

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee of New Milton Town Council held on Monday 19 January 2026 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	p R Murrow
	p J Baker	p A D O'Sullivan
	D Rice-Mundy	p V Schooling
	p K Trehorn	

In attendance:

Councillors: Cllr S J Clarke, Cllr R A Reid

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

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

Three members of the public spoke under Public Participation:

**Mandy Hayes:**

Speaking on behalf of Friends of New Milton Station, reminded Members of the South & South-East in Bloom Celebration Stations Award Event taking place on 20 January 2026 at St Mary Magdalene Church Hall. Speaking as a representative of the Wombles, she also highlighted ongoing graffiti issues around the town and asked whether the Town Council could assist or alternatively provide specialist cleaning products to enable the Wombles to attempt removal.

**Alan Watson:**

Representing The Lions Club of New Milton & District, spoke in support of Agenda Item 7 (Land Use Request). He explained that the proposed event would be a larger-scale town carnival, extending across both the Recreation Ground and the Town Centre, and involving multiple organisations. He noted that this was one of the reasons the Town Council support with the road closure would be necessary.

Speaking personally regarding Agenda Item 8 (Open Access Policy), he noted that Paragraph 3 states that class 3 mobility scooters are not permitted at Ballard Water Meadow or Barton Common, while the following paragraph refers only to "scooters" at Barton Common. He highlighted that the wording is unclear, noting as an example the position on class 2 mobility scooters.

**Michael Angus:**

Addressing Agenda Item 8 (Open Access Policy), Mike referred to the proposal to prohibit drone flying and highlighted that recreational drone use is legal and regulated by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). He confirmed he holds the relevant documentation, and although insurance is not legally required, had obtained it following advice from the Town Council. He stated that he did not wish to see drone flying banned and added that if the Council wished to check identification or documentation annually, he would have no issue with this.

The meeting then went into session at 6:38pm.

**74. APOLOGIES**

Cllr M Craze, Cllr D Rice-Mundy

**75. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

NONE

**76. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chairman thanked Mandy Hayes for the update on the awards and confirmed that he would be attending. Regarding the graffiti, he explained that while graffiti on buildings not owned by the Town Council can be problematic, any graffiti on Town Council property would be dealt with by the Estates & Facilities team.

In response to Alan Watson, the Chairman welcomed the update, noting it was good to hear, and said he hoped the event would go smoothly. Regarding Item 8 (Open Access Policy), he acknowledged the comments made on scooters and confirmed that this would be addressed.

In response to the Local Resident on drones, the Chairman noted the comments and confirmed that the matter would be addressed under Item 8 (Open Access Policy).

**77. MINUTES**

The Chairman referred to the previous Committee minutes of 24 November 2025.

It was,

**RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2025, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.**

The minutes were duly signed.

78. MATTERS ARISING

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

The Town Clerk confirmed all action points had been addressed.

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
64b)	Durlston School Hedgehogs	ASAP	Town Clerk
65a)	Car Boot Sales - Land Use	ASAP	Comms Officer
65b)	Lions Club - Whit Event	ASAP	Comms Officer
65c)	DNA Girls Football	ASAP	Estates Manager
65d)	Geocaching Litter Pick	ASAP	Estates Manager
66	Fees & Charges (Version 2)	08.12.25	F&GP
77	Amenities Budget (Version 2)	08.12.25	F&GP

79. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following items of correspondence:

a) An email from a local resident speaking on Item 13 (Grazing Licences):

***“I am an advocate for commoners grazing and fully support grazing in this area; however, members of the public are interacting with the ponies and are feeding them. This is making them aggressive and more curious towards people, and I can soon see an incident arising***

***I presume there’s a requirement for the commoner / stock owner to hold adequate liability insurance in the event there were to be an incident? I also wonder if you could forward me a copy of the risk assessment the council had carried out before permitting grazing of stock.***

***If grazing is to continue on public land, then further efforts must be taken to discourage human interaction and feeding of the stock.”***

The Chairman advised that petting and feeding the animals is not good for either the animals or the public and noted the Town Council’s position aligns with policies and PSPOs issued by NFDC.

