NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON FRIDAY 1 DECEMBER 2023 AT 14.00 HRS AT THE TOWN HALL.

Councillors: In attendance:	թ թ թ	D E Hawkins – Chairman G R Blunden S J Clarke	p p	K E Craze – Vice Chairman D N Tungate
Officers:	G Flexman - Town Clerk C Rabbito – Town Development M			Estates & Facilities Manager Beardmore – Youth Services

The Chairman welcomed members to this third Executives budget meeting for 2024-2025.

21. <u>APOLOGIES</u> - None

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members have a general dispensation to discuss budgets and set a precept for 2024-2025.

23. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

24. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the last meeting held on 17 November 2023.

lt was,

<u>RESOLVED</u>: That the minutes of 17 November 2023 be signed as a correct record.

The minutes were duly signed.

25. MATTERS ARISING - None

26. <u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>

The Town Clerk referred to an email dated 1 December 2023 from the Public Affairs Manager, East & South-East of Lloyds Banking Group informing us of the proposed closure of the local branch of the Halifax, which is itself a division of Bank of Scotland, as follows:

"I am writing to you to explain that we will be closing the Halifax New Milton branch on 23 April 2024.

However, we will be providing a community banker to support customers locally after the branch closes. A community banker will have set hours in a space in the local area, such as a library. They will be there to spend time with customers and help them with their banking enquiries. We will be setting up this new service shortly, and we are happy to provide you with further information about it.

We have 28,392 personal customers New Forest West and 133 people are using the branch on a regular monthly basis. As a result, we have to respond to this changing behaviour."

The Town Clerk responded on 30 November expressing disappointment at the proposed closure of the Halifax, while supporting plans for a community banker, suggesting there might be an opportunity to run a Community Banking Hub in conjunction with HCC libraries. Town Clerk highlighted there was no mention of the local Lloyds bank branch also closing.

27. TDM BUDGET

The Town Clerk referred to Appendix 1, being draft TDM budget for 2024-25 totalling £25k.

The TDM went through the budget line by line. Cllrs queried £2.5k Hire of the Quaker Hall for Cookery Classes, stating this needed to be funded by grant/Coastal Medical Partnership who originally mooted the idea of healthy eating as part of their Social Prescriber initiative. Video Promotion of New Milton was deemed a good idea - Cllrs suggested £2.5k. Similarly, Contingency at the end was also halved. Overall, a budget reduction of £7.5k from £25k.

It was then,

<u>RECOMMENDED</u>: That revised TDM Budget of £17.5k be incorporated as part of the Finance Budget.

28. YOUTH BUDGET

The Town Clerk referred to Appendix 2, being draft Youth budget for 2024-25 totalling £50k.

The Youth Services Co-ordinator went through the budget line by line. Cllrs queried £18k support for New Milton Youth Trust, to transition the drop-in service currently provided by ASBOC at the Empire Skate Building on the Rec, stating this needed to be funded by a grant aid request from NMYT who have just raised a request for £10k to cover the period January - March 2024. An overall reduction in Youth Budget of £18k from £50k was agreed.

It was then,

<u>RECOMMENDED</u>: That revised Youth Budget of £32k be incorporated as part of the Finance Budget.

29. F&GP BUDGET

Based on revised budgets for TDM and Youth Services as above, it was

<u>RECOMMENDED</u>: That the F&GP Committee Budget for 2024-2025 be £638,919 having previously agreed the Amenities Budget for 2024-2025 in the sum of £720,010 the total, combined budget for F&GP/Amenities proposed for 2024-2025 is £1,358,929

30. FREEDOM OF TOWN

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3 - Freedom of the Town awards protocol for eminent service and long service plaques for retiring Cllrs who complete two or more terms in office. It was agreed to include both items in private session at the next Town Council meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 3.25 pm.

CHAIRMAN _____

DATE _____

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