

## NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 6 JANUARY 2025 AT 6.30PM IN NEW MILTON TOWN HALL

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

#### In Attendance:

G Flexman - Town Clerk

J Bean - Committee Administrator

The Chairman welcomed Town Councillors, Officers and a representative of the press to the first Town Council meeting of 2025 and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

#### 89. APOLOGIES

Cllr V Schooling

#### 90. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members have a general dispensation to prepare a budget and set a precept.

#### 91. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman took the opportunity to thank the people who had stood in for him while he was away and while he was out of action for a short while. He reported that he had attended the following events:

22 November	Community Lunch at New Life Church
27 November	Tree Planting in in honour of D-Day 80 anniversary this year, and VE80 and VJ80 anniversaries next year.
28 November	Brilliance in Business Awards at Brockenhurst College
30 November	Lion's Charter Lunch
2 December	Light Switch on Bethel House
6 December	New Milton House for Mrs Irene Harding's 107 <sup>th</sup> birthday
7 December	Mayor's Carol Service at St Mary Magdalene
11 December	Open Sight Xmas meeting at Bashley Village Hall
11 December	Festive Delights Evening at Kingfishers
13 December	Ballard School Carol Service at the Priory, Christchurch

15 December 2000<sup>th</sup> Litter Picker celebrations at Brockenhurst Town Hall

The Chairman advised that he had been busy for the last couple of months and took the opportunity to thank Councillors for their support in particular at the Mayor's Carol Service which most had attended. He advised further that the sum of £388 had been raised at the Carol Service for the Men's Shed. He also advised that the Men's Shed are always looking for new members and that they hold monthly open days with the next one on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

**92. MINUTES**

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

It was

**RESOLVED:**

***That the Minutes of Town Council Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024, and the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024 having been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.***

The minutes from both meetings were duly signed, being numbered 71-88.

**93. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Town Clerk referred to:

- a) An email from former Councillor and Freeman, Goff Beck making the following suggestion that:

***"The Council support past and future Freemen by being presented with a jewel similar to that currently presented to outgoing Mayors of the town with the exception of the Past Mayor clasp to be replaced with the word Freeman. To enhance the award a ribbon of Green and Yellow could be attached."***

The Chairman suggested that this be referred to the F & GP Committee as it has financial implications for the Town Council.

- b) An email from Hilary Ward Planning Implementation Officer (CIL) at NFDC.  
***"As part of the CIL Framework for Expenditure criteria there is a requirement to confirm whether your CIL Neighbourhood receipts have been allocated and/or spent. This includes all neighbourhood proportions sent to you, up to and including those sent in October 2024. This information is required by 10 January 2025"***.

The Town Clerk confirmed that all the CIL monies, save that received in October, had been allocated. The Estates Manager had suggested that the £20k received in October be allocated towards a new footpath at Moore Close. Agreed.

- c) Confirmation from DEFRA of Cllr John Adams appointment as a parish member of the NFNPA, 7 months after his election. The Chairman congratulated Cllr Adams on his belated appointment.

94. **QUESTIONS** - None.

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

Cllr G Blunden advised that he had nothing to report.

Cllr S Davies advised that he and Cllr S Clarke had visited the NFDC housing development at Moore Close and looked at two properties, one which is social housing and the other shared ownership. They have been finished to a very high standard and some social renters are already in occupation.

Cllr S Davies mentioned that there will be 20 more dwellings in the New Forest shortly, referring to a new development at Hythe.

Cllr S Davies regularly attends housing hubs across the district including regular meetings at the Nedderman Centre with one of the NFDC Support Officers. Whenever he attends that, he also sees the foodbank in operation and is always impressed with the amount and quality of the food provided by voluntary workers.

Cllr A O' Sullivan said he had nothing to report.

Cllr S Clarke spoke of his visit to Moore Close with Cllr S Davies having met one of the new residents who is disabled and was occupying one of the new flats. The surfaces in the kitchen can change height to suit whoever is using them. The properties are of a very high standard and new residents were very pleased with them.

Cllr Tungate advised he had nothing to report.

Cllr Adams had nothing to report in his new role as an NPA member.

96. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Planning Committee**

Cllr S Clarke, Chairman of the Planning Committee, submitted the minutes of the Committee meetings held on 7 & 21 November, 3 & 19 December and moved their adoption.

