



Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of New Milton Town Council held on Monday 17 March 2025 at 6.30 pm in New Milton Town Hall.

	Chairman	p	D N Tungate	
	Vice-Chairman	p	A D O'Sullivan	
<u>Councillors:</u>	p	J Adams	p	W Davies
	p	G R Blunden	p	R Maynard
	p	S J Clarke		R A Reid
	p	M Scott-Johns		

In Attendance:

Councillors:

Officers: Graham Flexman - Town Clerk
Theresa Elliott – Assistant Town Clerk
Sam Welch – Administration Officer

The Chairman welcomed Councillors and 3 Officers.

102. APOLOGIES

Cllr R A Reid.

103. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

104. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

105. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 03 February 2025, as previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Minutes were duly signed.

106. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON AGENDA

None.

107. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following items of correspondence:

- a) An email from NFDC referring to a report from Independent Remuneration Panel into member allowances last November, the Town Clerk explained that elected Town Councillors (not those co-opted) are entitled to receive 15% of the NFDC allowance, Therefore, from 01 April 2025, they will be entitled to £1,183.20 per annum, which equates to £98.60 per month.

- b)** There is currently a Hampshire and the Solent Devolution Consultation, lasting until 13 April 2025, seeking views on a proposal to form a Mayoral Combined County Authority for the local government areas in Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council, Isle of Wight Council, and Southampton City Council. Further information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/hampshire-and-the-solent-devolution/hampshire-and-the-solent-devolution-consultation>.

108. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1 - Schedule of Payments for the period from 01 January to 31 January 2025 in the sum of £142,138.47. The Town Clerk highlighted the following items over £1,000.

Algeco	Second Hand 10' x 8' Shipping Container for Barton Common Volunteers, includes delivery fee	£4,110.00
Anthony Harris & Company	Red Book valuation on Robins Nest with adjacent land at Fernhill Lane	£1,000.00
B.Cole & Sons	Deposit refund following their use of Moore Close to host a Funfair in September	£1,200.00
HCC (Hants LGPS)	Pension Contributions - December 2024	£12,555.88
HMRC Cumbernauld	Tax and NIC - December 2024	£11,769.55
L.Kitcher Fencing & Gates	Replacement of dangerous existing gate at Lymington Road Allotments	£1,154.40
Npower	Electricity bills for ASBOC, Ashley Sports Pavilion, Christmas lights, Fawcetts & Moore Close for period 01.11.24 - 30.11.25	£1,443.58
New Milton Youth Trust	Grant Aid	£13,000.00
Rejuvenate	Provision of telephone + IT services & support	£1,359.53
L.Kitcher Fencing & Gates	Barton Common Fence & Gate maintenance + replacement HLS 3 wire stock fencing at Barton Common, Fence renewal at Woar Copse, Hazlewood Avenue entrance	£25,526.59
Christchurch Garden Machinery	Annual servicing of 12 Machinery & Machinery training for Estates team as required by HSE	£2,410.20
Lombard	Vehicle leasing DY20HTT, BC21NLU, BV71ZJZ, BW21NYH, DX67UYD - Contract Hire - January	£2,452.61
Npower	Electricity invoices for various locations in December	£1,462.04
NFDC	CCTV Line rental costs contribution 01.10.24 - 31.03.25	£2,564.00
Staff/ Members	Salaries and expenses January 2025	£39,794.48

Cllr R Maynard queried the following items:

- a)** A Vodafone invoice of £512.30, asking whether all devices covered under contracts were still in use and if any savings could be made. The Assistant Town Clerk clarified that not all contracts may be for phones, as some could cover other staff-used devices. She will obtain a full breakdown to ensure all costs are accounted for.
- b)** A Rejuvenate invoice of £1,359.53, noting that the charges appeared higher than expected and requesting further details on the breakdown of payments. The Assistant Town Clerk confirmed she would provide more information.
- c)** An NFDC invoice for £2,564.00, querying the cost. The Clerk advised that this covers 7 CCTV cameras around New Milton and includes the Council's contribution to line rental costs, emphasising its importance in regard to crime reduction.



- d) A Suna King invoice for £962.50, expressing concern over the cost. The Clerk explained that the charge is based on a daily rate of £250, and noted that this is the final invoice as the new website nears completion.

RECOMMENDED: That the Schedule of Payments for the period 01 January 2025 - 31 January 2025 in the sum of £142,138.47 be ENDORSED for Town Council approval.

109. JANUARY ACCOUNTS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2 - Monthly Accounts for January. The Town Clerk advised that Amenities is over budget by £47k year-to-date, due mainly to the employment of contractors, covering ground maintenance issues.

