



NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 29 JUNE 2026 AT 6.30PM IN NEW MILTON TOWN HALL

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

In Attendance:

G Flexman – Town Clerk

J Bean – Administrative Officer

The Chairman, Cllr D Rice-Mundy, welcomed Councillors, Officers, 2 members of the public to the meeting.

A resident took the opportunity to ask the members to provide an update on the Station Road Post Office.

The Chairman then opened the meeting at 6.35pm.

15. APOLOGIES

Cllrs J Adams and G Blunden.

16. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

In response to the resident's enquiry the Chairman advised that there would be an update on the Post Office under item 5 – Correspondence.

He went on to report on his activities since the Annual Meeting on 11th May.

11 May 2026 Annual Meeting voted in as Chair and Cllr Robert Maynard voted in as Vice-Chair

23 May 2026 Lions Carnival Parade a great event, very well attended and extremely well organised by the Lions.

26 May 2026 Visit to the Dementia Allotment where the "Chatty Caravan" was visiting from Beaulieu. Another well attended and enjoyable event.

- 30 May 2026** Opening of the new and improved Petanque Club. They now have two courses there; it's a very inclusive sport which disabled people can enjoy. Ramps have now been installed to provide wheelchair access.
- 7 June 2026** The Twinners' Lunch at the Guide Hut, a very enjoyable celebration of the great relationship we share with the twinners from Canteleu. They have already issued an invitation for a return visit in June next year when the tall ships event is taking place.
- 7 June 2026** The first Afternoon of Music with Groovemeister unfortunately clashed with the twinning lunch, however Cllrs J Baker and W Davies attended and reported a large crowd had an enjoyable afternoon.
- 14 June 2026** The Deputy Mayor advised he had opened the New Milton Rugby Club Fun Day at Ashley Rec, with several other councillors there noting the event was very successful with plenty of visitors and a lot of fun being had by all.
- 20 June 2026** Ballard Meadow Day – the Chairman reported that this was another very well organised and well attended event.

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

18. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the Town Council meeting held 11 May

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11 May 2026, having been circulated, be confirmed, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The minutes were duly signed.

19 CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to:

- a) An announcement in the Advertiser and Times advising of the death of Christine Beck, Goff's wife, on 20th June 2026 at the age of 90. The announcement advised of a direct cremation and therefore there would be no service. A card of condolence had been sent from the Town Council.
- b) An update on the market which has been running under the auspices of Southern Market Traders. The Town Clerk advised that a Licence has been agreed between the parties after some back and forth. The Licence is for 6 months commencing on 17th June and ending on 23rd December with an option to review the Licence after three months. SMT will be paying £200 per week to the Town Council by way of consideration.

- c) The Town Clerk reported that the first week had been very successful and well attended. The second week had been very hot, and some stalls were unable to attend eg the cake stall. However, the good news is that we once more have a market, rather than street trading in the town.
- d) An email from the Assistant Town Clerk advising that the Post Office are now taking applications for a main Post Office within the current location 75-77 Station Road. The deadline for applications is 10th July 2026.

POST MEETNG NOTE: The advert from Post Office Limited released on 26 June, contains the address 75-77 Station Road but within the text it states

“Post Office Ltd is looking for a successful retailer to incorporate a main Post Office into their existing or proposed business”

On 30 June, a notice was put up in Morrisons Daily Store confirming that the shop, and Post Office will be closing on Saturday 3rd October 2026.]

- e) A letter from Chris Douglas, Chair of the New Milton Twinning Association thanking the Town Council for their support, as follows:

“It does mean a lot to us to have your support. Our twinning links seem to be strong and stable, and the group of English twinningers enjoy a good social calendar throughout the year.

We have already been invited to Canteleu for the Armada (tall shop festival) in June net year and any official representatives from our town would be most welcome to join us.”

- f) An email from Bertie Russell at NFDC enquiring if we would agree, in principle, to the Town Hall being used as a polling station. He had been sent a reply advising that it is an NFDC building, and therefore the decision is not for NMTC to make, but it was worth noting.

Cllr S Clarke advised that there is a regular review by NFDC, seeking to identify alternative premises for polling stations in the hope that the use of schools can be minimised to prevent children having to miss school.

20. **REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Cllr F Carpenter

Cllr F Carpenter advised that the barrier at the station is still in the programme of works, that she had been contacted by residents with learning disabilities who are experiencing issues. She said that Meadow Day had been great, and she had been particularly pleased to see Bob Lord there.

