



Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of New Milton Town Council held on Monday 26 July 2021 at 6.30 pm at the Incuhive Centre.

Chairman p D N Tungate
Vice-Chairman p S P Davies

Councillors: p K Craze p S J Clarke
p R A Reid p A D O'Sullivan
p J Ward p M Brownsea
p G R Blunden

In Attendance: B Murrow

Officers: G Flexman - Town Clerk
S Ramsaywack - Youth Services Manager
E Towler – Youth Services Organiser

21. APOLOGIES - none

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - none

23. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - none

24. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2021, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Minutes were duly signed.

25. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

All action points have been completed within the timescales given.

26. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk read out the following items of correspondence:

- a) An email from Alison Talbot of Citizens Advice New Forest, thanking the Council for their continued support during the pandemic and highlighting some of their services including working alongside the food larder at Ashley Hub and helping 563 people in New Milton with over 2,000 issues from April 2020 - March 2021. The Town Clerk will include a copy of the statistics with the minutes and arrange payment of the annual £5,000 grant to CANF.
- b) Correspondence with the Outdoor Bowls Club regarding amendment of their rent due to the Club taking on more of the greens' maintenance. They were offered a £2k reduction in their rent but have requested a face-to-face meeting, which the Town Clerk will arrange next week in the company of Cllr Geoff Blunden and Mark.



27. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1, Schedule of Payments, for the period 1- 30 June 2021, in the sum of £118,990.37 as previously distributed.

The Town Clerk noted two May payments which had been missed off the last Schedule and highlighted the following items over £1,000:

- a) Complete Weed Control - Application at Fawcetts & Fernhill - £1,363.20
- b) Glasdon - Green route bins and benches - £6,752.13
- c) NMS - Benches/pitch materials and waste collection at two sites - £1,347.44
- d) Northfield Nursery - summer plants and planting - £10,423.20
- e) Rejuvenate IT - Management and telephone costs, software support - £1,027.90
- f) Turfleet Hire - Cutting at various sites and tractor hire - £1,780.80
- g) Vita Play Ltd - Emergency repairs at Recreation play area - £4,540.80
- h) Atech - Fawcetts tractor shed, repairs, maintenance, and lighting - £1,961.04
- i) Npower - Electricity Supply at Fawcetts and Ashley sports pavilion - £2,044.93

The Chairman thanked the Estates Manager and his team for their hard work in making the town presentable this summer.

Cllr Blunden asked when the Rejuvenate contract is reviewed to which the Town Clerk confirmed it is constantly under review.

ENDORSED:

The Schedule of Payments No. 02/21/22 covering the period 1 - 30 June 2021, in the sum of £118,990.37 was duly ENDORSED for Town Council approval.

28. Management Accounts 2020/21

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2, Management Accounts.

The Town Clerk gave a brief summary, with Amenities being £3k over budget mainly due to Fawcetts Field EOS pitch maintenance costs being received in the month. Green routes expenditure has been allocated to open spaces but some of it is covered by CIL monies. There was a £5k underspend last year on town hall costs due to staff working from home. This year to date, there is a £20k overall underspend with "savings" in Neighbourhood Planning, Youth Work, Comms and Prof fees.

29. Referred Matters

The Chairman referred to the Amenities Committee recommendation to help fund the proposed Fernhill Crossing Point via a CIL contribution of up to £4,500 towards overall costs of around £9,500.

Following a debate, with various options considered, members agreed with the Amenities recommendation. Cllr Blunden asked that the SLOW signs on the road be repainted when the crossing is installed to the fact they have worn away. It was then:

ENDORSED (for Town Council Approval)

That the Town Council help fund the proposed Fernhill Crossing point via a CIL contribution of up to £4,500.

30. YOUTH WORK

The Youth Services Manager read out her report at Appendix 3, highlighting the need to employ more youth workers with the growing demands in the youth sector locally.

Cllr Davies suggested the use of sports fields such as Arnewood School during the summer holidays when they are not in use by the school, for youth clubs to use for sports activities which was supported by members.

Cllr Clarke stated that there should be a meeting with other youth organisations in the town to discuss youth facilities and decide who is responsible for the Youth & Play Forum now that the Town Partnership has dissolved.

31. RISK STRATEGY

The Chairman referred to Appendix 4, Risk Strategy, which was noted by members.

The Town Clerk highlighted several points with members agreeing that the word 'Covid' can be removed as it is a general assessment, not directly relating to the pandemic. Partnership Working at Para 6.3 was reworded to cover external meetings, as well as partnership meetings, ensuring two members are always present.

It was then

RECOMMENDED

That the amended Risk Strategy be agreed and adopted by the Town Council.

32. ANY OTHER MATTERS - none33. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 20 September 2021 at 6.30pm - Venue to be confirmed.

The Chairman thanked members of the public for attending and closed the public part of the meeting at 7.30pm.

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

The Chairman moved that the public be excluded from the meeting for item(s) of business below pursuant to section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reasons of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

34. INVESTMENTS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 5, being an update on Working Party proposals. The Town Clerk read through the proposals which were noted by members. It was

RESOLVED:

That an account should be opened with CCLA along the lines suggested.

35. XMAS LIGHTS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 6, display contract tenders. Members agreed on the Spark X tender, in line with the Amenities Committee / Officer recommendation.

It was then

ENDORSED: (for Town Council approval)

That Spark X be appointed to install the Annual Festive Lighting Display for 3 years from 2021/22 to 2023/24 at a cost of £7,185 plus VAT per annum.

36. RECREATION GROUND

The Chairman referred to Appendix 7, quotes for repairs to the Recreation Ground play surfaces. The four quotes received were discussed by members who agreed the Amenities Committee recommendation to use the DCM who offered 'best value for money' as well as positive past experience at Doe Copse Way play area. Cllrs noted the large amount of use the facility on the Recreation Ground attracts. It was then

ENDORSED: (for Town Council approval)

That DCM Surfaces be appointed to resurface the Recreation Ground play area in the sum of £68,395.00 from Reserves.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the private part of the meeting at 7.40pm.

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
26a)	Citizens Advice New Forest	20 Sept 2021	Town Clerk
26b)	Outdoor Bowls Club	7 Sept 2021	Town Clerk
29	Fernhill Crossing CIL	9 August 2021	Town Council
31	Risk Strategy Adoption	9 August 2021	Town Council
34	Investments - CCLA account	9 August 2021	Town Council
35	Xmas Lights contract	9 August 2021	Town Council
36	Recreation Ground Play Area	9 August 2021	Town Council

Distribution:

Town Councillors

Estates & Facilities Manager

District Councillors J L Cleary

County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter and K Mans

New Milton Police

Press

Alan Watson – FOCUS & NMRA