



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		

In Attendance:

Councillors: D Hawkins
 Officers: G Flexman - Town Clerk
 J Bean – Administration Officer

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, 2 Officers and a representative of the press.

86. APOLOGIES

Cllr R Maynard.

87. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

88. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

89. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 10 December 2024, as previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Minutes were duly signed.

90. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON AGENDA

None.

91. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following items of correspondence:

- a) An email from Chris Wraight who attended the last F&GP meeting on 10th December to speak about her proposal to voluntarily serve as a High Street Chaplain in New Milton. The Town Clerk had written to her on 22 January 2025 regarding the last F&GP meeting. "At that meeting, it was acknowledged that this initiative did not require the Council's



permission as such.” and “I subsequently met with the local Police and informed them of your suggestion, and they had no objection”.

Chris Wraight wrote back to say: “Thank you for this positive outcome.”

b) An email from former councillor Goff Beck, as follows:

“My suggestion is would the Council support past and future Freeman be 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 Chair suggested that rather than a jewel, the Town Council could research the cost of a small honours board, similar to that for Aldermen at Appletree Court in Lyndhurst.

92. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1 - Schedule of Payments for the period from 1 November to 31 December 2024 in the sum of £317,911.18. The Town Clerk highlighted the following items over £1,000 noting that a £60k refund has been agreed by NFDC in respect of Ivel Aquatic costs of £62k incurred to date on Ballard Lake Improvements.

Barrie King	General Works Site Wide - Contractor 14-25 October	£1,050.00
Ivel Aquatics	Ballard lake environmental improvements & Nicospan completion Capex s.106	£17,863.50
Barrie King	General Works Site Wide - Contractor 28 Oct - 8 Nov	£1,050.00
Citizens Advice New Forest	Financial support for ongoing assistance locally (Annual support budget)	£5,000.00
Greenlock Electrical	Repair of lights at Fawcetts changing rooms, installation of defibrillator at Barton on Sea Methodist Church (50% cost donated by them), repairs & checks at Bowls Club & Fernhill Pavilion	£1,580.13
HCC (Hants LGPS)	Pension Contributions - October 2024	£12,045.56
HMRC Cumberland	Tax and NIC - October 2024	£11,840.90
Hoare Banks	Cleaning Bench New Milton War Memorial for Remembrance Sunday	£1,056.00
Keffen Plant Hire	Annual Hedge cutting at Fawcetts, Ashley, Allotments & Open Spaces	£2,322.00
Suna King	Content Management for new NMTC Website Project - 4 Days	£1,000.00
LITE	Pull tests, certify and report on 69 wall mounted fixings for Christmas display	£2,701.20
NFDC	Waste collection October 24/ March 25 & GIS fee 01/10/24 - 30/09/25	£1,729.91
Bryan J Pinchen	Insect survey at Barton Common & Ballard Water Meadow (£300 contribution from Friends of Ballard Water Meadow) £1,200 and £600 respectively	£1,800.00
John Shutler	Medium Priority tree works at Moore Close, Barton Common, Long Meadow & Woodland Way	£9,782.00
Tom Morrissey	General Works Site Wide - Contractor 28 Sept - 10 Nov. £160 per day	£1,760.00
Amberol	7 Tree Planters for KFC area & Ashley Parade (4) £500 from KFC Landlord	£2,047.20
Auditing Solutions	Internal audit provision on 5th/6th December - Interim Audit 2024/25	£1,224.00
Glasdon	Supply of 10 benches, Cost covered by purchasers	£5,976.24
Hillier	Supply & Delivery of Trees (7)	£1,661.40
Ivel Aquatics	Additional Nicospan completion & Drain system. 3rd stage payment Capex s.106	£16,714.50



John Shutler	Undertaking of tree works & hire of Cherry Picker	£1,596.67
Tom Morrissey	General Works Site Wide - Contractor 11 Nov - 22 Nov	£1,600.00
Npower	Electricity invoices for various locations in October	£1,115.01
Northfield Nursery	Bedding plant for Autumn, Winter & Spring display	£1,893.30
Staff/Members	Salaries and expenses November 2024 (includes back pay from 1 April 2024)	£41,964.22
Lombard	Vehicle leasing BC21 NLU, BW21 NYH, DX67 UYD, BV71 ZJZ, DY20 HTT - Contract Hire November	£2,063.09
Everton Nurseries	Whips & Bulbs as part of Carrick Wood Management Plan funded by NFDC (£2,031.90). Plants for Autumn/Winter planting & 8 Christmas Trees	£2,479.28
HCC (Hants LGPS)	Pension Contributions - November 2024	£16,108.39
Hillier Nurseries Ltd	Trees as Replacements & for Plant A Tree Initiative.	£6,671.16
HMRC Cumbernauld	Tax and NIC - November 2024	£16,833.59
John Shutler	Medium priority tree works & felling of damaged/leaning trees	£3,221.03
Barrie King	General Works Site Wide - Contractor 25 Nov - 6 Dec	£1,050.00
Tom Morrissey	General Works Site Wide - Contractor 25 Nov - 6 Dec	£1,440.00
NFDC	Laser Scythe Cutter for general use site wide	£2,220.10
New Milton Advertiser	Christmas Lights Sponsors & New Milton Christmas Day adverts	£1,080.00
The Play Inspection Company	Training of Routine Inspectors including Exam & Registration Fee. Recharge £1,750.00 + VAT to NFDC/ Lymington Town Council & Hordle Parish Council	£2,470.00
rCOH	Consulting on the Neighbourhood plan 2x invoices, £5,322.00 (Locality Grant) & £783.00	£6,105.00
Turfleet Hire	Hire of John Deere 4066R & 440R Front Loader, Grillo Leaf Collector, and Amazone Groundkeeper for various locations - November	£1,983.00
Barrie King	General Works Site Wide - Contractor 9 - 20 Dec	£1,050.00
Tom Morrissey	General Works Site Wide - Contractor 9 - 23 Dec	£1,760.00
Greenlock Electrical	Replace main fuse board on Recreation Ground & replace defective emergency lights at Indoor & Outdoor Bowls, Statutory Requirement	£1,362.34
HoneyPot Children's Charity	Grant Aid	£1,500.00
IVEL Aquatics Ltd	Aquatic planting, Pathways & Revetments at Ballard Lake Capex s.106	£21,244.07
Lawn and Power	Mini Dumper for general & volunteer use	£1,449.00
Staff/Members	Salaries and expenses December 2024	£34,336.81
Lombard	Vehicle leasing DY20HTT, BW21NYH, DX67UYD, BV71ZJZ, BC21NLU - Contract Hire - December	£2,452.61

