# **NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 16.00 HRS AT THE TOWN HALL.

Councillors: p K E Craze – Chairman B Murrow – Vice Chairman

G R Blunden p D N Tungate

p S J Clarke

In attendance: Cllrs: D Hawkins, A D O'Sullivan, S Davies, R A Reid

Officers: G Flexman - Town Clerk

M Jeffries – Estates & Facilities Manager

The Chairman welcomed everybody to this third Precept / Budget setting meeting for 2022/23.

## 51. APOLOGIES

Cllr B Murrow, G R Blunden

## 52. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members have a dispensation to agree a budget and set the precept for 2022/2023.

53. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None.

## 54. <u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>

The Town Clerk referred to two items of correspondence recently received from NFDC:

a) An email from Louise Evans, Service Manager (Policy and Strategy) stating they have nothing to report specifically about work related to green space master planning in New Milton, as related to the Moore Close site and uses within Fawcetts Field.

The email was noted, and the matter referred to Amenities for further consideration, the suggestion being Town Council produce its own Vision Plan for the Moore Close site, as NFDC are currently progressing work on a wider ranging GI Strategy for New Milton.

b) An email from Matt Wisdom, Democratic Services Manager regarding councillors' safety noting the Local Government Association has launched a series of webinars following the tragic death of Southend West MP, Sir David Amess while serving his constituents.

These events are UK Government funded and will therefore be open to councillors from all councils, including local town and parish councils, with the first webinar being held on Wednesday 8 December 2021 from 10.30am to 12.00noon, per LGA newsletter.

## 55. Fees & Charges

The Chairman referred to Annex A – Fees & Charges for 2022-23 (Version 1) and it was

#### RECOMMENDED:

That the schedule of Fees & Charges for 2022/23 (Version 1) be endorsed by the relevant standing committees.

## 56. Committee Budgets

The Chairman referred to Annex B – Committee Budgets for 2022/23 (Version 3).

The Town Clerk highlighted the budget had remained the same over the last two years at £1,130,212, and we are now proposing an increase of £69,953 (6.2%) to £1,200,165.

The increase of £46,676 in Amenities expenditure is mainly due to £30k additional Cap-Ex plus £16,676 (2.8%) inflationary increases and an inflationary increase of £23,277 (4.3%) in F&GP expenditure.

Having reviewed Standing Committee budgets line by line, it was suggested Committee Budgets for 2022/23 (Version 3) be endorsed by the relevant standing committees.

But there were calls to lessen the impact on ratepayers, perhaps by drawing down monies from Reserves, such that the overall precept increase would be nearer the proposed inflation rate for next year of 4%. If that idea were applied to the figures above, it would result in a "subsidy" of £25k from Reserves.

[Post Meeting Note: At an Execs budget meeting held last year on 23 November 2020 it was RECOMMENDED: That £25k be earmarked in Reserves for Environmental Action Plan]

Subject to the above, overall Committee Budgets for 2022/2023 were agreed in principle, in the sum of £1,200,000 and it was

#### RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee Budgets for 2022/23 (Version 3) be endorsed by the relevant standing committees.

Town Clerk was asked to list all potential calls on Reserves (£450k acquisitions of land, £70k recent surfacing of the Rec play area and £21k for the Skate Park, plus £28k for new Bus Shelters in the Town Centre and as much as £50k for the Ashley project – Total £619k)

Estates Manager was asked to benchmark ground staff wages with similar jobs elsewhere.

## 57. LAND OFF GORE ROAD

Cllr Clarke referred to the overview and plan of the area distributed at the meeting and explained the rationale of two connecting pathways from the proposed new housing estate, one going eastwards towards the proposed new youth and family centre along the northern boundary of Fawcetts Field and the other connecting with the northern part of the Trim Trail.

## 58. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - TBA

There being	ig no furthe	r business to	discuss,	the	Chairman	thanked	everyone	for	attending
and closed	the meeting	g at 4.55 pm.							

CHAIRMAN		DATE
----------	--	------

# **Distribution**:

Members of the Executive Committee
Town Councillors – For Information
District Councillors C V Ward, J L Cleary
County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter and K Mans
Press

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by	
54 a)	Vision Plan for Moore Close	29 November 2021	Amenities Committee	
54 b)	Councillors Safety Webinar	8 December 2021	All Councillors	
55	Fees & Charges 2022-23	29 November 2021	Amenities / F&GP	
56	Committee Budgets 2022-23	29 November 2021	Amenities / F&GP	