Fran has been appointed to the Children & Young People Select Committee and is Chairing the Education Advisory Panel. She thought that the Judicial Review in relation to LGR was worth doing, as the figures do not add up most particularly in relation to Mid Hants proposals.

Cllr M Craze said that she was delighted to see Fernhill Road works completed, and it's a pleasure to drive along it now.

Cllr J Vigor

The Chairman welcomed Cllr J Vigor who introduced herself, saying it's the honour of her life to serve the people of New Milton on the County Council. She was finding her feet and had become adept at reporting potholes and issues with pavements and roads generally and had reported issues with Whitefield Road and also dealt with problems relating to flashing streetlamps.

Julie has also been appointed to the Children & Young People Select Committee with Fran, and as her background is in law she is helping with the Judicial Review against the LGR decision explaining the estimated cost of the JR is £500k, but that the estimated cost of the new unitary council is around £400m. If the JR is won, the status quo remains. She and the majority of County Councillors were in favour of pursuing the matter.

Cllr V Schooling asked Cllr Vigor about the buckled safety barrier on the approach to the station, and Cllr Vigor replied that she had reported it to HCC and received a works number for it, but it may take time to resolve.

Cllr S Clarke

Cllr Clarke advised that things have been quiet for the last couple of months. He drew attention to the fact that the District had fined some residents for fly tipping when they left rubbish at Caird Avenue for recycling next to the bins because the bins were already full. The fine for fly tipping is up to £1,000. He advised making an appointment to visit the tip if you have a large amount of rubbish to get rid of. People had been traced by leaving their details on some items. (See A & T report attached).

Cllr S Davies

Cllr Davies agreed with Cllr Clarke had said about fly tipping.

He also reported that a resident of Gore Road had been in touch about the large amount of roadworks going on in the area, and that traffic lights were being employed on a very regular basis without any advice or warning given to residents. He suggested that it would be useful if the residents or at least the Town Council could be advised when traffic lights are to be used so that the information can be disseminated.

Whilst there was not much else to report, he would soon be visiting local sites including the development behind the Barn on Gore Road.

He was pleased to advise that the Brockhills development is moving along quickly and that the first shared ownership properties would be available next month.

Cllr D N Tungate

Cllr Tungate had nothing to report although he advised that he had been very pleased to note that the new footpath at Brockhills Lane is nearing completion.

Cllr S Davies advised that he had visited one of the show houses there and that it was very impressive.

Cllr A D O' Sullivan

Cllr O' Sullivan had nothing to report save to advise that the officers at District have been working very hard at preparing for LGR.

21. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Planning Committee

Cllr S Clarke, Chairman of the Planning Committee, submitted the minutes of the Committee meetings held on 11, 12, 28 May and 11 and 25 June 2026 and moved their adoption.

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 1 to 43 inclusive of the meetings held on 11, 12, 28 May and 11 and 25 June 2026 be received.

b) Amenities Committee

Cllr M Craze, Vice-Chair of the Amenities Committee submitted Minutes of the meetings held on 11 and 26 May 2026 and moved their adoption.

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 1 to 17 inclusive of the meetings held on 11 and 26 May 2026 be received.

c) Finance & General Purposes Committee

Cllr D N Tungate, Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee submitted Minutes of the meetings held on 11 May and 15 June 2026 and moved their adoption.

RESOLVED:

That minutes 1 to 18 inclusive of the meetings held on 11 May and 15 June 2026 be received.

22. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Schedule of Payments covering 1 – 30 April previously endorsed by F&GP, was submitted for Council approval.

It was unanimously,

RESOLVED:

That the Schedule of Payments No. 1/26/27 in the sum of £230,835.51 for the period 1 to 30 April 2026 be approved.

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

23. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

The amended Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2026, previously circulated as Appendix 1, were submitted for Council approval, F&GP having reviewed it thoroughly at their last meeting.

It was unanimously,

RESOLVED:

That Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2026 be approved.

The Financial Statements were signed off by the Town Clerk and the Chairman.

24. ANNUAL RETURN FOR 2025-26

The Annual Return for 2025/26, previously circulated as Appendix 2 was submitted for Council approval under two sections.

