



Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of New Milton Town Council held on Monday 29th January 2024 at 6.30 pm in New Milton Town Hall.

Chairman p D N Tungate

Vice-Chairman p R A Reid

Councillors: p J Adams p W Davies
 p G R Blunden p A D O’Sullivan
 p S J Clarke p M Scott-Johns
 K E Craze

In Attendance:

Councillors: Cllr D Hawkins, Cllr B Murrow

Officers: G Flexman - Town Clerk
J Bean - Committee and Civic Administrator

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, Officers, 3 members of the public and a press representative.

Public Participation

Helen Wallis-Dowling as chair of the New Milton Youth Trust thanked the committee for the £10K funding which was agreed at the last F&GP meeting in December. She advised that since the beginning of the year the Trust had employed two youth workers who have been carrying out detached youth work in the town. Detached work is work done out in the town and is not connected to a building and has been taking place on a Tuesday evening, with the workers visiting areas where the young people congregate. She advised that from 5th February the services will be extended to encompass two evenings at the skate park building and that activities and discussions will be based on the wants and needs of young people.

83. APOLOGIES

Cllr K Craze

84. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

85. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman thanked Helen Wallis-Dowling for attending the meeting and for the update. He was very pleased to note the progress in relation to youth work across the town and looks forward to hearing more in due course.



86. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2023, previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Minutes were duly signed.

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

The Town Clerk advised that all matters arising at the last meeting including the budget proposals for 2024/25 had been referred to at the last Town Council meeting and there were no outstanding matters to consider tonight.

88. CORRESPONDENCE

None

89. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1, Schedule of Payments for the period 1 – 31 December 2023 in the sum of £143,334.65.

The Town Clerk highlighted items over £1,000.

a)	Lombard	Vehicle leasing x 5 - BC21 NLU/BV71 ZJZ/BW21 NYH/DX67 UYD/DY20 HTT	£2,313.90
b)	A & T	Advertising - Carol Service/Christmas days/Co-opted Councillor vacancy/Christmas sponsors	£1,538.40
c)	Glasdon Uk Ltd	Commemorative benches x 6 (paid for by residents)	£4,212.00
d)	HCC	Pension contributions November 2023	£15,289.13
e)	HMRC	Tax and NIC November 2023	£17,780.74
f)	Hillier	87 trees/174 stakes/100 ties and spacers (12 x residents plant a tree income - 20 x ash dieback replacements)	£13,292.96
g)	Hydroseeding Ltd	Hydroseeding at Wessex pitch/training pitch/Ashley pitch/outfield pitches/remedials traveller damage	£9,108.00
h)	Ivel Aquatics Ltd	Health check remaining fish at Ballard Lake prior to draining in spring	£1,560.00
i)	L Kitcher Fencing	Fawcetts CAPEX yard improvements	£1,920.00
j)	Natasha Beatty	To provide cookery education classes during December (2 x 4 week)	£1,600.00
k)	Bryan Pinchen	To survey insects at Barton Common during 2022	£1,200.00
l)	Play Inspection Co	Play Inspection training and examination (£960 recharge to NFDC and Hordle PC)	£1,860.00
m)	SparkX	Replacement power box above Hardys Electrical Shop/strip tree and redress trunk of Old Milton Green tree	£2,106.00
n)	Tom Morrissey	General works site wide (10 days @ £150 per day)	£1,500.00
o)	Hillier Trees	6 x English Oak - Replanting policy	£1,346.40
p)	S M Lockyer	Final external works - Ashley project (S. 106) west of the pavilion and the new facility (incl. excavation, edge kerbs, type 1 sub-base and ACO drainage channels, & concrete hardstanding adj to south of the existing pavilion to enable players to remove mud before entering changing rooms	£10,635.60
q)	MTST Structures	Ashley Project Youth facility - internal fit out and external shutters (Section 106)	£10,000.00
r)	Staff/Members	Salaries and expenses - December 2023	£29,070.02



- a) Cllr G Blunden spoke about the £1,200 which had been paid to Bryan Pinchen in respect of the insect survey at Barton Common for 2022. He said that although this seemed like quite an expense, it is one of several eco surveys that are carried out at Barton and Ballard, noting some surveys are carried out by volunteers and therefore cost nothing. Although the insect survey is not a statutory requirement it does represent best practice and there is a degree of complexity to it. But it provides the requirements under the HLS agreement and needs to be an annual event for the next five years.
- b) Cllr J Adams asked about the amount paid to Hydroseeding Ltd towards “remedial traveller damage” mentioned in the narrative. The Town Clerk advised that the vast majority of this expenditure related to the Hydro-seeding and that the traveller damage aspect of this payment was minimal (£460).

