

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL**MINUTES OF NEW MILTON ANNUAL TOWNS' MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 7 MAY 2025 AT 6.30PM AT NEW MILTON TOWN HALL****CHAIRMAN**

Councillor Alvin Reid

TOWN CLERK

G P Flexman

IN ATTENDANCE

11 Town Councillors

25 members of the public

Joanna Hayward (Communications Officer)

Louise Beardmore (Youth Services Manager)

Joy Bean (Administration Officer)

The Chairman welcomed Councillors and residents to the Annual Towns Meeting being the 45th to take place since 1979, noting it should have been the 46th but we were unable to hold the Annual Towns' Meeting in 2020 due to prevailing Covid restrictions.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllrs B Murrow, D N Tungate, J Adams, V Schooling and D Rice-Mundy.

2. MINUTES

It was

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 April 2024, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The minutes were duly signed.

3. TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Chairman started by paying tribute to Cllr Keith Craze a former Town Mayor as well as a town and district councillor, who died on 19th August last year.

The Chairman referred to the Annual Report of the Town Council which is attached. He gave a brief overview of his work as Council Chairman and various matters including: patching work carried out by HCC on Station Road, the weekly meetings with SGN while the gas main was replaced on Bashley Road, ongoing work at Ballard Lake, the improvements to the Ashley Parade and the launch of the Ashley Hub.

The list of Mayor's appointments appended to the report indicates a busy year and he was honoured to attend so many fantastic community events.

Finally, he thanked the officers and the estates team for their hard work and dedication.

4. INTRODUCTIONS – CHAIRMEN OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Chairman introduced fellow Executives, as follows:

Amenities

Cllr G Blunden, Chairman of Amenities Committee, explained that the Amenities Committee has been involved with many projects and with many local groups. He thanked a number of the local groups for their assistance and support, including: The Lions Club of New Milton, New Milton Residents' Association, the Friends of Ballard Water Meadow, the Community Garden who had encountered some challenges this year, and the Friends of New Milton Station who, subject to Town Council approval, we are supporting with £10k CIL funding to get No. 1 underway again. Various projects which Amenities had undertaken over the course of the year, include Ashley Recreation Ground, The Youth and Family Hub, Play Area and Car Park at Ashley, improvements to Ballard Lake, and Tree Planting Scheme. He concluded with thanks to the team of outstanding and dedicated staff at New Milton Town Council. The full Amenities Committee Annual Report is attached.

Planning

Cllr S Clarke, Chairman of the Planning Committee said that the Planning Committee had enjoyed a busy year, with notable applications including the Gravel extraction at the Land of Ashley Manor Farm, the development at Brockhills Lane, the Barton on Sea Pay & Display Scheme and the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan which is currently under review. He thanked Theresa Elliott, Joy Bean and Chiara Rabbito for their hard work supporting him.

Finance & General Purposes

In the absence of Cllr D N Tungate Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee (F&GP) the vice-chair Cllr A O Sullivan, advised that the role of the F&GP committee is to oversee Council spending, as well as youth services and grant aid. He mentioned the budget discussions which began in November last year and which culminated in an increase of just 20p per week on New Milton's share of the Council Tax on a Band D property. He spoke about the Youth Work in the town which F&GP oversees, both the work carried out by our Youth Services Manager who has welcomed many groups into the Youth and Family Hub, and which included many holiday activities funded by HCC/Local Children's Partnership via HAF allowing under-privileged children to access HAF locally during the school holidays. He also reported on Grant Aid - £4,500 was provided to local good causes, and £14,500 was awarded by way of Youth Grants mainly to New Milton Youth Trust who have been carrying out detached youth work. The F&GP Committee Annual Report is attached.

5. COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS AND CHARITIES

The Chairman paid tribute to all our local community groups and charities thanking them for their contribution and support and saying how lucky we were to have so many groups who achieved such great things for the town. He mentioned the Civic Celebration last month when Brian and Jan Coy were announced Citizens of the Year and Mandy Hayes was named Community Champion.

He then went on to present a cheque for £1,153 which had been raised over the course of the year from donations at the Carol Service and the Mayor's Tea Party, to Mark Hughes, Chairman of the Men's Shed being this year's Mayor's Charity.

6. PRESENTATION OF MAYOR'S COMMENDATIONS

The Chairman invited 3 recipients of Mayor's Commendations who had not been able to attend the Civic Celebration on 9th April to receive their certificates: Callum Murray plus Marleigh and Poppy Bonsell. Callum took the opportunity to thank the Mayor and the Town Council for this initiative highlighting achievements of young people in the town.

7. GUEST SPEAKER

The Chairman introduced Lee Fleming, Chairman of the local RBL branch in New Milton.

Lee gave a very interesting talk about the history of the RBL in the town, RBL numbers are now increasing, and he mentioned the upcoming 100th anniversary which takes place in 2028.

8. QUESTIONS

There were no questions from local residents, but they showed their appreciation with a round of applause for all concerned.

9. NEXT MEETING

To be confirmed.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and there being no further business to discuss, closed the Meeting at 7.10 pm.

Chairman _____

Date _____

Distribution:

Town Councillors

District Councillors

County Councillors

New Milton Library

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Alan Watson – FOCUS & NMRA

New Milton Police