



Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of New Milton Town Council held on Monday 3 February 2025 at 6.30 pm in New Milton Town Hall.

	Chairman	p	D N Tungate	
	Vice-Chairman	p	A D O’Sullivan	
<u>Councillors:</u>	p	J Adams	p	W Davies
	p	G R Blunden		R Maynard
	p	S J Clarke	p	R A Reid
	p	M Scott-Johns		

94. REFERRED MATTER

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3, a Recommendation from the Amenities committee: ***“RECOMMENDED: That the uprights of the new car park barrier along Barton Common Road be painted green, while retaining the yellow crossbar.”***

Cllr S Clarke stated that car park barriers are generally painted yellow for reasons of Health and Safety and Insurance, he felt the barrier should remain yellow. Cllr Reid agreed. Cllr G Blunden also agreed, advising that he had not been at the Amenities meeting.

Cllr S Clarke proposed that the F&GP Committee did not endorse the recommendation. The Chairman agreed, and said the matter would be decided at the next Town Council meeting.





Town Development Manager Report
For Town Council Meeting 17th February 2025

1. *Neighbourhood Plan Review – Informal Public Engagement.*

The Neighbourhood Plan is going to informal public engagement on the 10th – 21st March 2025.

The engagement will involve an online survey, on which the public can comment on the amendments, updates and additions to the NP. Since the NP was made in 2021, a number of changes have occurred both locally and nationally. With new approaches to climate change, active travel and building design, we need to reflect these changes in our policies.

The public will be given the opportunity to comment on these policies, which also consider housing needs, the town's heritage buildings, walking and cycling, local shops, and development opportunities. Advertising has already gone out in NMTC's e-news and social media, as well as Focus and Prince's publications for the month of February - and look out for posters on our Town Council noticeboard and public buildings.

There will also be an advert on the A&T website and social media post from 3 March, and a Banner advert on the A&T daily e-newsletter from 10 March. Further advertising for the engagement will be found in the New Milton Advertiser & Times on Friday publication dates of 28th February and 7th March 2025.

Drop-in sessions will be held on Friday 14 March (3-7) and Saturday 15 March (9-1) at New Milton Town Hall.

2. *Neighbourhood Plan Review – Technical Packages*

New Milton Town Council has been awarded further funding via Locality to support the review process of the Neighbourhood Plan. Funding in the form of technical packages includes:

- Housing Needs Assessment (HNA)
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and
- Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)

3. *Cookery Classes*

I received some good news from Coastal Medical and cookery tutor Natasha Beatty on the low carb cookery classes. Set to return this year, with a planned start of February the new cookery courses will be held once a month with an aim to increase the courses should further funding be found. Support for the cookery classes was achieved via monies left to the practice for patient health purposes.

4. *Police Beat Surgeries*

Details of forthcoming Police Beat Surgeries are as follows:

- Wednesday 12 February at the Nedderman Centre, starting 9.00am
- Thursday 13 February at The Arnewood School, starting at 7.00pm
- Thursday 6 March at the NM Community Centre, starting 6.30pm
- Monday 17 March at Barton Methodist Church, starting 1.00pm

Local businesses, residents and Town Councillors are encouraged to attend these local community events.



Comms Officer Report

February 2025

Update on New Website

1. Website content has been created, and formatting of the various pages is being finalised.
2. Currently reviewing typos, page links, and minor fixes.
3. Outstanding items to be completed by the web designer include the development of forms to be added to the website, to enable website users to complete and submit through the website:
 - Booking form for events on the Recreation Ground
 - Allotment application form
 - Grant Aid application
 - Job Application form
 - COTY nomination form
 - Online payment function to be installed using World Pay and Woo Commerce.
4. We received excellent feedback from New Forest Mencap and New Forest Disability Service who were given a preview of our new website as a work in progress. They were delighted to be asked to contribute.
5. Positive feedback has also been received from Councillors and Officers offering some suggestions which will be reviewed as appropriate.

Proposed News Articles/Press Releases

February 2025	Planting 11 disease resistant elm trees received from Hampshire Forest Partnership
February 2025	Good news stories from Youth Services
March 2025	Outcome of Mayor's Tea Party
March 2025	Confirm performers for afternoons of music
March 2025	E-news sharing upcoming council meetings, events, community news
March 2025	Launch of new website



Community Engagement

1. Dementia Community Forum

A meeting was arranged in November 2024 for local Dementia Community contacts to come together at the Town Hall to talk about dementia services in New Milton. We welcomed representatives from Oakhaven, Engleburn, Kingfishers, Dementia Allotment, and Coastal Medical Partnership.

We had a broad conversation about the dementia journey and how accessible support is to the community. The plan is to meet again in the future to review services and share news.

2. Youth Services

- **Forum** – working with Louise and Joy to bring together Youth contacts to promote Ashley Youth & Family Hub and our aims and objectives.
- **Arnewood School** – working with Louise and Joy to strengthen relationship with Arnewood and encourage engagement between the Student Council and Town Council.

3. NP Engagement

Working to a Comms Plan with Chiara promoting the NP engagement period from 10 – 21 March 2025.