It was,

**RESOLVED: That the signage at both Ballard Water Meadow and Barton Common be reinforced.**

- b) An email from the Town Council solicitor confirming that the Commercial Lease to New Milton Youth Trust in regard to the Empire Skate Building on the Recreation Ground has been completed Wednesday 14 January 2026.
- c) Minute 82 c) of the Town Council meeting held on 05 January 2026, which is to be referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting scheduled for 02 February 2026:

***“An email from Russell Crate of Glossbrook Builders, the developers behind New Milton Barns along Gore Road, requesting permission to connect into a manhole cover on NMTC land off Gore Road. Our solicitor advised that this should attract a fee of up to £10k. The builder has now offered £5k together with £3k works to improve the manhole connection plus our legal costs.”***

It was,

**RECOMMENDED: That the matter be referred to F&GP for consideration**

- d) A letter received from NFDC regarding noticeboard refurbishments within New Milton, one located on the High Street and the other at Barton Cliff Top, with works scheduled to take place during the winter/spring.

The Chairman added that NFDC are also gathering feedback on additional signs along the coastline to inform residents. Cllr R A Reid requested that the Town Clerk contact NFDC regarding incorrect punctuation, specifically apostrophes, on furniture and signage along the clifftop.

- e) An email informing us of the sad passing of D-Day Veteran Jim Justice, whose funeral is planned for Monday 02 February 2026 at the New Forest Crematorium, with full military honours, from 12 noon on that day.

The Town Clerk reminded members of Jim Justice, who recently passed away peacefully at Mornington Court Care Home just a few weeks before his 100th birthday.

*Jim Justice attended both the 2025 and 2024 Sunday Remembrance Services at the War Memorial in New Milton, lastly as a 99-year-old D-Day veteran.*

*A Green Jacket who lived locally, Rifleman Jim Justice landed in Normandy, his platoon then marched to liberate Bayeux, encountering resistance and hand-to-hand combat on the way.*

*In 2024, Jim visited commemorative events in Normandy with the RBL, had tea with the Royal Family, attended a Lions Club VE80 music event in New Milton as guest of honour and receiving applause for his wartime contributions. Jim represented the dwindling number of D-Day participants, highlighting the importance of remembrance.*

- f) An email from Lymington & Pennington Town Council enquiring whether New Milton Town Council (NMTC) and Hordle Parish Council (including Everton) would contribute towards the existing annual funding (£23k) that Lymington & Pennington Town Council currently makes, in order to ensure the continuance of the 119 Saturday Bus Service between New Milton and Lymington.

Following a discussion, Members deemed the cost could not be justified in light of the recently agreed precept and the low level of usage and therefore considered it inappropriate for the Town Council to contribute funding.

It was,

**RECOMMENDED: That the Town Council does not contribute funding, referring the matter to the Finance & General Purposes Committee.**

- g) A letter from Donna Jones, Police & Crime Commissioner for Hampshire & Isle of Wight, regarding a scheme where councils can apply for up to £20k grant towards the cost of a Yellow Speed Camera. With the Town Clerk confirmed the estimated cost of a yellow fixed speed camera including installation is around £90k plus £10k per year for ongoing maintenance.

Following discussion where Members noted that the cost was too high and that, even with the £20k contribution, a gap of approximately £70k would remain, the Chairman proposed that the Town Council does not participate in the scheme, and members agreed.

- h) An email from Hampshire County Council (HCC) confirmed the continuation of the current SLA Scheme between HCC and NMTC for the next few years. It was also noted that, following improvements proposed to the Pantiles, this area would be considered for inclusion in the SLA.

## 80. LAND USE REQUESTS

### **Lions Club of New Milton & District**

A request from The Lions Club of New Milton & District to hold a Whit Sunday "Christmas in the Spring" event on Sunday 24 May 2026, including use of the Recreation Ground and permission to carry forward most of the £3,200 previously allocated for the Christmas Festival and asked for Town Council support with road closures, barriers, and stewards.

The Chairman noted that additional toilets, specifically Portaloos, may be required for use on the Recreation Ground.

