTERS ARISING**Minute 14**

Fernhill Sports Ground Vision Plan and Indoor Bowling Club Relocation: Progress has been made with regards to the formation of the working party. The following have expressed interest and put themselves forward to participate in the working party, The Chairman, Town Clerk, Cllr B Murrow, Cllr S Clarke, M Jeffries, Jamie Burton of NFDC and Kevin Smith of New Milton Bowls Club.

Minute 16

Carrick Wood: It was reported the contractor has now demobilised, and care of the site is now under the control of NMTC. Additionally, a member of the public has generously offered their volunteer services for helping with the maintenance of the area. The Town Clerk duly signed the Memorandum of Understanding with NFDC.

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
10a)	Land Use Yaron Choir	ASAP	Town Clerk
10b)	Land Use Highcliffe Music	ASAP	Town Clerk
11	Ashley Parade progress	June	Estates Manager
12	Ashley Youth Facility	July	Estates Manager

13a)	Ballard Lake Phase 1	July – Sept	Estates Manager
13b)	Ballard Lake Phase 2	Oct-Dec	Jill Colclough
14a)	Cricket Club Lease	ASAP	Town Clerk
14b)	Set up Working Party	ASAP	Town Clerk
16)	Carrick Way Woodland	July	Jill Colclough

24. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) An appreciative email from a member of the public commending the council for their efforts in enhancing the beauty of New Milton with flowers. The individual expressed particular admiration for the new floral displays at Ashley Parade, describing them as “stunning”.
- b) An email from a member of the public expressing concern about the absence of swings at the Long Meadow Play Area.

In response, the Estates and Facilities Manager explained that the swing set had been affected by rot and the swings had to be removed for safety reasons. They expressed hope that the swings would be reinstated in time for the summer holidays. The original complainant has since responded positively to this explanation.

- c) Daniel Wills has taken over as Chairman of New Milton Town Football Club.
- d) Andy Friend has taken over as Chairman of New Milton Rugby Club.

25. LAND USE REQUESTS

- a) Request from Titan Sports Academy. They are interested in using Fawcetts Field, along with its toilet and changing room facilities, for their summer clubs from 8.30am – 4.30pm on some midweek days in the summer holidays.

RESOLVED: That use of Fawcetts Field Training Pitch and its toilet and changing room facilities be permitted for use by Titan Sports Academy subject to usual charges and terms and conditions of use.

- b) Request from the Youth Services Manager to use the Ashley Recreation Ground for a children's summer HAF program. The program is scheduled for multiple dates in August. The sessions will primarily take place in the Youth Building, but outdoor areas of the recreation ground will also be required for certain activities throughout the day.

RESOLVED: That Ashley Recreation Ground be used by the Youth Services Manager in connection with summer HAF programs during August, subject to usual terms and conditions of use.

- c) Request from Coles Funfair who would like to hold a Funfair at Fawcetts Field for 3 days in the week beginning 15th July 2024.

RESOLVED: That use of Fawcetts Field be permitted by Coles Funfair be permitted at a daily charge of £215 plus a deposit of £1,000, Total £1,645 payable in advance, being subject to usual terms and conditions of use.

- d) Request from Spencers Property. They are seeking a venue to host their summer gathering and rounders game, with potential dates in either August or September. Members agreed to revisit this request once more details are available

26. ASHLEY PARADE PROJECT

The Chairman expressed gratitude towards the Estates & Facilities Manager and his team for their hard work on this project, acknowledging the numerous challenges that arose during its execution.

Members expressed their delight with the final outcome, noting the significant improvement it brings to the Parade. The positive public reaction was also acknowledged.

The area will be officially opened on 20th July 2024 at 12 Noon, after the official opening of the Ashley Youth Facility and Play area from 11am.

27. ASHLEY YOUTH FACILITY

The Chairman advised that the official opening of the Ashley Youth Facility will take place on 20th July 2024 from 10:30am with the ribbon cutting at 11am. This will be an opportunity to formally open the new facility at Ashley Recreation Ground and the Play Park.

28. BALLARD LAKE ENHANCEMENTS

The Estates Manager advised that the improvements at Ballard Lake due to commence next week will now start on 22nd July 2024.

29. IMPROVED ACCESS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1 the Concept Design for the Ballard Lake Access & Enhancement Project prepared by Jill Colclough of NFDC, as previously circulated.

Jill Colclough presented her report and invited questions and comments.

