



## 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/re-routed 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...

**RESOLVED: 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.

**RESOLVED: 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