



Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee of New Milton Town Council held on Monday 02 March 2026 at 6.30pm at the Town Hall, Ashley Road, New Milton.

Present:

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

In attendance:

Councillors: Cllr D N Tungate

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

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

Two members of the public spoke under Public Participation, as follows:

Mandy Hayes:

Speaking on behalf of the Friends of Ballard Water Meadow regarding Item 12 – Ballard Nature Reserve, Mandy suggested a joint event to celebrate the designation of Ballard Meadow as a Local Nature Reserve, to coincide with the Friends Meadow Day on 20 June.

She also noted, on behalf of the Friends of New Milton Station, that all are welcome to attend the Navvies Memorial Event and Plaque Unveiling at New Milton Station on Friday 06 March at 2:30pm, with hot chocolate and cake available from 2pm.

Julia Stamper:

In seeking clarification on whether a working party will be held regarding the branding of New Milton, Julia highlighted the town's unique position "twixt forest and sea" and suggested this could be reflected in future gateway signage.

Additionally noting New Milton Residents' Association will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Saturday 07 March at 10:15am in the New Milton Hub, Memorial Centre Hall.

The meeting then went into session at 6:36pm.

90. APOLOGIES

Cllr J Baker

Cllr K Trehorn

91. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

NONE

92. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman thanked Mandy Hayes for the suggestion of a joint event, noting that it seemed a very good idea and that the Local Nature Reserve status should indeed be celebrated. In the absence of Bob Lord, of the Friends of Ballard Water Meadow and his role as Volunteer Ranger at Barton Common, an interim point of contact would be needed during his absence to streamline communication.

In response to the branding matter raised by Julia Stamper, the Chairman clarified that despite delays, the working party is programmed to meet shortly to discuss this item.

93. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the previous Committee minutes of 19 January 2026.

It was,

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2026, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The minutes were duly signed.

94. MATTERS ARISING

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

The Town Clerk confirmed that all action points had either been addressed or were included on the Agenda, noting with regard to Minute 80, the Lions Club event is now being held on Saturday 23 May and will take the form of a Lions Community Carnival.



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

95. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following items of correspondence:

- a) New Forest District Council (NFDC) are seeking residents' views on open spaces and play areas as part of the Local Plan review, with surveys closing on the 04 March 2026.
- b) An email from Hampshire County Council (HCC) confirming the continuation of the current SLA Scheme between HCC and NMTC, with a template to be provided shortly. It was also noted that there is a desire to add the Pantiles to the SLA, with the intention to carry out similar works to those undertaken at Ashley Parade.

96. LAND USE REQUESTS

a) Clover Kinna Property Management Ltd

Permission sought to take a cherry picker onto the Recreation Ground to conduct works within the roof space of a property adjacent to the site, off Parkside Walk.

RESOLVED:

That Clover Kinna Property Management Ltd be permitted to take a Cherry Picker onto the Recreation Ground to conduct the necessary works.

b) **New Milton RFC**

A request from New Milton RFC to hold their annual Funday on Saturday 13 June 2026 at Ashley Recreation Ground, additionally asking whether the Council would again cover the cost of the Portaloo's as they did at last year's event.

RESOLVED: That New Milton RFC be permitted use of Ashley Recreation Ground and the Lower Field on Saturday 13 June 2026 for their annual Family Fun Day, subject to the usual terms and conditions of use, with provision of Portaloo's funded by the Town Council as previously.

c) **New Milton Town Football Club**

A request from the Chairman of New Milton Town Football Club for permission to allow a local dog group access around the Wessex pitch to carry out tracking work, with dogs on leash at all times, accompanied by a handler, with dates to be confirmed. The Chairman noted that such dog training activity was not compatible with the site and suggested it be undertaken at Long Meadow instead.

RESOLVED: That permission be withheld, the proposed dog tracking activities around the Wessex pitch are more suited to Long Meadow.

d) **Seven Leisure – Wipeout World**

A request from Seven Leisure to return to Moore Close to host Wipeout World, their inflatable event, on the weekend of 18 to 19 April 2026, noting they would be on site from 13 to 20 April to allow for setting up and dismantling.

RESOLVED: That Seven Leisure be permitted use of Moore Close site to host Wipeout World on 18 & 19 April 2026, subject to the usual terms and conditions of use, with site access from 13 - 20 April to set up and close.

e) **Circus Ginnett**

A request from Circus Ginnett to return to Moore Close to host a Circus from Monday 05 to Sunday 11 October 2026.

RESOLVED: That Circus Ginnett be permitted use of the Moore Close site from Monday 05 to Sunday 11 October 2026 to host a circus, subject to our usual terms and conditions of use.

f) **New Milton Community Garden**

A request from New Milton Community Garden to use a fire pit for making Billy Tea and a gas stove for cooking, in collaboration with Arnewood School and involving some of their young people, with supervision at all times and a risk assessment and written programme to be prepared jointly by the group and the school.

A discussion was held regarding the type of fire (in ground or contained), and it was clarified that a contained, above ground fire pit could be acceptable. It was suggested by Cllr D Hawkins that the request be agreed in principle, subject to health and safety checks and the required risk assessments. The Chairman invited members' views, and it was unanimously

RESOLVED: The request be approved in principle, subject to satisfactory health and safety checks and risk assessments.

g) **Line Dancing Charity Flash Mob**

A request from a Line Dancing Teacher operating in the New Milton Community Centre for permission to use the Performance Pavilion on the Recreation Ground in aid of two charities, New Milton Community Centre and Line Dance Foundation, for dancing with music at midday on Saturday 02 May 2026.

