

## NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee of the New Milton Town Council held on Monday 24 April 2017 at 6.30 pm in the Town Hall, Ashley Road, New Milton.

Chairman	p	A D O’Sullivan
Vice-Chairman	p	D N Tungate

Councillors:

p	G R Blunden	p	S J Clarke
p	K Craze	p	S P Davies
p	R A Reid	p	J G Ward
	S Short		

In Attendance: Cllr D E Hawkins

Officers: Mr G P Flexman – Town Clerk  
Joanna Hayward – Administrator

The Chairman welcomed Councillors and two members of public.

116. APOLOGIES

Cllr S Short

Cllr S Davies being a late arrival

117. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr K Craze in respect of Grant Aid Applications being a committee member of NMRA.

All councillors have dispensation in respect of agenda item 13 - Members Allowances.

118. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

119. MINUTES

**RESOLVED:**

***That the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2017, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.***

The minutes were duly signed.

## 120. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

The Town Clerk confirmed that all points have been or are currently being addressed.

	<b>Action Points</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Action by</b>
103	Lions Centennial events	20 March 2017	Town Clerk
105 a)	Bashley Defibrillator	20 March 2017	Estates Manager
105 b)	Stem Lane fly-tipping	20 March 2017	Town Clerk
111 a)	Forest Arts Centre – Grant Aid	20 March 2017	Town Clerk
111 b)	Reach Summer School – Grant Aid	20 March 2017	Town Clerk
111 c)	ASBOC Ltd – Grant Aid	20 March 2017	Town Clerk
112	Standing Orders – Annual Review	24 April 2017	Asst. Town Clerk
115	Bowls Club – Lease Renewal	20 March 2017	Town Clerk

The Town Clerk referred to 105 b) noting the fly-tipping is on Meyrick Estate Land.

Grant Aid was granted to Reach Summer School, Forest Arts Centre, and ASBOC, the last two receiving cheques at the Annual Towns Meeting on 11 April 2017.

There was no change to Standing Orders following the Annual Review and the Bowls Club lease is being renewed on terms recently agreed with the club.

## 121. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1, covering payments for February and March 2017 in the total sum of £215,310.47.

The Town Clerk highlighted the payment of £2,004 to rCOH Ltd for Neighbourhood Plan consultants' fees and a second invoice of £6,240 for subsequent work.

Payment to Christchurch Powr Tools of £5,655.35 for winter service costs which Cllr G Blunden referred to asking that the service costs for next year be reviewed with other suppliers to ensure value for money.

Cllr N Tungate referred to payment to Juice of £1,533 for business cards/NP design artwork for questionnaire and the Town Clerk confirmed this included the printing of 12,000 questionnaires in connection with Neighbourhood Planning consultation.

Cllr D Hawkins queried the payment to Lush for Col Wheeler's plaque and suggested the British Legion pay the costs. The Town Clerk will investigate.

Cllr S Clarke queried the payment of £1 for the telephone box and if we were liable - the Town Clerk responded that we had not signed a contract.

The Chairman queried the payments to Rejuvenate and the Town Clerk will provide an analysis, noting they look after phones as well as increasing IT needs generally.

Cllr Blunden asked about the fee to use World Pay and the Town Clerk would provide detail in the minutes. (Note: There is a minimum card fee of £15 per month and terminal rental of £25 per month plus £5 VAT, total £45).

***The Schedule of Payments No. 08/16/17 covering the period 1 February to 31 March 2017 totalling £215,310.47 was ENDORSED for Council approval.***

## 122. MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2, management accounts for February 2017. The Town Clerk reported Amenities was £19k over budget as at the end of February.

Cllr Blunden reiterated that part of the imbalance was due to awaited income from invoicing which the Town Clerk expected to be around £4k.

Members noted that £25k was earmarked from reserves for the Neighbourhood Plan next year, plus £15k anticipated expenditure covered by grants.

There followed a discussion regarding reserves which had reduced from c. £900k two years ago to around £700k now. Members agreed we must keep to budget next year.

## 123. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to a letter from Aaron Lawford querying the proposed £10k expenditure for relocating the red telephone box as reported in the A&T, and also Festive Lights sponsorship.

## 124. AMENITIES COMMITTEE REFERRED MATTERS

The Town Clerk referred to minute 151 of the last Amenities Committee Meeting

It was then

### ***RECOMMENDED:***

***That sponsorship be discussed with local businesses and Virgin Media as well.***

The Chairman referred to the matter of the telephone box saying it was a nice nostalgic piece but it is an expensive project. Cllr Blunden reminded members that there was no money in the budget for this.

Cllr Hawkins suggested that the telephone box be sponsored by local businesses. The matter would be referred to Town Council.

## 125. YOUTH WORK

Cllr S Clarke referred to an activity report prepared by the Youth Co-ordinator, highlighting a very positive meeting on 18 April with the outcome of amalgamating that with the Youth and Play Forum.