It was then unanimously

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Return for 2025/26 be approved and signed as follows:

a) Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

The Annual Governance Statement was approved and signed off by the Town Clerk and Chairman.

b) Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2025/26

The Accounting Statements 2025/26 were signed by the RFO in advance of the meeting, as per the updated form. The Chairman then counter-signed this at the meeting.

25. NOTICE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS

The Town Clerk referred to Appendix 3 previously circulated being the Notice of Public Rights and Publication of the unaudited AGAR 2025-26 which will be displayed on the website and in the Town Hall window for exactly 30 days from 30th June 2026, as required by Local Audit & Accountability Act 2014 and the Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015.

26. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Town Clerk referred to Appendix 4 being a form to be completed for the external auditors BDO LLP (Limited Liability Partnership) confirming we have no conflict of interest with them.

The form confirming this was duly signed by the Town Clerk and the Chairman.

27. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The Chairman referred to Appendix 5 being the Internal Audit Report for 2025/26.

The Town Clerk drew attention to the report recommendations which this year focussed on IT matters.

Cllr A Reid mentioned the comments in para 4 of the Overall Conclusions at the start of the report as follows and thanked the Town Clerk and the team for their hard work.

“The Clerk & RFO and his team are again to be complimented on the exemplary performance of New Milton Town Council both in terms of its public facing service and its corporate governance and administration.” The Town Clerk thanked Cllr Reid for pointing this out.

It was then unanimously

RESOLVED:

That the Internal Audit Report for 2025/26 be approved and recommendations noted.

28. COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

The Chairman referred to Appendix 6 previously circulated being the Communication Officer’s Report which was noted with interest. The focus of the report was website accessibility, following the auditor’s report where accessibility was scored at 62.29%. Following further work, accessibility is now rated at 79.5% a big improvement.

Cllr R Maynard said that this was an impressive score.

29. TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT -WAR MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND

The Chairman referred to Appendix 7 being the Trustees Annual Report on the War Memorial Recreation Ground, containing the receipts and payments for the year 2025/26, as previously circulated.

It was unanimously,

RESOLVED:

The Trustees Annual Report – War Memorial Recreation Ground for the year ended 31 March 2026 be approved.

The report was signed off by the Town Clerk and the Chairman for onward transmission to the Charity Commission.

30. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

- a) Cllr S Clarke stated that although he is not officially on the Ballard Water Meadow committee, he has attended some of their recent meetings and advised they have been waiting some time for new signage and they have also expressed concern about the grass in the water meadow, and the cost in financial terms of cutting it down. They are hopeful that cattle might return to the meadow to do that job for them shortly.
- b) Cllr B Murrow spoke about the Dementia Allotment advising that they have welcomed many visitors to the allotment, including people living with dementia, their carers', councillors, and members of the community. The "Chatty Caravan" from Beaulieu Motor Museum was a treat in May and they also enjoyed the ice-creams as well. Other sessions coming up include a plant-dyeing activity, a singalong session and the Coda Memory Band will perform at the New Milton Dementia Club. They are advertising for additional volunteers with a view to introducing an additional opening session on a Thursday, in the hope this will lead to sharing the allotment space with a wider audience.

Cllr Murrow also reported on a phone call he had received from Sylvie and Catherine of the Canteleu Twinners thanking New Milton twinnings for their hospitality and looking forward to their visit next year.

Cllr V Schooling asked why the Twinners no longer have a reception in the Town Hall as they had in the past when their Mayor attended. It was suggested that they now prefer more informal gatherings, however Cllr Murrow will make enquiries with Chris Douglas, Chair of the New Milton Twinning Association and report back to members.

- c) Cllr D Hawkins took the opportunity to welcome the new County Councillor.

He then went on to raise the issue of assets held by NFDC and leased to NMTC and what is to happen to them in light of the LGR. He was concerned that New Milton residents should continue to benefit from these assets even when NFDC is no more. He said that as a town we do not want to lose the green fields and spaces we all enjoy.

He raised the issues of public toilets and car parks, a liability and an asset which should perhaps be taken into Town Council control. He suggested that this could be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Cllr A O' Sullivan pointed out that NFDC had asked for expressions of interest from town and parish councils. The Town Clerk said the matter was mentioned at a previous Town Council meeting (on 30 March 2026).

Cllr Hawkins reiterated his concern about the public toilets and said that they need to be brought up to a decent standard. Cllr J Baker said that she fully agreed with all Cllr Hawkins had said on this matter.

