

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee of the New Milton Town Council held on Monday 18 September 2017 at 6.30 pm in the Town Hall, Ashley Road, New Milton, BH25 6AS.

Chairman	p	S P Davies	
Vice-Chairman	p	D N Tungate	

Councillors:

		G R Blunden	S J Clarke
p		K Craze	p A D O'Sullivan
		R A Reid	p J G Ward
p		S Short	

In Attendance: Cllr D E Hawkins

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

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, two members of public and a press representative.

37. APOLOGIES

Cllrs Blunden, Clarke and Reid

38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr A O'Sullivan declared an interest being a member of the Royal British Legion reference Appendix 4 Grant Aid Applications for Remembrance Day wreaths.

39. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Alan Watson spoke on behalf of RNLI and NMRA thanking Mark Jeffries and his team for assistance at the Be Involved weekend event on the Recreation Ground.

Alan Watson also spoke on behalf of the Lions President Jeanne Jackson and asked how much the value of the contract awarded to South Coast Events was. (*Post Meeting Note : £3,500 was confirmed, as indicated at the meeting*).

The Town Clerk advised Alan Watson he would confirm with the meeting minutes.

40. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2017, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The minutes were duly signed.

41. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

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

	Action Points	Date	Action by
25	HCC Traffic Meeting	9 August 2017	Town Clerk
25	Additional signs at Bashley	4 September 2017	Amenities
27	IT Security – New Website	ASAP	TDM
27	Dementia Allotment Costs	31 July 2017	Town Clerk
27	Cango Payments	31 July 2017	Post Meeting Notes
30	Review of Standing Orders	18 September 2017	Asst Town Clerk
31	Grant Aid Payments	7 August 2017	Town Clerk
36	Investments	25 August 2017	Town Clerk

42. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) An email from Cllr Mel Kendal in response to our concerns about the reduction in HCC's weed spraying and verge cutting in the town. Cllr Kendal suggested that the Town Council consider paying for additional services such as weed-spraying.

Members responded to Cllr Kendal's suggestion with concerns about the implications of our staff handling chemicals, storage, training, etc.

- b) The Town Clerk referred to an email from Colin Taylor, Deputy Director of Hampshire Highways, regarding the savings having to be made from HCC budgets and the expectation of further cuts next year, including highways maintenance.
- c) The Town Clerk confirmed receipt of the monies from Prudential at the end of August.
- d) Rosemary Rutins of NFDC had forwarded a letter with information about councillors' allowances.

Cllrs were reminded that it was a personal choice on how much to accept.

It was

RECOMMENDED:

That Town Council members are content with the current percentage applicable to councillors.

The Chairman advised members that there was an NFDC online survey seeking views on allowances (see letter attached).

43. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1, being Schedule of Payments for July 2017 in the sum of £58,870.14, previously distributed.

The Chairman noted payments of £90 to Barneys Ice-cream Trike for the dementia friendly allotment launch event and said it was a good event and the wildflowers were excellent as well.

Cllr Hawkins referred to the payments to Bournemouth White Lining of £501 and Eco Sustainable Solutions of £647.40 and the Town Clerk responded that these were additional works to the SLA, and covered preparations for New Milton in Bloom judging.

Cllr O'Sullivan asked about SLA expenditure which the Town Clerk said was budgeted in the sum of £6k.

Cllr J Ward applauded the play park and its popularity and members agreed they are very proud of the playpark despite some initial teething problems.

44. MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2, Management Accounts for July 2017, previously circulated.

The Town Clerk advised results were on target overall, noting that overtime increased during the summer due to various events, watering and extra duties required. Hours undertaken to support the Be Involved event would be recharged to that budget.

Cllr S Short asked about the increase in stationery costs which the Town Clerk responded may also be attributable to the Be Involved event and therefore would be recharged. *(Post Meeting Note : There were also additional costs associated with the In Bloom event, and outsourcing of photocopying for a week while our machine was out of service).*

Cllr Short referred to the £2k being spent on Christmas lights eyebolts and this amount will come out of the Christmas lights budget.

There was a letter going to high street businesses this week asking for donations to the town's Christmas lights.

Cllr O'Sullivan asked about the Neighbourhood Plan and the Town Clerk confirmed that the budget this year was £25k with hopefully £15k coming from government grants. Overall, £40k was earmarked from reserves last year.

Cllr Craze referred to the increase in skip hire which the Town Clerk responded is due to this time of year being very busy with cuttings and other waste material and it is now anti-social to have bonfires as we used to at Moore Close.

The increase in fuel and oil at this time of year is also due to the summer growing season and more duties being completed. The budget is not phased.

Cllr O'Sullivan suggested another column in the accounts to show the percentage of budget left. The Town Clerk will look at this.

45. AMENITY REFERRED ITEMS

The Town Clerk referred to Minute 50 of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 4 September 2017 to support the listing of the Indian War Memorial at Barton on Sea as an historic monument, noting there are no financial implications to consider.

46. INTERNAL AUDIT REVIEW

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3, previously circulated, noting the programme for 2017/18. There is a duty to maintain an adequate and effective system of internal audit.

Cllr Short noted that item 2.9 was missing from the programme and the Town Clerk will point this out.

The internal auditor is due to attend on 27 September 2017.

47. GRANT AID

The Chairman referred to Appendix 4, previously circulated.

a) **Brendoncare Get Together Club**

The Town Clerk provided background to this application. Councillors noted that Brendoncare have £52k in reserves and with a hefty management structure in place as well as HCC cutting grants means that more groups are applying to us for grants.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That Brendoncare Get Together Club be granted £400 from the Grant Aid budget, under the General Power of Competence.

b) **Victim Support**

The application was considered alongside their reserves of £1.2m and that Victim Support is a national organisation with subsidiaries. Councillors agreed that with more groups applying for grants means we have less money to go round.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That Victim Support be granted £300 from the Grant Aid budget, under the General Power of Competence.

c) **The Royal British Legion – 2017 Poppy Appeal**

The cost of the Councils wreaths was discussed. Cllr O'Sullivan did not take part in the discussion or voting.

It was then

RESOLVED :

That The Royal British Legion be granted £200 from the Grant Aid budget, under the General Power of Competence.

d) **NMTP – Christmas Event**

The Town Clerk referred to the delayed request for £2,500 which members supported.

It was

RECOMMENDED :

That a virement of £2,000 be made from Youth Grant Aid budget to fund the skate-park competition, leaving £3,000 in the Events budget towards funding of £2,500 for the Christmas Festival.

It was further

RECOMMENDED :

That New Milton Town Partnership be granted £2,500 under the General Power of Competence, subject to their proposed project proceeding.

Members suggested that there should be a separate budget for Christmas next year.

48. **YOUTH WORK**

Cllr S Clarke was absent and this matter was deferred.

49. **ANY ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

None

50. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 30 October 2017 at 6.30 pm** in the Town Hall, Ashley Road, New Milton.

The Chairman having no further business to discuss closed the meeting at 7.30pm.

Chairman _____

Date _____

Distribution:

Town Councillors

District Councillors Mrs C V Ward, Mrs J L Cleary

County Councillors M Kendal, K Mans, F Carpenter

New Milton Library

New Milton Police

Press

NMRA – Alan Watson

	Action Points	Date	Action by
39	Confirm South Coast Events amount for Be Involved event	30 September 2017	Town Clerk
44	Report on budget % left	30 October 2017	Town Clerk
45	Support grade 1 listing of Indian Memorial at Barton on Sea	30 September 2017	Town Clerk
47 d)	Agree virement and approve grant to NMTP of £2,500	4 October 2017	Town Council