Councillors queried the following items on the schedule:

- a) The payment of £11.94 to Worldpay for "Covid Support Terminal" covered a legacy facility that will in future be used for incoming on-line payments, eg allotments, tennis fees.



- b) Cllr G Blunden mentioned the sum of £2,470 paid to the Play Inspection Company for training and the initiative which the Estates Manager had shown in offering the training to other local Councils, bringing the price to the Town Council down by £2,100 to £370.

RECOMMENDED: That the Schedule of Payments for the period 1 November 2024 - 31 December 2024 in the sum of £311,917.18 be ENDORSED for Town Council approval.

93. DECEMBER ACCOUNTS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2 - Monthly Accounts for December. The Town Clerk advised that Amenities is over budget YTD due mainly to employment of contractors. Regarding F&GP, the Town Clerk explained that savings secured and additional income had been received year to date.

In particular, savings to date on Town Development (£9,905), Youth Co-ordination (£5,617) and Prof Fees (£10,313) plus additional income from Grants (£14,579), Misc receipts (£10,935), Interest received (£4,724) and Youth Donations (£3,412). All in all, the accounts are £13.6k under budget.

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.

95. GRANT AID

The Chairman referred to Appendix 4 being a grant aid request from Friends of the Indian Memorial for £500 towards the costs of the Annual Commemorative Event taking place on Thursday 10 July 2025.

Following discussions and a vote.

It was

RESOLVED:

That Friends of the Indian Memorial be granted £500 from the Grant Aid Budget under the General Power of Competence.

96. YOUTH REPORT

The Chairman referred to Appendix 5 - Youth Report, which had been circulated previously. Members commended the Youth Services Manager and her team for their excellent work and noted the contents of her report, with the new Youth Hub being used for community purposes 2 mornings, 4 afternoons and 2 evenings per week.



97. GORE ROAD UPDATE

The Town Clerk referred to ongoing negotiations with New Milton Youth Trust in relation to the lease of land at Gore Road. Their representative is seeking a 150-year lease.

The Town Clerk had sought the advice of both Anthony Harris and the Internal Auditor regarding this request who both felt that 150 years was too long, with our solicitor recommending 35 years in the first instance.

Cllr S Clarke said that the request for the long lease was to help the Youth Trust to secure bigger grants and funding. And if anything goes substantially wrong the land comes back to the Town Council in any event.

The Chairman felt that granting a 150-year lease on this land could set a precedent and pointed out that it is longer than people get when they buy a leasehold property.

Cllr W Davies stated that in all his dealings with Heritage Lottery he had never seen any requirement for such a long lease to qualify.

Cllr G Blunden thought that the lease will probably run for a long time but there is no need to make that long a provision at the outset.

It was

RECOMMENDED: That a period of 35 years be offered for Gore Road lease to NMYT.

98. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATES - The Chairman had no updates.

99. NEXT MEETING **MONDAY 17 MARCH 2025** at 6.30pm in the Town Hall, New Milton.

There being no further business in the Public Session, the Chairman thanked members of the public for attending and then requested that an HR matter be discussed in Private Session at 7.00pm.

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 ground that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted:

100. FLEXIBLE RETIREMENT

Members noted the request from a member of staff to work 3 days per week from 1 April 2025, and the Town Clerk explained arrangements for ensuring that continuity of service will be maintained.

It was

RECOMMENDED:

That a Flexible Retirement request be granted in accordance with the Town Council's Flexible Retirement Policy.



101. ROBINS NEST – FERNHILL

The Town Clerk provided an update on negotiations for the land, referring to an email from the estate agents advising that the sellers had turned down an offer considerably higher than that offered by the Town Council and therefore would not be accepting the Council's offer.

It was

RECOMMENDED: That the Town Council take no further action at this time.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman then closed the meeting at 7.10pm

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
91b)	Honours Board – Freeman	17.03.25	Town Clerk
94	Referred Matter – car park barrier, Barton Common Road	17.02.25	Town Council
95	Grant Aid – Friends of Indian Memorial BOS	ASAP	Asst Town Clerk
96	Ashley HUB & YSM Review opening / working hours	ASAP	Town Clerk / YSM
97	Gore Road – 35 year lease	17.02.25	Town Council
100	Flexible Retirement	17.02.25	Town Council
101	Robins Nest - Fernhill	17.02.25	Town Council

Distribution:

Town Councillors
 District Councillors J L Cleary
 County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter and K Mans
 Estates & Facilities Manager
 New Milton Police
 Press
 Editor - Focus
 Sue Larking – NMRA