RESOLVED: That permission be granted for use of the Performance Pavilion on the Recreation Ground for the proposed dancing event on Saturday 02 May 2026, subject to the usual terms and conditions of use.

[Post Meeting Note: If it rains on Saturday 2nd May 2026, it will be held on Saturday 9th May 2026.]

97. **CIL PROJECTS**

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1, CIL Projects Review, and invited the Estates & Facilities Manager to guide members through the 4 projects highlighted:

- Carrick Wood (Phase 2) completion of the CIL project awarded £40k in 2025.
- Hollands Wood Drive being a fenced Multi-Play Unit awarded £41.5k in 2025.
- Ashley Recreation Ground Sports Wall /Sensory Board awarded £32k in 2025.
- Moore Close / Fawcetts Field for a BMX Pump Track awarded £38.8k in 2025.

Regarding Carrick Wood, the Chairman noted that a drop kerb will be installed at the Carrick Way entrance to improve accessibility, confirming this can be funded within the existing CIL allocation.

A member asked whether there were relevant contacts who could be approached in relation to the proposed Pump Track at Moore Close / Fawcetts Field. The Chairman explained that, a few years ago, some individuals had informally used the wooded area for cycling activity similar to what a pump track would accommodate, noting that those individuals had been supportive of the concept during earlier discussions.

Noting that updated views would need to be sought for both the Pump Track and the multi-play unit at Hollands Wood, this proposal would form part of the forthcoming engagement process.

The Chairman emphasised that the projects presented are drafts which will be developed further following public consultation.

98. OPEN ACCESS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2, and the Town Clerk guided members through the amended policy highlighting in particular the updated wording relating to drones.

The Chairman noted much of the Council's land is leased from NFDC, and therefore our policies are aligned with theirs and with those of neighbouring authorities, adding that being out of step could encourage disproportionate activity in our area.

Discussion followed regarding scooters, during which Cllr A D O'Sullivan proposed that the current wording be amended to include the word "powered" before "scooters". This was supported by all members.

It was then

RECOMMENDED: That the amended Open Access Policy be endorsed by the F&GP Committee for approval by full Town Council.

99. CARRICK WOOD

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3 - Carrick Wood Planting Proposals. The Estates & Facilities Manager guided members through the proposals and plans noting that planting is taking place this week, including trees, bulbs, whips, and hedging. Completion is expected by the end of March, marking the end of Phase 2, after which NMTC will undertake the ongoing maintenance of this Greenway project.

100. LONG MEADOW PLAY AREA

The Chairman informed members that an official opening of the play area will be held sometime over Easter.

[Post Meeting Note: The playground and surfacing have now been completed, and inspection has taken place. Ancillary works are to be completed, including the installation of a surrounding fence, in preparation for the Easter opening.]

101. BALLARD NATURE RESERVE

The Town Clerk advised members that Natural England were in favour of the designation and are currently awaiting their formal acceptance. It is hoped that Ballard Meadow and Woodland will be designated a Local Nature Reserve from 01 April, with the Chairman noting that the Town Council will work closely with the Friends group to arrange the opening.



102. GRAZING LICENCE

The Town Clerk provided an update, advising members that the Town Council now has a Grazier and that licences are in place, but due to poor weather and ground conditions, grazing is delayed until early Autumn 2026.

103. STREET TRADING

The Chairman began by clarifying that the Fruit and Vegetable stall had not been present the last week, emphasising that this was not due to any action by the Town Council and the stall continues to have the Council's full support, noting the stall had also been absent from the Christchurch and Lymington Markets, referring the item to private session due to the confidential nature of the commercial matters involved.

104. TOURIST SIGNS

The Chairman advised the meeting regarding Tourist Signs is still planned and acknowledged that, unfortunately, there have been delays in arranging this, but it is hoped the working party will be able to meet soon.

Items not on the Agenda

Cllr R Murrow provided an update on the Dementia Allotment, noting that a recent meeting with the volunteers had been very successful. He advised the opening date is currently unknown, but planning for the year ahead has taken place with the Communications Officer and the volunteer team, all of whom have confirmed they will continue their involvement. He added the volunteers reported that last year was their best year for visitors and that those who attended were very happy. He stated his desire to raise additional funding this year with support from District Councillors and other organisations and looks forward to another successful year.

105. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 14 April 2026 at 6.30pm in the Town Hall, Ashley Road, New Milton.

The Chairman closed the public session of the meeting at 7.10pm going into private session with the agreement of members.

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.

106. STREET TRADING

The Chairman provided members with an update following the recent meeting of the Street Trading Working Party. This included advice from NABMA - National Association of British Market Authorities - of which the Town Council is a member. Whilst agreeing to reconvene the Working Party, it was noted that Street Trading is regarded as a “special regime”.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7:26pm.

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
96	Land Use Requests	ASAP	Admin/ Comms
98	Open Access Policy	16.03.26	Town Clerk / F&GP
100	Long Meadow Play Opening	Easter	Admin/ Comms
101	Ballard LNR Opening	20.06.26	Friends Group/Comms
102	Grazing Licences	Autumn	Admin/ Comms
104	Tourist Signs WP	ASAP	Estates Manager
106	Street Trading WP	ASAP	Town Clerk

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