



Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee of New Milton Town Council held on Monday 07 July 2025 at 6.30pm at the Town Hall, Ashley Road, New Milton.

Present:

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

In attendance:

Councillors: R A Reid

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

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, Officers and four members of the public .

All four members of the public spoke under Public Participation.

Julia Stamper raised the following:

- **Co-op site:** Asked if there were any updates on the opening along Sea Road, Barton on Sea.
- **Local Nature Reserve:** Queried progress on Ballard Water Meadows proposed designation as a Local Nature Reserve.
- **Branding and signage:** Suggested revisiting the “Twixt Forest and Sea” branding. Proposed information signage to key locations such as the seafront and community centre and noted that Hampshire County Council guidance indicates the initiative is achievable at minimal cost.
- **Community garden bin:** Requested that the Council consider installing a litter bin near the community garden, either at the Moore Close path entrance or along the proposed pathway to the site.

Alan Watson, President of the Lions Club of New Milton & District raised the following:

- **Car Boot Supervisor:** Noted the Car Boot supervisor relies on others to open and shut the gate.
- **Hedge:** Mentioned an overgrown hedge at the site near the gate.

- **Moore Close Footpath:** Asked for assurance that work will be started this month on a link footpath from Fawcetts Field around the southern/eastern end of Moore Close, with a link into the community garden.
- **Floral Displays:** Commended the Estates & Facilities team for the excellent floral displays around the Town.

Bob Lord, Chairman of the Friends of Ballard Water Meadow and Barton Common Volunteer Ranger raised the following:

- **Item 8:** Sought clarification on which footpaths are included in the Barton Common improvements. In regard to the Public Right of Way near the Golf Course, he suggested the need for a raised boardwalk to allow water to flow freely beneath and to maintain the wetland habitat.
- **Item 9:** He noted that the report is voluntarily produced and not obligatory. Since October 2020, the decision was made to document the group's work, as little had been recorded since its formation in 2005.
- **Item 11:** He noted the installation of new low railings alongside Lake Grove Road, where there was previously a line of trees and queried number of trees removed for this work.

Richard Jenner raised the following:

- **Item 8:** Asked for clarification that the footpath at the northern part of Barton Common to Barton Common Road is included within the CIL Bids.

The meeting went into session at 6:49pm following the Public Participation period.

18. APOLOGIES

Cllr M Craze (Special family occasion)
Cllr D Rice-Mundy (Work commitments)
Cllr R Murrow (Illness)

19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None



20. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In response to Julia Stamper, the Chairman advised that there is currently significant activity taking place at the Co-op site. He noted that New Forest District Council (NFDC) has provided replacement waste bins, and confirmed forthcoming opening, although no date is known.

Regarding the proposed Local Nature Reserve designation, a meeting is scheduled for the second half of July, with a recommendation expected to be brought to committee in September.

On the suggestion of community branding, the Chairman described it as an excellent idea and confirmed that the signage aspect will be explored further.

Regarding the request for a bin at the Community Garden, the Chairman confirmed he would ask officers whether this could be provided.

In response to Alan Watson, the Chairman noted comments regarding the car boot supervisor and explained that hedge cutting would not usually take place at this time of year, but he would ask officers to look into the matter.

[Post Meeting Note: The Estates & Facilities Manager has confirmed with Alan Watson that work on the footpath will commence later this month, continue through August, and is expected to be completed by the end of that month, subject to weather or unforeseen circumstances.]

In response to comments made by Bob Lord and another resident, the Chairman confirmed that the matter would be addressed under Item 8.

21. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the previous Committee minutes of 27 May 2025. It was,

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meetings held on 27 May 2025, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The minutes were duly signed.



22. 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
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

9a) Following a site visit by the Estates & Facilities Manager and a representative of Wessex Internet, practicalities were discussed. After consulting with the Town Council's solicitor, an agreement was reached and is ready to be signed.

23. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following items of correspondence:

- a) An email received from a representative of Hampshire County Council regarding the footbridge over the railway, advising they continue to liaise with Network Rail to move this scheme forward and will be sending out details of foundation pile forces to piling contractors for review this week.
- b) Cllr R A Reid referred to a letter from SGN notifying residents of urgent gas main replacement work, which will result in road and lane closures along Gore Road/Old Milton Road. Phase 1 will run from 21 July to 11 August, and Phase 2 from 11 August to 22 August 2025.