It was,

**RECOMMENDED: That the Lions Club of New Milton & District be permitted to hold a "Christmas in the Spring" event on the Recreation Ground on Whit Sunday 24 May 2026, with Town Council support for road closures and provision of Portaloos as required, subject to the usual terms and conditions of use and endorsement by F&GP regarding the grant aid previously provided.**

## 81. OPEN ACCESS POLICY

As part of a review, the Town Clerk guided Members through Appendices 1a and 1b, providing further context on drone usage in particular being the only proposed change. Guidance from Forestry England, the National Trust and NFDC was referenced, with drone flying generally restricted and, where permitted, requiring prior authorisation, noting that permission is rarely granted for recreational use.

The Chairman added that many neighbouring authorities do not allow general drone flying, citing concerns that recreational drone use is incompatible with most residents' expectations and enjoyment of the area. Reference was made to the Council's sites across the town, including public open spaces such as Fawcetts Field and the Recreation Grounds, and to Barton Common and Ballard Water Meadow (proposed Local Nature Reserve), both designated Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation.

The Chairman raised the possibility of permitting drone flying in limited situations, for example where an operator provides appropriate documentation and a clear justification, supported by a written request. The item was then opened up to Members for discussion.

One Member suggested that drone usage should be addressed separately within its own paragraph in the policy, outlining any permitted exceptions, rather than covering drone use as a general activity. Three Members raised concerns regarding privacy, with one Member querying whether GDPR applies.

Another Member expressed a contrary view, noting that many of the concerns raised are already covered within Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) guidance, including the restrictions on flying near crowds and respecting privacy, suggesting that the relevant CAA guidance should be reviewed further before any decision is made.

Discussion took place regarding mobility scooters, with Members noting that the guidance within the policy was too vague. Several issues were highlighted, including that quad bikes and scooters were referenced within the Policy, but motorcycles were not. Members also queried how mobility scooters should be addressed, noting that there are different classes, and that the term "scooter" would need to be defined more precisely. It was also noted that accessibility across the town is very important and should be reflected within the policy.

Another Member commented that the issue is complex and that the policy, in its current form, requires revision before being brought back to Committee for further consideration at a future meeting.

The Chairman acknowledged the points raised and confirmed that the wording would be reviewed to ensure greater clarity and be site specific. The Chairman noted that general drone flying would be prohibited, but provision could be included for requests to be considered on a case-by-case basis, where relevant documentation is provided and the Committee can determine whether permission should be granted.

It was,

### **RESOLVED:**

***That the Open Access Policy be revised and re-submitted at a future meeting.***



**82. FAWCETTS FIELD**

The Estates & Facilities Manager ran Members through Appendix 2, explaining the work would be carried out by NFDC as part of the previously agreed Vision Plan, confirming there would be no loss of playing areas and advised that there would be some slight disruption on weekdays, although weekend sport would be unaffected.

**83. CARRICK WOOD**

The Estates & Facilities Manager ran Members through Appendix 3, explaining the project has two phases, the first has been completed by NFDC and included footpath and furniture improvements. The second phase will be carried out by New Milton Town Council and will consist of planting work, being funded by NFDC CIL monies.

**84. LONG MEADOW PLAY AREA**

The Estates & Facilities Manager advised work will commence on 28 January 2026, with completion expected toward the end of February, subject to weather conditions. He added that the Estates & Facilities team will clear the site in preparation for Kompan to carry out the works.

**85. BALLARD NATURE RESERVE**

The Town Clerk reported that the application had been submitted to Natural England and that they were supportive, explaining the Public Notice and Declaration of Local Nature Reserve Status had been signed, and the Communications Officer was in the process of advertising the Public Notice in the following ways:

1. Distribute a press release announcing the Public Declaration
2. Public declaration notice displayed on our noticeboards.
3. Share the notice via email to our community contacts, councillors and officers
4. Display notice at local post offices.
5. Include the notice in Focus (and identify other community newsletters).
6. Display the notice at Forest Arts Centre, Library, Community Centre and Memorial Hall
7. Refer to the declaration at our upcoming committee meetings and have copies available
8. Share the notice with NFNPA and NFDC and ask them to share in their newsletters
9. Share the notice with our local schools

**Note:** The Public Declaration Notice is attached to these minutes for information.

Cllr S J Clarke thanked the volunteers for their hard work, including clearance work, noting how nice the meadow and woodland is looking. The Chairman and Members echoed these remarks and wished Bob Lord a speedy recovery after a recent illness.

