K E Craze – Vice Chairman

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# NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON FRIDAY 27 OCTOBER 2023 AT 15.00 HRS AT THE TOWN HALL.

Councillors:	р р р	D E Hawkins – Chairman G R Blunden S J Clarke	p p
In attendance:			
Officers:		kman - Town Clerk fries – Estates & Facilities Manager	-

The Chairman welcomed everyone including Alan Watson to this first budget meeting for 2024-25.

#### 1. <u>APOLOGIES</u> - None

#### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

#### 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Representatives of the Community Garden attended and were advised to deal with officers as far as their boundary query at Moore Close is concerned, the Chairman stating it seemed to centre on the temporary Heras fencing for the NFDC housing development.

#### 4. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the last meeting held on 31 March 2023. It was...

#### <u>RESOLVED</u>: That minutes of 31 March 2023 meeting be signed as a correct record.

The minutes were duly signed.

#### 5. MATTERS ARISING

The Town Clerk referred to Minute 83 – Car Boot Sales noting the same rules still apply...

"If the council is the organising party of car boots, our Insurers Zurich confirm that cover remains in place under the Public Liability insurance. But this extended cover would not apply to business stalls or individuals who are selling items that make up their main source of income, this is because they are expected to have their own insurance cover in place. The cover we have in place is on the understanding that NMTC are responsible for identifying any potential risks and controlling them where possible in order to fulfil our duty of care."

Having previously taken legal advice, the Town Clerk confirmed details regarding extended cover under our Public Liability insurance will remain as follows:

"We intend using our Car Boot Supervisor again to organise Car Boot Sales on Sunday mornings along similar lines to this year, on the understanding insurance cover does not apply to business stalls or individuals selling items that make up their main source of income. It is purely for domestic car booters. With the Car Boot Supervisor identifying potential risks and controlling them where possible in order to fulfil our duty of care, in conjunction with our Estates & Facilities Manager, the charge will be £100 per car boot sale."

<u>RESOLVED</u>: That the above policy and charge of £100 per Car Boot Sale be retained.

## 6. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following items of correspondence.

## a) A request from the Men's Shed:

- 1) To run a Cat Scan over the area's to be dug to ensure that we know where any services are installed. These will be suitably marked in Blue for Water and Red for Electricity.
- 2) To dig an install a surface water drainage system via a soakaway as per the planning requirements
- 3) To connect to the NMTC sub watermain that crosses Fawcetts Field.

Executives noted our Solicitor's comment that such easements cannot later be varied/rerouted and that our Estates Manager should approve a plan showing the intended routes.

- b) An email from NFDC regarding increased election costs of £4,000 for the May elections:
  - A revised Hampshire & Isle of Wight scale of fees 2023, advised by the Government, which introduced an increase in Election staff fees (polling station and count)
  - New regulations introducing Holiday pay entitlement to Election staff (polling station and count)
  - The Elections Act amendment for poll card letters to be enveloped including increased costs of postage and stationery.
  - High numbers of candidates for ballot papers and stationery.
  - Specifically for New Milton there was also an additional ward due to the boundary changes which also increased these costs.
- c) An email from NFDC confirming 4 days free car parking in their car parks this year.
  - 1) This year, free car parking will be provided on 'Small Business' Saturday 2 December
  - 2) In addition, free car parking for New Milton Christmas event on **Saturday 25 November**
  - 3) And free car parking on the last weekend before Christmas Sat 16 & Sun 17 December

Executives noted the emails from NFDC that would be referred to F&GP on 30 October.

### 7. FEES & CHARGES 2024-25

The Town Clerk referred to Appendix 1, being the first draft of Fees & Charges for 2024-25 being based on an inflation rate of 5%.

Executives debated whether to raise charges by 5% or 6% and following a 3:2 vote it was...

# <u>RESOLVED</u>: That the Fees and Charges for 2024-2025 be increased by 6% overall.

Town Clerk will re-run the figures and provide further information on Indoor Bowls finances.

### 8. COMMITTEE BUDGETS 2024-25

The Town Clerk referred to Appendix 2, being first draft of Committee Budgets for 2024-25.

Members went through the budgets page by page, and line by line as appropriate as below.

### **Amenities**

Central Costs

4104 - Note Tree Work budget of £28k and this year's projections.

4723 - Re-introduce Ash Tree Dieback budget of £15k.

4721 - NFDC Dog Fouling Collection Scheme from the Fawcetts Field collection point.

4760 - Increase budget for Statutory Testing (including Legionella) from £7k to £12k.

**Recreation Ground** 

4103 - EOS Maintenance rather than EOS pitch maintenance on the Recreation Ground.

1012 - Review Rent for Indoor Bowls Club and provide further details about their finances.

**Open Spaces** 

1053 - Bus Shelter advertising at £3k on the basis of new urban shelters having ad space.

#### Amenities CapEx projects

Consider including new stock proof fencing around Barton Common as now 10+ years old. Consider new BMX Track be located nearer the north of the Vision Plan area at Fawcetts. Consider more play areas to the north of Barton and possibly at Hollands Wood Drive POS. In regard to the proposed Youth & Family HUB off Gore Road, retain £16k architects fees.

## F&GP

4042 - Refer to Advertising

4046 – Retain consultant's fees of £15k under Neighbourhood Planning Review

4047 – Increase TDM budget from £25k estimate to £32,305 requested.

4048 - Reduce Youth Co-ordination budget from £50k estimate to £26,950 requested

4061 – Increase Election Expenses (fund) by £1,000 from £5k to £6k.

4063 – Increase Twinning budget by £200 from £1,000 to £1,200.

4701 – Increase Grant Aid budget by 50% from £5,000 to £7,500.

# <u>RESOLVED</u>: That the Committee Budgets for 2024-2025 be revised, as noted above.

### 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS - None

### 10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - TBA

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 4.40 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