

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 4 JANUARY 2022 AT 6.30 PM AT NEW MILTON TOWN HALL

Councillors: p	K E Craze (Chairman)	p	R Murrow (Vice-Chairman)
	M Brownsea	p	D A Rice-Mundy
	G R Blunden	p	D Samber
	S J Clarke	p	V E Schooling
	M Craze		A D O'Sullivan
	S P Davies	p	D N Tungate
	D E Hawkins	p	C V Ward
	R A Reid	p	J G Ward
	A W Rice	p	H Wallis-Dowling

In Attendance:

G Flexman - Town Clerk

E Towler - Youth Services Organiser

S King – Town Development Manager

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

84. APOLOGIES - Cllrs Brownsea, M Craze and O'Sullivan.

85. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman wished to congratulate the Youth Services Manager on her recent successful business venture, Uncle Ernie's Rum Punch, with an article in the A&T noting a silver award following a 'blind tasting' in Las Vegas.

Cllr K Craze as Mayor reported on the following recent engagements:

4 December - Attended Annual Carol Service at St Mary Magdalene Church.

20 December - Along with the Town Clerk, attended the funeral of John Beech, much valued NFDC/NMTC employee of 38 years standing.

Cllr V Schooling attended a Jubilee Singers concert at the Community Centre.

86. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

87. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 15 November 2021 and moved their adoption.

It was,

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 15 November 2021, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Minutes were duly signed.

88. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following items of correspondence:

- a) An email regarding Yellow Buses 1a service continuing on a reduced hourly basis in New Milton from 4 January due to staff impacts from the Omicron virus.
- b) An email from Elaine Ramsdale of ASBOC thanking the Town Council for their support with their Youth Worker advert, with several applications received and interviews taking place in the coming weeks.
- c) A reminder to all Town Councillors of a Microsoft Teams meeting taking place on 21 January from 12 noon explaining how CIL works. Councillors can email the Town Clerk if they would like information on how to attend.
- d) An email from Matt Wisdom, Democratic Services Manager of NFDC, stating that Town Councillor numbers will remain the same until after 2023 elections.

89. QUESTIONS – None90. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

NFDC Cllrs Blunden, C Ward and J Ward had nothing to report at this time.

NFDC Cllr Davies reported on the Waste Strategy, noting it is still a draft. It will go to Cabinet and then Full Council in March/April of this year with an expected rollout of 2024. Cllr Davies also raised concerns over the increase in litter following the opening of the new KFC in Station Road and asked the Town Clerk to write to the management team, requesting increased litter bins or a litter collection scheme.

NFDC Cllr Clarke raised his concerns over the A35 road closure around Holmsley Bridge which has diverted traffic to Sway Road, stating this to be dangerous and unsafe, asking the Town Clerk to write to HCC on the matter.

NFDC Cllr Tungate stated that he witnessed a PCSO in New Milton failing to stop three people parking on the zigzags along the high street and asked the Town Clerk to contact the Police regarding this matter.

NFDC Cllr K Craze reported on the Public Conveniences Review Programme with a total refurbishment of the Barton on Sea facilities planned first.

91. COMMITTEE REPORTSa) Planning Committee

Cllr Clarke, Chairman of the Planning Committee, submitted the minutes of the Committee meetings held on 18 November, 2 and 16 December 2021. and moved their adoption.

Cllr Clarke referred to minute 149c. and thanked the Tree Team for their presentation at the meeting on 18 November 2021.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 141 to 170 inclusive of the meetings held on 18 November, 2 and 16 December 2021 be received.

b) Amenities Committee

Cllr Blunden, Chairman of the Amenities Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee meetings held on 29 November and 9 December 2021 and moved their adoption.

Cllr Blunden referred to minute 84 being the Sustainability Action Plan and thanked staff members for their hard work and measures already taken.

It was then,

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 70 to 98 inclusive of the meetings held on 29 November and 9 December 2021 be received.

c) Finance and General Purposes Committee

Cllr D N Tungate, Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 13 December 2021 and moved their adoption.

It was then,

RESOLVED:

That Minutes 67 to 82 inclusive of the meeting held on 13 December 2021 be received.

d) Executive Committee

Cllr Craze, Chairman of the Executive Committee, submitted the Minutes of the Committee meetings held on 8, 17 and 22 November plus 2 December 2021 and moved their adoption.

It was,

RESOLVED:

That minutes 34 to 68 inclusive of the meetings held on 8, 17 and 22 November plus 2 December 2021 be received.

92. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Schedule of Payments, previously circulated, was submitted for Council approval. It was unanimously,

RESOLVED:

That the Schedule of Payments No 05/21/22 in the sum of £353,757.04 for the period 1 October - 30 November 2021 be approved.

The Schedule of Payments was duly signed.

93. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS - None94. COUNCIL BUDGET / PRECEPT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/23

The Chairman referred to the budget papers endorsed by F&GP Committee.

The Chairman said that when developing the precept for 2022/23, we were mindful of rising inflation, with on-going increases in fuel and food prices, plus commitment to improving the town centre as part of our Neighbourhood Plan. Through hard work and analysis of every line item in the budget, the Chairman was pleased to present a precept to the Town Council some £13,500 less than the budget of £1.2m, to lessen the impact on local households.

RESOLVED:

That the 2022/2023 budget of £1.2m be accepted and a precept of £13.5k less was approved in the sum of £1,186,500.

Recorded vote: Cllr J Ward abstained.

The Town Council element of Council Tax will be £111.67 next year for average Band "D" properties in New Milton. This equates to £2.15 per week per average household and compares favourably with other town and parish councils in the district.

95. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1, Interim Internal Audit report, previously circulated.

The Town Clerk read out three recommendations, and members agreed the proposed responses.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That the Interim Internal Audit Report for 2021/2022 be approved and accepted.

96. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2022

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2, Calendar of Meetings for calendar year 2022 previously circulated, which was adopted by members.

97. CHARITY COMMISSION - ANNUAL RETURN

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3, Annual Return for 2020/21 for the War Memorial Recreation Ground charity, for the year ending 31 March 2021.

The Receipts & Payments page was signed by the Chairman and Town Clerk.

Members then approved the 2020/21 Annual Return for submission to Charity Commission before the end of the month, with figures being updated online.

98. TOWN DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

The Town Development Manager presented a written report, previously circulated, which was noted by members.

99. NEXT MEETING Monday 14 February 2022 at 6.30 pm at the Town Hall.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7.05pm for a period of

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

NMRA Chairman informed members of upcoming Zoom events www.newmilton.net

Council Chairman thanked members of the public for attending and closed the public part of the meeting at 7.10pm, moving into Private Session with members agreement.

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 (Admissions 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.

100. EASEMENT

The Chairman referred to Appendix 5, being an easement request discussed at F&GP and referred to Town Council for approval.

Members agreed the terms of the proposed Wayleave agreement.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.14pm.

Chairman _____ Date _____

Distribution:

Town Councillors
District Councillor Mrs J L Cleary
County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter, K Mans
New Milton Police
Press
Alan Watson – Focus & NMRA
Mark Jeffries – Estates & Facilities Manager