



Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee of the New Milton Town Council held on Monday 1 February 2021 at 5pm through Zoom video communications.

	Chairman	p	S P Davies	
	Vice-Chairman	p	D N Tungate	
Councillors:	p	G R Blunden	p	S J Clarke
	p	K Craze	p	A D O'Sullivan
	p	A Reid	p	J G Ward
		M Brownsea		
In attendance:	Cllrs D Hawkins and C Ward			
Officers:	G Flexman - Town Clerk			
	J Hayward - Administrator			
	S Ramsaywack - Youth Services Manager			

The Chairman welcomed councillors, officers, a member of the public and a press representative to the virtual meeting.

Alan Watson, representing the New Milton Lions Club, referred to the £500 grant aid given for the Lions May Fair event which may be postponed and asked if the grant could be retained for future use.

213. APOLOGIES – M Brownsea

214. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Blunden, Clarke, and Reid declared an interest on agenda item 10 New Milton Youth Trust Minutes, being Trustees of the Youth Trust.

Cllr A Reid, being a member of the Lions Club, declared an interest in agenda item 3, re Grant Aid and took no part in the discussion or voting on that matter.

215. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members agreed that the £500 grant aid previously awarded to the New Milton Lions Club could be retained by the Lions for a future Lions May Fair event if this year's event was postponed due to Covid restrictions.

216. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the last meeting.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2020, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The minutes would be signed in due course.

217. MATTERS ARISING

Action points completed.

Minute	Action Point	Date	Action By
204 e)	Audit recommendations	4 January 2021	Town Council
205	Endorse referred matters	4 January 2021	Town Council
206	Budget proposals 2020/21	4 January 2021	Town Council
207	Endorse Oct/Nov payments	4 January 2021	Town Council

218. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following correspondence:

- a) An email from Julie Dunsdon, NFDC, confirming the 2021-22 precept will be paid in 2 equal instalments in April and October. NFDC are reviewing the request from the Town Clerk to have the precept paid in equal monthly amounts next year to assist cashflow.
- b) A suggestion from Cllr S Davies for all council meetings to start at 5pm for the duration of lockdown. This matter will be referred to Execs on 5 February 2021.
- c) An email from NALC regarding updates to hosting remote council meetings. NALC is continuing to press for an extension beyond 7 May 2021.
- d) E-mail from a resident requesting permission to do a leaflet drop to local properties around Brockhills Lane reference the Brockhills development. Councillors agreed that to give permission was not within our remit and that leaflet delivery was not considered an essential activity during lockdown.

219. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1, Schedule of Payments for the period 1-31 December 2020 in the sum of £178,460.92, as previously distributed. The Town Clerk highlighted the following items over £1,000, including several CapEx amounts in relation to Fawcetts.

- a) HMRC - Tax and NI £9,265
- b) Hants CC - pension contributions £7,462
- c) ATech Electrical - Xmas lights £5,103
- d) Ashley Family Hub – Mayors Charity donation £1,300
- e) Christchurch Powr Tools - Servicing tractor and hedge-cutter £1,233
- f) Gentworks - Fawcetts changing rooms refurbishment £3,904 CapEx
- g) Hygienic Walls – Fawcetts changing rooms refurbishment £16,119 CapEx
- h) NMS – Various green waste disposal £1,390
- i) Park Land Fencing – Replace 5 unsafe footbridges around Ballard Lake area £14,104
- j) Screwfix – PPE and plumbing items £1,405
- k) December salaries and wages £27,649
- l) ATech – Fawcetts refurbishment solar panels and air-conditioning £43,620 CapEx
- m) Auditing Solutions – Internal audit services £1,068
- n) City Heating Spares – Fawcetts changing rooms refurbishment £1,478 CapEx
- o) Countrycare Horticulture – 4 large Xmas trees £1,044
- p) Hibbs/NMS – Green waste and compost £1,081
- q) Hillier Nurseries – Various trees for Plant a Tree initiative £3,025
- r) PKF Littlejohn LLP – External audit 2019/20 £2,400
- s) SparkX – Xmas lights installation works £5,085
- t) Turfleet Hire – Tractor and groundkeeper equipment hire £1,308
- u) Vesper Conservation – Ballard Lake improvement works £13,535 CapEx

Cllr K Craze asked if the Fawcetts Changing Room refurbishment was being completed within the budgeted amount of £120k, and the Town Clerk confirmed it was on target.