ENDORSED: That the Schedule of Payments No. 6/23/24 for the period 1 – 31 December 2023 in the sum of £143,334.65 be ENDORSED for Town Council approval.

90. DECEMBER ACCOUNTS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2, Monthly Accounts for December 2023.

The Town Clerk provided outline results at the end of December being three quarters through the financial year, noting overall we are on track to be within budget by the end of the year.

Amenities is £17k over budget at present. This is due to Tree work and Tree planting being over budget as well as expenditure on open spaces. There had been savings under the Environmental schemes to date.

F&GP on the other hand is under budget, with reduced expenditure against budgets for Communications & Media and Professional Fees, although the Election Expenses and Events Expenditure had exceeded the budgets allowed for them.

- a) Cllr G Blunden made the point that whilst it is difficult to predict with complete accuracy expenditure on Tree Work and Grounds Maintenance as to some extent these vary with the weather and in particular the bad storms which had been prevalent recently. He wondered whether the monies spent on Statutory Testing which are quite considerably over budget could be more accurately predicted in the future.
- b) Cllr A O’ Sullivan pointed to the two entries concerning CIL monies on the Amenities accounts and wondered if in fact they were both correct. The Town Clerk said he would investigate further and report back. **(Post Meeting Note: CIL receipts to date of £22,485 had been received from NFDC and £17,773 had been transferred from CIL reserves to cover pergola costs and new bus shelters)**
- c) Cllr D Hawkins asked about the expenditure on CCTV and whether this would increase when there are more cameras in the town. The Town Clerk advised that the expenditure on the F&GP accounts relates solely to the ongoing costs of maintenance, that work at around £5K pa at present, but would increase if there were more cameras.



91. REFERRED MATTERS

None

92. YOUTH CO-ORDINATOR

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3, The Youth Services Report for January.

Cllr S Clarke commended the report and confirmed NMRA are funding the support for new parents group mentioned in the report that will be starting soon in the Memorial Hall.

Cllr Clarke offered final thanks for all the hard work and dedication that ASBOC had given to the youth of the town over the past fifteen years or so and felt several generations of youth in the town had a lot to thank them for.

Cllr Clarke was very pleased to see the Youth Trust are now stepping in and emulating the great work ASBOC have done in the past and was delighted the NMYT Youth Workers have already embarked on detached work within the town, and that the building-based clubs would be starting up very soon.

Cllr Clarke took the opportunity to thank Helen Wallis-Dowling for the many, many hours of hard work and strategic planning she had put into making all this happen and is looking forward to hearing more about the steps the town is taking to ensure that young people have the service that they want and need.

The Chairman added his thanks to ASBOC and to Helen, and to the Youth Co-ordinator for her excellent report.

93. GRANT AID

Cllr B Murrow advised that he would be submitting a Grant Aid Application at the next F&GP meeting in relation to funding for the Dementia Allotment. He had recently attended a NMRA meeting where the Comms & Community Engagement Officer had given an excellent talk about the allotment and advised he would continue to work with her to make it a success.

94. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATES

- a) The Chairman advised he is taking part in a 14-mile fundraising walk for Oakhaven Hospice, in memory of Betty and with thanks for all Oakhaven had done for him and Betty. Neil would ask the Comms Officer to send around the *Just Giving* link for anybody wishing to sponsor him and mentioned that he will also be undertaking a 120 kilometre walk in Spain mid-April in memory of Betty.
- b) Cllr W Davies advised that Charles' brother is also doing a walk for Oakhaven, in memory of Charles and he too would supply details of the *Just Giving* page for that.



- c) Cllr S Clarke advised the committee that he has given part of his NFDC allowance to the Youth Trust and urged others to consider this as well.
- d) The Chairman went on to mention the work that Mandy Hayes has been doing in the town and thanked her and her litter picking team for all their support.

95. NEXT MEETING

Monday 11 March 2024 at 6.30pm in the Town Hall, New Milton.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and closed the meeting at 6.55pm.

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
89b)	Provide traveller damage cost	ASAP	Town Clerk
90a)	Statutory Testing costs	ASAP	Estates Manager
90b)	Clarify CIL receipts	ASAP	Town Clerk
94a)	Just Giving – Oakhaven	ASAP	Neil Tungate
94b)	Just Giving – Oakhaven	ASAP	Wyn Davies
94c)	Councillor support for NMYT	On-going	NFDC Cllrs
94d)	Councillor support for litter picking	On-going	NFDC Cllrs

Distribution:

Town Councillors
 Estates & Facilities Manager
 District Councillors J L Cleary
 County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter and K Mans
 New Milton Police
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