

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 6.30PM IN NEW MILTON TOWN HALL

Councillors:	p	J Adams	p	P Moores
	p	J Baker		R Murrow
		G Blunden		A D O' Sullivan
	p	S Clarke	p	R A Reid – Chairman
	p	D Rice-Mundy – Vice Chairman	p	D N Tungate
	p	M Craze		V Schooling
	p	S Davies	p	M Scott-Johns
	p	W Davies	p	K Trehorn
	p	D Hawkins	p	R Maynard

In Attendance:

G Flexman - Town Clerk

J Bean – Administrative Officer

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, Officers, a member of the public and a representative of the press.

The Chairman marked the fact that this is the first meeting where any Public Participation will be heard at the beginning of the meeting in line with the standing committees. Nobody wished to raise any issues, and the meeting was opened formally at 6.32pm.

48. APOLOGIES

Cllrs A O' Sullivan (away), G Blunden (family commitments), R Murrow (unwell), V Schooling (unwell)

49. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported on the events he has attended since the last Town Council meeting on 5th August advising that he had experienced a busy time over the last 6 weeks, as follows:

21 August	Parkinson's New Forest Garden Party
23 August	Remembrance Clock in New Milton
2 September	VJ Act of Remembrance
6 September	NM Lions VJ Event

6 September	FONFA Commemoration
7 September	Total Madness
9 September	Opening of Ballard Lake
16 September	Unveiling of New Milton's first Blue Plaque
16 September	Induction of the new Rector
19 September	Presentation of BEM to Jackie Keable
24 September	Christchurch Civic Day
28 September	Harvest Civic Festival

He highlighted the large attendance at the FONFA commemoration, the visit by the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire to NFD to present Jackie Keable with her BEM and the irony that he had come to NFD as the facilities at Hampshire could not accommodate a wheelchair user. However, his visit meant she was able to invite family and many guests to witness the wonderful occasion. Finally, he referred to the Harvest Civic Service yesterday noting the fantastic performance by the Highcliffe Percussion Ensemble in particular.

50. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

51. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the meeting held on 5th August 2025. Cllr D Hawkins asked for an update in relation to Minute 37b concerning the public toilets at the recreation ground. The Chairman advised that the toilets are being regularly sanitised, but the products used do not make them smell clean and the porcelain remains stained. NFDC are looking for an alternative product.

(POST MEETING NOTE: The public toilets on the Recreation Ground are currently closed due to essential repairs and maintenance)

It was

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th August 2025 having been circulated be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The minutes from the meeting were duly signed.

52. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following:

- a) A letter from Cllr Robert Maynard in relation to a protest to be held in Lymington on Monday 6th October in relation to the parking meters installed by HCC.

“As you know, Hampshire County Council installed on-street parking meters in Lymington High Street a few years ago, and the impact on small local businesses has been devastating. Empty parking bays, reduced footfall, and falling revenues have left many shops struggling to survive – one has even seen turnover drop by nearly 30%. We must not let this happen to New Milton.

The Lymington shopkeepers have organised a protest on Monday 6th October at 11am outside the old Post office sorting office, calling on Hampshire County Council to listen and remove the meters before they destroy what’s left of the High Street.

We should show solidarity – and not just because Lymington needs our support, but because we don’t want these meters rolled out in other towns like ours. I’m completely opposed to them because they inflict massive harm on small town High Streets and put vital local businesses at risk. Lymington councillors, residents, and some NFDC councillors will be attending. I’ll be there too, and I encourage anyone who can to come along and lend their support. The more the merrier!”

- b) An email from inspector Darren Ord in relation to the police presence in the Town Hall.

“Work progresses with changes to the office space at New Milton to allow staff to have a dedicated room for interviews and meetings with individual members of the public – we now have access from the council public space into this room.”

Cllr D Hawkins welcomed this news.

- c) An email from an officer at NFDC in relation to the Community Infrastructure Levy notifying a change in procedure.