There are concerns about the lack of youth groups in the town, however, it has been suggested that the New Life Church Youth group could use the Nedderman Centre on a Friday. The Youth Coordinator is working with the SCARF group to facilitate a disability youth group, as well as a CODA music project for young carers.

On 31 May 2017, there will be an opportunity for teenagers/youth to have stalls on the weekly market which will be FOC and budding entrepreneurs are invited to apply to sell goods/crafts etc.

## 126. GRANT AID

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3, previously circulated.

### a. New Forest MENCAP – Weekly Workshops in School Holidays

Councillors considered the first application suggesting a grant of £500 on condition that MENCAP are successful with their other bids for funding from NMRA and Morrison's Foundation, because the total project cost is £7,287.

Members had concerns about the level of MENCAP reserves and we should be looking at their accounts with their application as well.

It was

#### **RESOLVED:**

***That New Forest MENCAP be granted £500 from the Grant Aid budget, subject to receiving other funding already bid for from NMRA and Morrison's Foundation, under General Power of Competence.***

### b. New Forest Basics Bank

Councillors queried the £70k held in their funds.

The Town Clerk will clarify and this request will be deferred to the next F&GP meeting.

Cllr Clarke requested that a note should be placed on the grant aid application form confirming that we need to have sight of their accounts.

c. South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS)

Having considered the good work carried out locally by the responders

It was

**RESOLVED:**

***That £1,000 be granted from the Grant Aid budget to SCAS Ltd under the General Power of Competence.***

d. New Milton Rugby Club

There was a discussion regarding this application with Cllr Blunden confirming that NMTC already contribute to the fun day in terms of background support, as well as their planning application fee noting that the rugby club are financially viable.

It was

**RESOLVED:**

***That £400 be granted from the Community Events budget to New Milton Rugby Club under the General Power of Competence.***

e. New Milton Jubilee Fund

Councillors acknowledged that NMTC already support this event in terms of Estates & Amenities staffing on the day.

It was

**RESOLVED:**

***That £800 be granted from the Community Events budget to New Milton Jubilee Fund under the General Power of Competence.***

f. New Milton Residents Association

In regard to the Great Get Together Community Picnic on the Recreation Ground on Sunday 18 June 2017

It was

**RESOLVED:**

***That £600 be granted from the Community Events budget to New Milton Residents Association under General Power of Competence.***

g. ASBOC

Cllr Clarke said that youth work is changing in the town and further discussions are needed to ensure we keep engaged with our youth and meet their needs with a revised structure and finances.

It was agreed this item would be deferred to the next F&GP meeting.

Cllr Hawkins asked if there is any money available to provide for a shelter on the recreation ground. This will be the subject of a report being prepared for Amenities at their next meeting.

127. FESTIVE LIGHTS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 4, previously circulated.

Noting a £3k overspend members agreed that we need more donations as, apart from long term sponsors, we only received £50 for last year.

Cllr Blunden said that if the money is not forthcoming from the community then the lights would go out.

There was a discussion regarding the way to promote, highlighting benefits, donation levels etc and it was agreed the Working Party would propose a new way forward to make this happen as well as talk to other local authorities.

128. MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

The Chairman referred to Appendix 5, previously circulated, and asked for members' views.

There followed a debate regarding the 1% proposed increase with Cllr A Reid suggesting that the 1% increase could be accepted and given to charity seeing as though councillors did not need the money.

Cllr Blunden said that the allowances are independently assessed and they are value for the work done by councillors, who are volunteers, and it might encourage more councillors to come forward despite their financial background.

There followed a show of hands with 4 in favour of accepting the 1% and 4 against and with the Chairman using his casting vote in favour

It was

**RECOMMENDED:**

***That the Town Council accept the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendation regarding Members' Allowances and that they be increased by 1% from 1 April 2017.***

129. ANY ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

With the Chairman's permission, Cllr S Clarke informed members that the new Administrative Apprentice had started work in the office and asked members to introduce themselves and make her feel welcome.

130. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 12 June 2017 at 6.30 pm** in the Town Hall, Ashley Road, New Milton.

The Chairman thanked councillors and members of the public for attending this last meeting with him as Chairman of the F&GP committee, and closed the meeting at 8.15 pm.

Members thanked Cllr O'Sullivan for his sound chairmanship of F&GP over many years.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution:

Town Councillors  
 District Councillors Mrs C V Ward, Mrs J L Cleary  
 County Councillors M Kendal, K Thornber  
 New Milton Library  
 New Milton Police  
 Press

	<b>Action Points</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Action by</b>
124	Red Telephone Box relocation	8 May 2017	Town Council
125	Youth Work – Teenage Market	31 May 2017	Youth Coordinator
126	Grant Aid payments	8 May 2017	Town Clerk
127	Festive lights sponsorship	12 June 2017	Working Party
128	Members Allowances	8 May 2017	Town Council