**RESOLVED:**

***That Minutes 125 to 167 inclusive of the meetings held on 7 & 21 November and 3 & 19 December be received.***

b) **Amenities Committee**

Cllr G Blunden, Chairman of the Amenities Committee submitted Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 25 November 2024 and moved their adoption.

**RESOLVED:**

***That Minutes 64 to 78 inclusive of the meeting held on 25 November be received.***

**c) Finance & General Purposes Committee**

Cllr D N Tungate, Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee submitted Minutes of Committee meeting held on 10 December 2024 and moved their adoption.

**RESOLVED:**

*That minutes 68 to 85 inclusive of the meeting held on 10 December be received.*

**d) Executive Committee**

Cllr M Craze, Vice Chair of the Executive Committee submitted Minutes of the Committee meetings held on 1, 15 and 29 November plus 6 December 2024 and moved their adoption.

**RESOLVED:**

*That minutes 11 to 50 inclusive of the meetings held on 1, 15 and 29 November plus 6 December be received.*

**97. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS**

The Schedule of Payments, covering October and previously endorsed by F&GP, was submitted for Council approval.

It was unanimously,

**RESOLVED:**

*That the Schedule of Payments Nos 06/24/25 in the sum of £112,071.11 for the period 1 – 31 October be approved.*

The Schedule of Payments was duly signed by the Chair, Vice Chair and Town Clerk.

**98. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

Cllr B Murrow advised that the Twinners have been invited to Canteleu on 8<sup>th</sup> May this year and all are welcome. He hopes to attend.

He also took the opportunity to thank Cllr A O' Sullivan who had used part of his NFDC Cllr grant to fund the Christmas Tree at Barton on Sea, saying many residents had expressed their gratitude.

**99. COUNCIL BUDGET/PRECEPT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026**

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1 being Recommendation from the F&GP Meeting on 10 December 2024 relating to the budget and precept for 2025/26.

The Chairman suggested this matter be deferred pending private session discussions.

**100. INTERNAL AUDIT**

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2 being the Interim Internal Audit Report for 2024-25. The Town Clerk highlighted the final page with the Auditor's recommendations and Town Council's proposed responses.

**RESOLVED:** *That the Internal Audit Report and responses be adopted.*

**101. RISK ASSESSMENTS**

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3 being the Risk Assessments for 2024-25 previously reviewed by Town Council on 25 March 2024.

**RESOLVED: *That the 2024-25 Risk Assessments be noted and approved.***

**102. MEETINGS CALENDAR**

The Chairman referred to Appendix 4 Calendar of Meetings for 2025 which had previously been circulated. It was updated to show Tuesday meetings and the Mayor's Tea Party on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

**RESOLVED: *That meeting dates for 2025 be approved per the latest Calendar.***

**103. NEXT MEETING: Monday 17 February 2025 at 6.30pm – Town Hall, New Milton.**

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7.00pm for the Democratic Half Hour.

**DEMOCRATIC HALF HOUR**

The Chairman asked if anyone wished to speak, and the press representative asked when he would hear about the budget and precept which were to be discussed under Item 10 but which had been deferred until after the Private Session this evening. He was keen to know when these items would be published.

The Chairman advised that once the budget had been approved and the precept agreed the figure would appear in the minutes of the council.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the public session of the meeting at 7.05 pm.

With the agreement of members present, the Chairman introduced a Private Session item.

**PRIVATE SESSION****PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960**

***The Chairman moved that 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 reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted:***

**104. ROBINS NEST – FERNHILL**

The Chairman referred to recent discussions regarding this matter.

Anthony Harris arrived for the meeting at 7.15pm.

Following further discussion, and advice from the Town Council Solicitor.

It was unanimously

***RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk seek further advice from the Internal Auditor and write to the agent seeking clarification regarding the seller's valuation. The approval of the Budget and Precept for 2025-26 was deferred until the next Town Council Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025, pending further discussions.***

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 7.45pm.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution:

Town Councillors  
District Councillors J L Cleary, C Ward  
County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter, K Mans  
New Milton Police  
Press  
Alan Watson – NewMilton.net  
Sue Larking - NMRA  
Mark Jeffries – Estates & Facilities Manager  
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