“Further to the revised Framework for CIL expenditure, we have received CIL Local Infrastructure bids within your area, Town and Parish Councils

must ensure they submit their CIL Neighbourhood Report for last year (1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025) no later than Tuesday 30 September 2025.”

The Town Clerk advised that in the past this information was due at the end of the calendar year hence a change in proceedings. He is in the process of collating the information with the Estates Manager to ensure it will be submitted by close of play on 1 October, as agreed with Hilary Ward.

Cllr S Clarke mentioned that the Town Council would soon be receiving a substantial sum of CIL money now that the Brockhills development is underway. It could be as much as £250k. He suggested that this potential CIL money should be allocated to future projects, and the Chairman suggested that this could be discussed along with the annual budget at upcoming Executive Committee meetings in October and December.

53. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Councillors

Cllr F Carpenter

Cllr Carpenter advised that HCC has now submitted its proposal for LGR but there is still more work being done which could throw it off course. The Isle of Wight council does not agree with devolution they have their meeting on Wednesday 1st October to discuss the LGR which could be interesting. There is also potential issue over Instruments of Implementation which must be voted on by all the councils concerned.

She said that she thought there would be County Council elections next year with business continuing as usual for at least the next 12 months pending LGR.

She also advised that the car parking meters at Lymington High Street had been discussed at a group meeting that morning, and that there is no appetite currently to spread more meters in the area. HCC will work with Lymington to alleviate the problems they are experiencing.

Cllr R Maynard asked if there was a possibility of the meters in Lymington being removed, Cllr Carpenter advised that she thought it was very unlikely.

Finally, she thanked the Town Council for the invitation to attend the Civic Harvest Festival yesterday which she had enjoyed immensely.

District Councillors**Cllr S P Davies**

Cllr Davies reported that he had been to Fordingbridge where a development consisting of Shared ownership and social rental properties were being built and these are intermingled together, he said they were of a very high standard. They are open to all in the area.

He had also visited a development in Ringwood where NFDC have taken over an old building which was due for demolition. Five temporary dwellings have been fitted out for families in need of temporary accommodation. He stated that these were of an extremely high standard.

At the former A and T offices in New Milton, six units have been built to excellent standards.

He also reported on a visit to Ashurst where Vivid (also the developers at the Becton Centre) are building 62 units. Half are affordable rent, the other half are shared ownership, NFDC have the nomination rights for the rental properties.

Finally, he advised that he and Steve Clarke had been to a visit flats in Herbert Court who were struggling with their wheel bins being too large for their bin stores. This issue had been solved with the installation of more, smaller bins.

Cllr S Clarke

Cllr Clarke reported on issues which had arisen in Pleasance Way where there had been a set of attacks on properties, with windows being broken by missiles catapulted in. Some of the property owners who had been targeted have been very elderly, in their 80s or 90s. He was very much hoping that a local resident would come forward with information about who is carrying out the attacks.

Cllr D N Tungate

Cllr Tungate had nothing to report.

Cllr J Adams

Cllr Adams advised that the next South Coast Quadrant meeting will take place next Monday at Apple Tree Court at 7pm and that all are welcome to attend that meeting.

54. COMMITTEE REPORTS**a) Planning Committee**

Cllr S Clarke, Chairman of the Planning Committee, submitted Minutes of Committee meetings held on 31 July, 14 and 28 August, 9 and 25 September 2025 and moved their adoption.

Cllr S Clarke referred to minute 103b and invited Cllr R Maynard to report on actions he had taken in relation to concerns raised by the HR Manager at Engleburn Care Home relating to issues of road safety. Cllr Maynard advised that there had been three near misses involving residents of Engleburn and while HCC have declined to install any road crossing safety measure, he had suggested that a notice advising of elderly people in the locale should be installed.

Cllr Clarke indicated that he endorsed this action, and the Committee confirmed their approval for the approach.