Cllr A O’Sullivan asked why we used Hilliers as suppliers of trees and this is because the trees are native bred and come with “passports”. Cllr C Ward confirmed NFDC use them as well.

Cllr S Davies asked about the Xmas lights expenditure and if it was within budget. Cllr O’Sullivan advised that a Xmas lights ‘wash-up’ meeting was to be held shortly and costs would be reviewed and presented to the next F&GP meeting on 15 March 2021.

Cllr O’Sullivan asked about the payroll and accounting costs of £828, requesting a split and the Clerk said it was around £300 / £500. [Post Meeting Note: £308 / £520].

**ENDORSED:**

The Schedule of Payments 06/20/21 covering the period 1-31 December 2020, in the sum of £178,460.92 was ENDORSED for Council approval.

220. MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2, October Accounts, which was noted by members.

The Town Clerk highlighted that Amenities was within budget, despite Covid costs.

Town Clerk confirmed we had applied for £9k from NFDC for a contribution towards these costs associated with the Covid lockdown 2020 temporary road diversions.

Under F&GP, there were savings to date noted for Neighbourhood Plan, Youth Services, Communications & Media and Youth Grant Aid.

Cllr S Clarke referred to ASBOC suggesting that funding could be carried over for them should they restart services after the current lockdown.

There followed a discussion regarding funds going into reserves at year end and Youth Aid applications being considered as appropriate post lockdown.

Cllr K Craze asked about the Youth Services expenditure and if it was value for money as it supported a low percentage of the population.

The YSM said it was currently helping young people at Ashley, providing a service no longer supplied by HCC or others.

221. AMENITIES REFERRED MATTERS

Minute 247 c) of the Amenities Committee held on 18 January 2021 requesting a CCTV camera to be placed at Barton on Sea by the public toilets due to ongoing vandalism in the area.

Councillors supported the idea suggesting it be recommended to Town Council for endorsement with an approach made to NFDC for inclusion in their CCTV network.

RECOMMENDED:

That an application for a CCTV camera be made to NFDC to be included in their CCTV network.



222. NEW MILTON YOUTH TRUST

The Chairman referred to Appendix 4, New Milton Youth Trust meeting minutes, which Councillors noted, especially interest from youngsters to act as Trustees.

Cllr D Hawkins asked if there would still be a youth facility on Gore Road and Cllr Clarke advised it was still the ambition of the council to have a youth facility in the appropriate location around town.

223. YOUTH WORK

The YSM provided an update on youth work including the recent youth club event attended by a small number of young people adhering to Covid restrictions and allowing them an hour of social interaction. Future plans included online activities and Youth MOT sessions.

Cllr G Blunden asked what funding HCC were giving to support youth mental health as this was more likely to be their remit than ours.

Cllr S Davies thanked the Youth Workers and the Youth Services team for all their hard work and looked forward to HCC support.

224. YOUTH GRANT AID – None

225. GRANT AID – None

226. ANY OTHER UPDATES

Cllr A Reid highlighted the cheque presentation he made as Town Mayor to his nominated charity Ashley Family Hub in the sum of £1,850.

These funds were made up from £1,300 donations received from the Carol Service / Civic Service, plus £550 Coppers for Charity Campaign.

The Mayor highlighted the kind donations of ticket money from the cancelled Mayors Ball during lockdown at the beginning of 2020 and thanked everyone who had donated.

227. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held via Zoom on **Monday 15 March 2021** at time to be confirmed.

With there being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked members, officers, the public and press for attending and closed the meeting at 6.00pm.

Chairman _____

Date _____

Minute	Action Point	Date	Action By
215	Lions Club grant retention	15.02.21	Town Council
218 b)	Start time of meetings	05.02.21	Execs Mtg at 4pm
221	Request CCTV for Barton	15.02.21	Town Council

Distribution:

Town Councillors

District Councillors Mrs C V Ward, Mrs J L Cleary

County Councillors M Kendal, K Mans, F Carpenter

New Milton Police

Press

NMRA – Alan Watson