

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON FRIDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 14.00 HRS AT THE TOWN HALL.

Councillors: p R A Reid – Chairman p S J Clarke
p G R Blunden p D N Tungate

In attendance:

Councillors: D E Hawkins, A D O’Sullivan

Officers: G Flexman - Town Clerk
M Jeffries – Estates & Facilities Manager

The Chairman welcomed everyone to this first budget meeting for 2025-2026.

11. APOLOGIES – M Craze.

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members have a general dispensation to discuss budgets and set a precept for 2025-2026.

13. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

14. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the last meeting held on 19 July 2024.

It was

RESOLVED:

That minutes 1-10 of the meeting held on 19 July 2024 be signed as a correct record.

The minutes were duly signed.

15. MATTERS ARISING

The Town Clerk referred to Minute 6a) regarding Long Meadow Play Area which appears under the CAPEX Budget to be considered under Item 8 – Committee Budgets.

Also Minute 6 c) relating to the New Forest Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, noting the HCC LCWIP Consultation closes on 3 November 2024.

And under Minute 6 d) SGN gas main replacement work along Bashley Common Road now expected to commence from 6 January to 28 March 2025 using a full road closure.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) An email about land adjoining Robin’s Nest at Fernhill Lane that is back on the market, NMTC taking advice from NFDC on the best way forwards in dealing with this matter.
- b) An email from NFDC confirming payment of second half year CIL monies of £21,277.58 on 4 November, following first half payment of £19,900.93 received on 18 April 2024.
- c) Reminder from NFDC of year end reporting requirements for £41,178.51 CIL receipts.

17. FEES & CHARGES 2025-26

The Town Clerk referred to Appendix 1, being the first draft of Fees & Charges for 2025-26 based on an inflation rate of 2.5%, with some fees rounded where appropriate.

The Chairman went through Fees & Charges page by page, the Town Clerk highlighting proposed rent reviews for the Rugby Club at Ashley, and Cricket Club at Fernhill, with Executives querying whether rents should be reviewed annually, rather than 3-yearly and 5-yearly as far as the two sites due for review were concerned. It was suggested a benchmark exercise be carried out, and further advice sought.

Subject to above, and review of Public Tennis Fees, the Town Clerk will seek appropriate advice as far as rents are concerned and amend the Rugby Club net rental figures shown on page 12 – including rent for their new storage facility within the Ashley HUB.

RESOLVED:

That Fees & Charges for 2025-2026 be re-run and referred to Amenities Committee.

18. COMMITTEE BUDGETS 2025-26

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2, being first draft of Committee Budgets for 2025-26. Councillors went through the budgets page by page and F&GP line by line as noted below.

Amenities - Central Costs

4001 - Wage increase after discussing revised number of employees/contractors required.

4002 - Employers National Insurance was increased by 1% point in line with Govt budget.

4102 - Grounds Maintenance budget to cover occasional use of contractors as necessary.

4140 - Notice Board budget will be re-instated - in the sum of £4k - for Barton and Ballard.

4721 - NFDC Waste Collection Scheme budget of £1,842 is for "general waste" collected.

4723 - Ash Tree Dieback budget was included in good faith - but is not required quite yet.

Ashley Rugby Ground

4017 - Budget for Sewage & Refuse is now £2.5k based on revised projection for 2024-25.

4108 - Budgeted line marking cost £2.5k based on revised projection of £2.0k for 2024-25.

1014 - Revised net rental figure of £3,229 plus £646 VAT making gross rent of £3,875.00.

1114 - Proposed rent of £1,000 pa including VAT for A new storage facility at Ashley HUB.

Open Spaces

4101 - General Maintenance budget of £20k deemed sufficient - now excludes contractors.

Amenities CapEx projects totalling £160k

Fernhill Sports Ground - Install post and rail fencing along access road + new patio. £45k.

Long Meadow Play Area - Replace existing equipment. CIL funding for accessibility. £70k.

War Memorial Recreation Ground - Replace junior multi-play unit some 20+ yrs old. £25k.

Replace Fire Doors at various sites in order to meet Regulatory Reform (Fire) Order. £20k.

F&GP The Town Clerk was asked to review the following budget headings

4042 – Advertising budget of £5k is based on analysis of expenditure from Comms Officer.

4049 – Comms budget of £10k also based on analysis of expenditure from Comms Officer.

4052 – Legal & Prof Fees revised Budget of £15k includes Gore Road HUB development.

4054 – IT /Admin Support revised Budget of £15k is based on Rejuvenate not Juice costs.

4067 – Members Allowances to be reviewed in conjunction with NFDC rates by Asst Clerk.

4068 – Members Training budget is to be reviewed in particular for new Cllrs by Asst Clerk.

RECOMMENDED: That Committee Budgets for 2025-2026 be revised, as noted above.

19. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS – None20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – **Friday 15 November 2024 at 2.00pm.**

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 4.00 pm.

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____

Distribution:

Members of the Executive Committee

Town Councillors – For Information

District Councillors C V Ward, J L Cleary

County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter and K Mans

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