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 55 to 104 inclusive of the meetings held on 31 July, 14 and 28 August and 9 and 25 September 2025 be received.

b) Amenities Committee

Cllr M Craze, Vice-Chair of the Amenities Committee submitted Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 1 September 2025 and moved their adoption.

The Town Clerk referred to minute 40 and advised that permission has now been granted by NFDC to make the application for the Ballard Water Meadow to be designated as a Local Nature Reserve.

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 31 to 43 inclusive of the meeting held on 1 September be received.

c) Finance & General Purposes Committee

Cllr D N Tungate, Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee submitted Minutes of Committee meetings held on 16 September 2025 and moved their adoption.

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 35 to 50 inclusive of the meeting held on 16 September be received.

55. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr S Clarke advised that we have reached the final stage for the New Milton Modified Neighbourhood Plan and that it will now be submitted to NFDC for

their consideration. It is hoped that there will be no need for a referendum as although there have been meaningful changes, they are very much updates rather than new policies. The Plan now includes an up-to-date Housing Needs Assessment and a Town Centre Regeneration Area report. The review has been carried out by the working party which consists of both councillors and members of the public. It is an important document that has a measurable benefit in that it increases the entitlement to CIL monies to 25% from the 15% for councils without a neighbourhood plan.

Cllr S Davies asked that each member of the Working Party be mentioned by name in the minutes of the meeting to record our gratitude.

Thanks to all members of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party who have devoted a great deal of time and energy to carry out this review, namely: Cllrs J Adams, G Blunden, W Davies, D Hawkins, A O' Sullivan and A Reid, to officers Graham Flexman, Theresa Elliott and Chiara Rabbito, and to Leah Coney consultant at O' Neill Homer. Finally, to the members of the public, Graham Jackson, Sue Larking and Julia Stamper representing New Milton Residents' Association and Nick Saunders of New Milton Heritage Society.

Following a vote
It was unanimously

RESOLVED

That the Submission Plan, Modification Statement and Modification Proposal be adopted.

56. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Schedule of Payments, covering 1 – 31 July and previously endorsed by F&GP, was submitted for Council approval.

It was unanimously,

RESOLVED:

That the Schedule of Payments No 03-04/25/26 in the sum of £132,624.39 for the period 1 – 31 July be approved.

The Schedule of Payments was duly signed by the Chair, Vice-Chair and Town Clerk.

57. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

None

58. EXTERNAL AUDIT

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1 being the External Audit Report and Certificate which had been noted at the F&GP meeting under Minute 48.

59. PUBLICATION

The Chairman then referred to Appendix 2 being the AGAR/Notice of Conclusion of Audit which had also been noted at the F&GP meeting under Minute 48.

This will be displayed in the window of the Town Hall for 3 months and on the website advising the public that they may obtain a copy of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return at a cost of £5 per copy.

It was

RESOLVED:

That Notice of Conclusion of Audit and AGAR be published for 3 months to the end of the year.

60. INTERNAL AUDIT

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3 being the Letter re-appointing Auditing Solutions that was also considered at the F&GP meeting under Minute 46.

The re-appointment was unanimously approved, and the Town Clerk dated the letter ready to be sent on 30 September.

61. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 4 the Calendar of Meetings for 2025-26 mentioning the highlighted dates which have been added recently.

62. COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

The Chairman referred to Appendix 5 the Communications Officer's Report, previously circulated. The comprehensive Report was noted by members, Cllr Hawkins said it was very interesting.

63. NEXT MEETING

Monday 10 November 2025 at 6.30pm – Town Hall, New Milton.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and then closed the meeting at 7.10pm.

Distribution:

Town Councillors

District Councillors J L Cleary

County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter, K Mans

New Milton Police

Press

Alan Watson – NewMilton.net

Sue Larking - NMRA

Mark Jeffries – Estates & Facilities Manager

Editor - Focus