



Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee of the New Milton Town Council held on Tuesday 30 April 2019 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: p G R Blunden p S J Clarke
p K Craze p A D O'Sullivan
p R A Reid J G Ward
p S Short

In Attendance: Cllr D Hawkins

Officers: G Flexman – Town Clerk
J Hayward – Administrator
E Towler – Assistant Administrator

The Chairman welcomed Councillors and officers, three members of the public and a press representative to this last meeting of the municipal year.

120. APOLOGIES

Cllr J G Ward

121. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Reid is a member of the New Milton Lions Club and therefore did not comment on the Grant Aid application for It's a Knockout (Agenda item 10).

122. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

123. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2019, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The minutes were duly signed.

124. MATTERS ARISING

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

| Minute | Action Points | Date | Action by |
|--------|---|---------------|--------------|
| 106 a) | Neighbourhood Plan End of Grant Report | 30 April 2019 | Town Clerk |
| 106 b) | Display Election Notices | 22 March 2019 | All Staff |
| 106 e) | Yellow Buses Launch | 17 April 2019 | All Staff |
| 109 | Prepare Men's Shed License | 1 April 2019 | Town Clerk |
| 110 | Internal Audit Report responses | 1 April 2019 | Town Council |
| 111 | Standing Orders review | 1 April 2019 | Town Council |
| 112 | Equality & Diversity Policy | 1 April 2019 | Town Council |
| 113 | Dignity at Work Policy | 1 April 2019 | Town Council |
| 119 | Prepare Easement | 1 April 2019 | Town Council |

125. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following items of correspondence recently received:

- a) NFDC Remittance Advices for CIL of £21k (15%) just received and half year Precept of £497.5k plus £90k developers' contributions towards the new Doe Copse Way play area.
- b) NFDC Utility charges for the Town Hall came in at £11.5k compared to a budget of £17.5k, plus Town Hall rent of £7.5k was in line with budget.
- c) NFDC charge of £1,500 for Market recycling bin (street trading requirement) that is recharged to the fruit & veg stall holder on a weekly basis.

Members expressed interest in these year-end financial procedures and updates.

126. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1, Schedule of Payments for 1 February to 31 March 2019 in the sum of £264,329.86, previously distributed.

The Town Clerk highlighted the payment of £108k including VAT to HAGS for the new Doe Copse Way play equipment, noting the Town Council is able to reclaim the VAT element of £18k.



Members raised the following queries:

- a) Cllr Short queried the four payments to Rejuvenate, our IT suppliers, totalling £3,282 for various items. The Town Clerk said costs are being monitored and a full analysis will be provided for members with the minutes.
- b) Cllr O'Sullivan referred to the monthly payments made to Alan Watson for the Neighbourhood Plan website and asked whether this could be paid as an upfront cost for the year, which was supported by members.

ENDORSEMENT:

The Schedule of Payments No. 08/18/19 covering the period 1 February to 31 March 2019 in the total sum of £264,329.86 was ENDORSED for Council approval.

127. MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2, draft Management Accounts for March 2019, previously circulated.

A recent saving of £6k was noted for F&GP as a result of the reduced Town Hall utility charges referred to above. Overall, results should be in line with budget for the year, with final figures available at the next meeting.

128. AMENITIES REFERRED MATTERS

The Town Clerk referred to the recommendation from Amenities (minute 139d) for a variation to the license for the consumption of food and drink across the Recreation Ground which had been suggested by NFDC for the Lions Food & Drink Festival on 24th August 2019. Cllr Clarke highlighted that this variation could incur a small cost.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That an application be submitted to NFDC to vary the premises license on the Recreation Ground regarding the consumption area.

129. GRANT AID

The Chairman suggested deferring the Grant Aid requests until the new administration, and this was supported by members.

Cllr Clarke asked that the Lions Club 'It's a Knockout' Grant Aid request be considered as this event is taking place on the 25th May 2019, as follows:

Lions Club – It's a Knockout – 2019/20 Grant Aid

Councillors supported the request for £500 from the New Milton Lions Club towards the cost of provision for sound amplification equipment for the Performance Pavilion and other infrastructure needed for staging the Lions ***'It's a Knockout Family Fun Day'*** on the Recreation Ground on 25th May 2019.

With Cllr Reid abstaining

It was, by majority vote

RESOLVED:

That £500 be granted to the Lions Club for the 'It's a Knockout' event taking place on the Recreation Ground on the 25th May 2019, under the General Power of Competence.

130. INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The Chairman suggested that the Investment Strategy be reviewed by the Execs after the elections.

It was agreed no figure needs to be mentioned in Item 6, Long Term Investments, and this change was agreed by those present.

Subject to the above

It was

RESOLVED:

That the revised Investment Strategy be adopted, as attached.

131. YOUTH WORK

The Youth Co-ordinator provided a written update which was noted by members.



Cllr Clarke suggested that lone working badges be purchased for the youth workers on the Recreation Ground following receipt of a quote of £200 per unit plus control room fees. The matter is due to be considered at the quarterly Police Liaison meeting tomorrow morning, in conjunction with NFDC surveillance and CCTV coverage.

132. ANY OTHER UPDATES

The New Milton Residents Association had applied for Grant Aid of up to £2,500 for the Battles Over VE events taking place on 2nd – 10th May 2020 to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day. This will be included in next year's budget together with an amount for CAB Grant Aid in future, it was suggested.

The Chairman wished to thank Cllr Short for his hard work and expertise on the Committee, noting this was his last F&GP meeting as he is not standing for Town Council at the next election, and members wished him all the best for the future.

133. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 17th June 2019** in the Town Hall, Ashley Road, New Milton.

The Chairman thanked members, the public and press for attending and closed the meeting at 6.55pm.

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



| Minute | Action Points | Date | Action by |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 126a) | Provide analysis of recent IT charges | 2 May 2019 | Town Clerk |
| 126b) | Website charges – annual charge | 2019/20 | Alan Watson |
| 128 | Complete Year End accounts | 3 May 2019 | Town Clerk |
| 129 | Lions Club Grant Aid | 3 May 2019 | Town Clerk |
| 130 | Amend Investment Strategy | 3 May 2019 | Town Clerk |
| 131 | Youth Workers badge | 17 June 2019 | Town Clerk |
| 132 | Grant Aid 2020/21 | 4 November 2019 | Executives |