24. LAND USE REQUESTS

a) A request was received from Inflata Planet for use of the Moore Close site on 25 July 2025, from 7:00am to 5:00pm, to hold an inflatable event as part of their inflatable tour.

RESOLVED: That Inflata Planet be permitted use of the Moore Close site on 25 July 2025, from 7:00am to 5:00pm to host an Inflatable Event, subject to our usual terms and conditions of use and at an appropriate commercial rate.

[Post Meeting Note: Inflata Planet have since informed the Town Council that they can no longer attend this date but have requested 02 August 2025 instead.]

b) A request was received from New Milton Rugby Club to install advertising boards on the wooden fencing outside the changing room entrance/exit for advertising purposes.

The Chairman highlighted that the Council's current policy does not permit advertising. One member noted that the Club is seeking funding to support youth rugby and wellbeing, with advertising proposed only during the rugby season.

Concerns were raised regarding shared use of the space, planning implications, and setting a precedent, noting the land is actually a Recreation Ground.

While some members supported maintaining the existing policy, others felt the matter warranted further consideration at the next Amenities Committee meeting.

RESOLVED: That the current policy be upheld at present, but the issue be brought to committee for a broader discussion on advertising policy across council-owned sites.

c) A request from New Milton Robins for their annual Football Tournament to be held at Fawcetts Field, including use of the overflow car park, on Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 June 2026. The request was accompanied by a letter noting the tournament was a "resounding success" and thanking all those involved.

RESOLVED: That New Milton Robins be permitted use of Fawcetts Field and the overflow car park on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th June 2026 for a Football Tournament, subject to our usual terms and conditions of use.

25. CIL BIDS

The Chairman clarified that the bids listed are based on broad cost estimates at this stage. Detailed project specifications and refined costings will follow if the bids are approved by New Forest District Council.

The following CIL bids were noted:

a) BMX Pump Track at Moore Close

b) Surfacing of the car park at Fawcetts Field

c) Footpath improvements at Barton Common: The project will be split into two bids. One bid will include the northern stretch of Barton Common to Barton Common Road. The other bid will cover the path running adjacent to the southern boundary next to the golf course. These proposals address concerns previously raised by Bob Lord and another local resident.

d) Two play areas at Danesbury Meadows

A member queried the origin of the bids. The Chairman confirmed that all proposals had previously been brought to committee and noted that the BMX pump track has featured in the Council's Vision Plan for Fawcetts Field/ Moore Close for several years.

The submission deadline for bids is 08 August 2025.

26. BALLARD MEADOW AND WOODLAND

Members noted Appendix 1: Friends of Ballard Water Meadow Annual Report for April 2024 – March 2025.

The Chairman thanked the Friends of Ballard Water Meadow and Bob Lord for the comprehensive report.

One member described the group's work as "fantastic."

An email had been received from a resident regarding the meadow requesting anonymity. The Town Clerk advised that while the comments were noted, matters raised anonymously cannot be formally discussed or responded to. The resident was invited to attend the meeting should they wish to raise the matter publicly at Amenities or a Town Council meeting.

Cllr Hawkins said they need to have the courage of their convictions.

27. AVIAN-FLU

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2, an A&T article, which was noted by members.

28. BALLARD LAKE PROJECT

The Chairman referred members to Appendix 3, showing latest photos, which were noted.

The project is expected to be completed by the end of August. The Chairman visited the lake and reported that informal conversations with members of the public indicated they were very pleased with the improvements.

Plans for an official opening are currently on hold due to ongoing bird flu concerns. A revised date sometime in September is considered appropriate.

Members commented that the improvements were fantastic and had given the lake a more tranquil atmosphere.

A suggestion was made to invite a celebrity to the official opening. The Chairman noted that the event is being organised by New Forest District Council (NFDC) but agreed to pass the suggestion on for their consideration.

29. PLANT A TREE INITIATIVE -

A handout with information on the initiative's promotion and data from the previous year was distributed to members, who noted it.

30. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 01 September 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 7:16 pm.

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____



SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
20)	Nature Reserve WP	31.07.25	Comms Officer
20)	Community Garden Bin	ASAP	Estates Manager
20)	Moore Close Hedge Cut	ASAP	Estates Manager
22)	Wessex Internet Agreement	ASAP	Town Clerk
24a)+c)	Land Use Requests	August	Estates Manager
24b)	Advertising Policy – POS	01.09.25	Town Clerk
28)	Ballard Lake Improvements Official Opening	TBA	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