86. GRAZING LICENSE

The Town Clerk provided an update confirming the Town Council is in discussions with a grazier and the matter is ongoing. Concern was raised regarding ground conditions, to which the Chairman acknowledged that this would need to be taken into consideration, especially at this time of year.

87. STREET TRADING

The Chairman explained that since the matter was first raised at Committee before Christmas, a number of emails have been received by the Town Council and by individual Members expressing how much residents value the market, voicing support for the remaining stall, and stating that they do not wish to see the market lost.

The Chairman advised that when the working party meets, it will discuss ways of attracting additional stallholders and revisiting what can be done to revive the market.

Regarding signage, it was noted that only one sign remains referring to the Wednesday Market (on Gore Road towards Walkford), and its removal may be considered. Cllr D Hawkins cautioned against removing the sign too hastily.

***RESOLVED: That the future of the ‘street trading’ market, including signage, be considered by the relevant working party.***

88. TOURIST SIGNS

The Chairman referred to the Estates & Facilities Manager, who explained that he and the Town Development Manager had reviewed the brown tourist sign guidance from HCC and identified which signs around the town could be upgraded. They were also considering improvements to the gateway signs to make them more appealing, noting that the work is progressing.

Cllr K Trehorn and Cllr V Schooling requested that signage be considered for St Mary Magdalene Church, noting its importance as the parish church. This item will be referred to at a future meeting of the working party for further consideration.

**Items not on the Agenda**

Cllr V Schooling raised a non-agenda matter regarding the status of a meeting with the police about anti-social behaviour and associated costs. The Town Clerk confirmed he would be requesting police attendance at the next Town Council meeting on 16 February 2026 for an update.

Cllr D Hawkins noted that, although not related to any agenda item, how wonderful the Youth and Family Hub event had been on 19 December 2025. He acknowledged the young volunteers who assisted and commented on the positive atmosphere, saying that everyone who attended left in good spirits. He thanked the Youth Services Manager for organising the event.

The Chairman advised Members that high street seat upgrade plans will soon be brought to Committee, and further noted that the litter bins, which belong to NFDC, will also be explored for potential upgrades, adding the Estates & Facilities Manager is always on the lookout for defects around the town, which he reports to HCC. Cllr S J Clarke had noticed some paving slabs around the town have been replaced with tarmac and requested that this also be looked into.



89. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Monday 02 March 2026** 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 7:41pm.

CHAIRMAN \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS**

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
79a)	Ensure robustness of stock proof fencing at two sites	ASAP	Estates Manager
79c)	Consider Developer offer and our legal advice provided	02.02.26	F&GP
79f)	119 Saturday Bus Service New Milton to Lymington	02.02.26	F&GP
80	Whit Sunday event on Rec / use of previous Grant Aid	02.02.26	F&GP
81	Revise Open Access Policy generally, drones especially	TBA	Town Clerk
87	Market & Signage issues	ASAP	Working Party
88	Tourist Information Signs	ASAP	TDM/Estates Manager

**Distribution:**

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



# NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

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## **PUBLIC DECLARATION NOTICE**

### **National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949**

**DECLARATION OF BALLARD MEADOW AND WOODLAND LOCAL NATURE RESERVE** (*Ballard Local Nature Reserve*) in the Parish of New Milton in the County of Hampshire.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** in pursuance of Section 19 of the above-mentioned Act that by the **Local Nature Reserve Declaration BWMLNR 001** made on the day of **24 November 2025** the land **4.25 hectares** or thereabouts situated in the **Parish of New Milton** in the **County of Hampshire** and shown edged in red line on the plan attached to the said Declaration (is the subject of an Agreement entered into with the Council under Section 21 of the above-mentioned Act) and that the said land is being managed as a Nature Reserve.

Certified copies of the said Declaration with plan attached have been deposited for public inspection free of charge at the office of New Milton Town Council at New Milton Town Hall, Ashley Road, New Milton, BH25 6AS from Monday to Friday inclusive during the normal office hours 9am – 4pm.

**Dated this day of 1 January 2026.**

Signed : .....

Job Title : **New Milton Town Clerk**

**on behalf of New Milton Town Council**