Regarding F&GP, the Town Clerk explained that £84k savings had been secured, and additional income received year-to-date. In particular, savings to date include £10,563 on Town Development, £15,609 on Youth Co-ordination, £12,677 on Professional Fees, and £5,000 on Election Expenses. Additional income received includes £14,579 from Grants, £10,935 from Miscellaneous Receipts, £5,260 from Interest, and £3,662 from Youth Donations plus £5,525 other savings.

In total, net savings to date £36,919 overall.

110. REFERRED MATTERS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3, which includes three referred matters from the Amenities Committee meeting held on 03 March 2025:

- a) Minute 98: A recommendation that the Town Council waive the £250 fee for New Milton Rugby Club's Funday event following their request for assistance with Portaloo's. It was,

RESOLVED: That the Town Council waive the £250 fee for the Funday.

- b) Minute 99: A recommendation that the proposed additional storage for New Milton Men's Shed, including space for solar panel batteries and a donated dust extractor, be referred to NFDC for planning advice.

A discussion followed where uncertainty over the specifics of the proposal was expressed. The Assistant Town Clerk noted that once NFDC reviews the application, the Men's Shed will be provided with criteria that must be met. It was also noted that the Assistant Town Clerk had approached NFDC on NMTC behalf and Men's Shed have approached in their own right and would be responsible for making their own application if required. Both are still awaiting a response. The matter was duly noted.

RESOLVED: That the matter be referred to Amenities upon planning advice.

- c) Minute 106: A recommendation that the Cricket Club Lease be endorsed by F&GP. The Clerk advised that the lease is nearing completion, with only a few details left remaining to be clarified. It was agreed to endorse this matter for Town Council approval.

ENDORSED: That this matter be referred to Town Council for approval.



111. POLICIES

The Chairman referred to Appendix 4, which includes updated policies and procedures on Biodiversity, Child Protection, Safeguarding, and Tree Work.

The Assistant Town Clerk informed members that these policies have been prioritised for use on the new website, with further batches to be reviewed in the future. The Tree Work policy had no textual changes, with only the rotation of years for cyclical inspections being updated. The Biodiversity policy has been restructured, with changes reflecting significant advancements in environmental and biodiversity considerations since the previous version. The Child Protection and Safeguarding policies have been reviewed by the Youth Services Manager, who also serves as the Council's Safeguarding Officer, and by the Town Clerk as Deputy.

Cllr S J Clarke, speaking on the Safeguarding policy, highlighted the importance of enrolling both Members and staff in the relevant training. A discussion followed regarding whether the training could be scheduled for a single day for both groups or conducted through online courses. The Chairman expressed a preference for face-to-face training but acknowledged that online training would be preferable to no training if an in-person session could not be arranged. The Assistant Town Clerk will look into scheduling the training accordingly.

Members noted these policy updates. It was,

ENDORSED: That these policies be referred to Town Council for formal adoption.

The Assistant Town Clerk left the meeting at this stage at 7.10pm.

112. GRANT AID

The Chairman referred to Appendix 5 being a grant aid request from New Milton Music Festival for £500 towards the costs of their forthcoming annual festival.

Following a discussion and a vote.

It was,

**RESOLVED:
That New Milton Music Festival be granted £500 from the Grant Aid Budget under the General Power of Competence.**

113. YOUTH REPORT

The Chairman referred to Appendix 6 – Youth Report, which had been circulated previously.

A video was then shown, highlighting activities taking place at the Youth Hub, including first-hand accounts from young people who had benefitted greatly from the opportunities provided.

Members commended the Youth Services Manager and her team for their excellent work and noted the contents of the report. Cllr S J Clarke remarked that the town should be proud of the opportunities available to its young people. Cllr G R Blunden commented that the Youth



Hub has truly blossomed, reaching many young people, and described it as a great success and worth every penny. He also expressed excitement about the Youth Council and shared his hope that more schools will join The Arnewood School in becoming involved.

114. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATES –

With great sadness, Members acknowledged the passing of Paul Brockman BEM, whose dedication to youth work in the community left a lasting impact, and extended their heartfelt condolences.

115. NEXT MEETING **MONDAY 28 APRIL 2025** at 6.30pm in the Town Hall, New Milton.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman then closed the meeting at 7.28pm

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
107a	Members Allowance Review	01.04.25	Town Clerk
108a	Breakdown – Vodafone	ASAP	Assistant Town Clerk
108b	More Info – Rejuvenate	ASAP	Assistant Town Clerk
110b	Men’s Shed Planning Advice	07.04.25	Amenities Committee
111	Various Policies Updated	31.03.25	Town Council
112	Grant Aid – Music Festival	ASAP	Estates Manager
114	Condolences to Mrs Brockman	ASAP	Comms Officer

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