31. **NEXT MEETING**

Monday 10 August 2026 at 6.30 pm at the Town Hall in New Milton.

County Councillors and members of the public left the meeting at 7.40pm.

There was then a short private session regarding protocol before the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.50pm thanking everyone for their attendance.

Chairman _____ Date _____

Distribution:

Town Councillors

District Councillors J L Cleary

County Councillors F Carpenter, D Poole and J Vigor,

New Milton Police

Press

Alan Watson – NewMilton.net

Sue Larking - NMRA

Mark Jeffries – Estates & Facilities Manager

Editor - Focus

NFDC issue £1,000 fine for fly-tipping after a New Milton man leaves a box of cardboard at Caird Avenue recycling centre

Roz Waters

30 June 2026

A New Milton man has been issued with a £1,000 fly-tipping fine after leaving a box of cardboard next to an overflowing recycling bin.

Lee Reynolds, who recently moved to the area, said he felt physically sick when he received an enforcement notice from New Forest District Council a few days after using the facilities at Tesco supermarket in New Milton.

The council claims the bins are emptied three times a week, but photographs taken at the time of the alleged offence show that all four bins were overflowing with rubbish.

After recently moving house, Mr Reynolds said he had some cardboard boxes to recycle, so decided to walk to the community recycling facilities in Caird Avenue on 31st May. When he arrived at the site the bins for card were overflowing, with waste piled up and strewn across the ground.

"The bins were full to overflowing and there was no available capacity for additional cardboard," said Mr Reynolds. "I did not see any instructions or signage warning against leaving recycling adjacent to full containers; if signage exists, it was not visible due to the volume of waste already present."

He continued: "Having checked all containers and found no available space, I placed my box neatly and safely in front of a bin in the corner, without obstructing access, and I also picked up nearby litter to leave the area in as tidy a condition as possible."

However, less than a week later on 3rd June, Mr Reynolds received a fly-tipping Fixed Penalty Notice from NFDC for 'illegally depositing waste outside of a designated recycling facility'.

He received the maximum fine for this offence – £1,000.



Lee Reynolds was fined £1000 for neatly stacking a small box of cardboard next to the overflowing recycling facilities



Lee Reynolds was issued with a £1,000 fly-tipping fine after leaving a box of cardboard next to overflowing recycling bin at Tesco supermarket, New Milton.

NFDC sent him this picture as proof. The A&T has circled Lee's cardboard.

"I am a law-abiding resident and have not previously been subject to any fines or penalties by the council or any other authority. For that reason, the notice came as a shock; particularly as my intention was to recycle responsibly."

After appealing the fine, Mr Reynold received notice from NFDC that the fly-tipping offence would be transferred to a "failure to control household waste" offence.

The appeal reply added: "The waste linked to yourself was left outside of the designated recycling containers, ultimately rendering it out of control."

The NFDC case officer explained that this new offence meant a reduced fine of £300, which will be reduced to £150 if paid before 3rd July.

"I have been to Citizens Advice and they say that I will have to pay this fine or face prosecution," continued Mr Reynolds. "I have tried to meet with NFDC councillors to discuss this, but no one seems to be available.

"I have since revisited the recycling facility on Saturday 6th June when there was a small improvement noted and the signage was visible; but as confirmed in the photos sent from 31st May the signage was not viable or evident."

A spokesperson for NFDC said the authority would not comment on individual cases

The spokesperson added: "The recycling containers at this site are emptied three times a week and are intended for residents to dispose of small quantities of recycling. Residents are also able to recycle from home using their green-lidded recycling bin.

"In addition, the council can collect a small bundle of cardboard placed next to the green-lidded recycling bin on the scheduled collection day, provided it is flattened and left in dry weather. For larger quantities of recycling, residents are encouraged to use one of the local Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs) at Marchwood, Efford or Somerley.

"While we recognise that many residents are keen to recycle and dispose of their waste responsibly, placing waste next to full containers at the community recycling sites is flytipping.

"Fly-tipping and failure to control household waste is an offence and not only unsightly but causes environmental hazards. It can also lead to additional costs for the council, for example, where waste becomes contaminated and cannot be recycled.

"We have seen an increase in fly-tipping at this location and have been working to address this through education and awareness. The site was remodelled and additional signage was installed on 20th May 2026, prior to this incident."