Cllr G Blunden asked about the proposal for Estate railings which are proposed along the Fernhill Lane boundary, but also along Lake Grove Road. He felt that the Lake Grove Road aspect should be left open without any fencing. Cllr D Hawkins agreed.

Cllr S Clarke asked about the connectivity between the meadow and the lake area, Jill suggested extending the footpath in front of the Guide Hut to meet the path at the site boundary to the west.

Cllr D Rice-Mundy asked if the paths could be edged path gravel rather than tarmac. Jill advised that the tarmac is a light colour similar to a hoggin path and is much easier to look after than gravel, as used at Ashley Recreation Ground.

Cllr S Clarke suggested that the area to the west of the guide hut needs to be opened up. Jill stated that she is waiting for the return of environmental survey information which will show what needs to be saved and preserved. She will then be able to firm up the plans, bearing all of the comments in mind.



The Chairman asked about the proposed viewing deck looking out over the lake, being concerned it will be used for fishing which is not permitted on the lake. Jill stated that when she had walked the site she was struck by the sound of the water at that point and felt that the deck would offer the opportunity for people to pause and be immersed in the sight and sounds of nature (Sensory Walk benefits).

The Chairman thanked Jill for her attendance at the meeting and for the useful discussion. She confirmed that she will return to the next Amenities Committee with further proposals.

30. STATION ROAD

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2 – Proposed Replacement Trees and said some residents had been devastated by the removal of the 3 maple trees outside the former KFC on Station Road.

There had been some initial confusion in the public sphere about who the owners were, but it transpired the trees were on private land and the landowner was within their rights as there were no TPOs on the trees. Having discussed the issue with the Managing Agents, they have given permission for NMTC to place three planters containing flowering cherry trees to replace the maples, and to make a £500 contribution towards the cost.

The Estates Manager advised that flowering cherry trees in containers would work well in the space, there was no prospect of putting trees back in the ground as they had caused so much damage to the drains and to the pavement. The cost of the trees will be £1,000 in total with the balance coming from the SLA budget.

It was mentioned 3 more flowering cherry trees could be planted along Ashley Parade (in line with our protocol to replace 2 trees for 1 felled).

It was then,

RESOLVED: That three flowering cherry trees in self-watering planters be placed at the location of the felled trees outside the former KFC on Station Road at a cost of £1,000, using £500 provided by the Managing Agents and the balance of £500 from the SLA budget.



31. LONG MEADOW PLAY AREA

The Estates Manager reported that the safety checks have now been completed on the play equipment at Long Meadow. He is hopeful that the swings can be replaced for use over the summer holidays. However, the play area does need to be replaced and this will be considered by a Working Party. The replacement will occupy the same footprint as the present play area and be funded from the Cap Ex budget.

The Chairman asked if those who are interested in joining a Working Party to consider the way forward for the Long Meadow Play Area give their names to the Town Clerk. Cllr M Craze confirmed that she wished to join the Working Party.

32. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

The Chairman advised NFDC have commissioned an Anthropogenic Nest sculpture to promote better awareness of litter issues in the New Forest District.

A short video was then shown highlighting the sculpture, noting it will officially be launched at the New Forest Show at the end of July, then travel around the district, coming to New Milton for a week from 8th to 15th August and be situated near to the Memorial Clock in Station Road. Members enjoyed the video presentation and looked forward to the sculpture in the high street.

33. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 2nd September 2024 at 6.30pm in the Town Hall, Ashley Road, New Milton.

The Chairman closed the public session of the meeting at 8.25pm going into private session with the agreement of members. Jill Colclough from NFDC left the meeting at this stage.

PRIVATE SESSION

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) Act 1960

The Chairman moved that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business pursuant to section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reasons of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

34. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3 - Christmas Display report prepared by the Assistant Town Clerk relating to the installation tender. After a short discussion

It was,

RECOMMENDED: That Merlin be appointed as contractors at an overall cost of £25,650 plus VAT for the 3-year contract period (ie. £8,550 per annum plus VAT)

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
20	Declarations of Interest	ASAP	Administrator
25	Land Use Requests	ASAP	Comms Officer
26	Ashley Parade Official Opening Details	ASAP	Comms Officer
27	Ashley Youth Facility Official Opening details	ASAP	Comms Officer
29	Ballard Lake Improvements	02/09/24	Jill Colclough
30	Order Cherry Trees x 3	ASAP	Estates Manager
31	Long Meadow Play Area WP	ASAP	Town Clerk
32	Litter Sculpture location	08/08/24	NFDC
34	Xmas Lights Contract	22/07/24	Town Clerk / F&GP

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