



Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of New Milton Town Council held on Tuesday 16 September 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>	J Adams	W Davies
	G R Blunden	p R Maynard
	S J Clarke	R A Reid
	p M Scott-Johns	

In Attendance:

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

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, Officers and three members of the public.

Public Participation

Deputy Chair of New Milton Youth Trust, Sarah Conacher, and Youth Work Manager, Laura Myhill, spoke in support of Appendix 4, Grant Aid request. Sarah thanked the Town Council for its continued support since 2024, which has been vital in developing a professional youth work offer for local young people.

She explained that many young people attending drop-ins and detached sessions face challenging circumstances and may be considered vulnerable. The Trust offers activities such as graffiti workshops, DJing, rap sessions, face painting, gym sessions, cooking, and healthy eating, alongside education on topics including drugs, alcohol, internet safety, and sexual health, all described as invaluable for engaging and educating young people in a safe environment. Sarah also acknowledged support from local businesses.

Laura Myhill provided an update on the Trust's recent work, noting that since January, 193 young people have engaged with the service, including 30 at youth club drop-ins and 56 through detached and community sessions, 18 of whom were new attendees.

17 young people have participated in a weekly gym and fitness project at New Milton Leisure Centre, which includes a 6-month membership. A graffiti project involving 13 participants produced a new mural outside the Empire Skate building, while a rap and spoken word project engaged 7, with 2 performing at Forest Arts. 14 food vouchers were distributed to families in need, and 3 young people completed a 6-week reintegration programme, all now back in full-time education.

Following an entrepreneurial workshop where young participants developed and pitched business ideas, the winning concept, a face painting and glitter tattoo stall, was showcased at the New Forest Show, raising £550.

Detached youth work has been expanded, with two teams now covering additional areas including Ballard Water Meadow, the pump track and pavilion at Hordle, and the train station.



Parent feedback shared at the meeting highlighted the positive impact of the Trust's work, with families reporting support in helping children return to school, apply for college, and find safe spaces to build friendships. Laura added that the Safe Haven Project remains active, two new staff are in training, and the service's reach and impact have grown significantly.

Members were very pleased with the report, expressed their strong support for the work of the NMYT, and thanked Sarah, Laura and the Trust for their efforts, requesting that their report be formally recorded within the minutes.

The meeting then went into session at 7:03pm

35. APOLOGIES

Cllr J Adams
Cllr W Davies
Cllr G R Blunden
Cllr S J Clarke
Cllr R A Reid

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

37. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members noted the report from New Milton Youth Trust.

38. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 21 July 2025, as previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Minutes were duly signed.

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

Minute 29) The Town Clerk referred to an email received from the Youth Services Manager, which noted that no response had yet been received from the UK Rural England Prosperity Fund regarding a grant of £9k.

The Town Clerk reported all other Action Points from the previous meeting had been addressed.

40. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to following item of correspondence:

An email was received from the Communications Officer informing members of updates to the Calendar of Meetings, including the addition of the Mayor's Tea Party (21 February 2026), Civic Celebration (11 March 2026), and Towns Assembly (20 April 2026).

41. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1 - Schedule of Payments for the period from 1 to 31 July 2025 in the sum of £132,624.39. The Town Clerk highlighted the following items over £1,000.

Lombard	Vehicle leasing, DY20HTT, DX20HTT, DX67UYD, BC21NLU, BV71ZJZ, BW21NYH – June 2025	£2,373.48
Auditing Solutions	Provision of final Audit service 2024-25	£1,224.00
Empire Industrial Doors	New fire escape door installed at Fawcetts as required by statutory risk assessment (£4,280.40 CAPEX); roller shutter repairs (£870) and removal of faulty shutter (£288) at Cricket Club	£5,438.40
Flagmakers	Replacement + Spare Town/ Union Flags	£1,105.27
Glasdon	6 Pheonix Seats (benches) Covered by seat income	£4,212.00
HCC (Hants LGPS)	Pension Contributions – June 2025	£11,735.63
HMRC Cumbernauld	Tax and NIC – June 2025 (adjusted)	£13,094.10
Turfleet Hire	Contract Hire of John Deere 4066R Tractor, Front Loader & Pallet Forks (£828), Sportsground De-Compaction (£1680)	£2,508.00
WPGGroup	Ultra Low Sulphur Diesel for Fawcetts Vehicle Fuel	£5,036.40
Keffen Plant Hire	Fawcetts Field pipe repair (£216) & Ballard Meadow southern footpath (£19,200 CAPEX/CIL)	£19,416.00
L.Kitcher Fencing & Gates	Gate Post Becton Lane Allotments (£240) Additional height fencing at Outdoor Bowls club to remedy ASB (£2,004)	£2,244.00
Staff/ Members	Salaries and Expenses – July 2025	£43,841.45
Travis Perkins	Barrier fencing & pins for end of season pitch protection at Fawcetts & Ashley (£245.84), edgings for Recreation Ground improvements (£777.60) War Memorial, Fernhill footbridge repair supplies & hazard tape (£36.95)	£1,060.39
Vita Play	Playground inspections & maintenance Jan-May 2025 at Doe Copse, Ashley Recreation Ground, New Milton Recreation Ground & Long Meadow. (5 months)	£1,755.60
Wessex Sound	PA System & Sound Engineer Afternoon of Music 06.07.25	1,020.00
Lombard	Vehicle leasing, DY20HTT, DX67UYD, BC21NLU, BV71ZJZ, BW21NYH – July 2025	£2,452.61

Councillors queried the following items:

- a) **Vodafone** payment of £554.65, with Cllr R Maynard suggesting exploring the possibility of SIM only contracts to bring down costs ***[Post Meeting Note: Following previous discussions with Vodafone and a reduction of 5 unused phones, future invoices have been reduced to £323.71]***
- b) **Flagmakers** payment of £1,105.27. ***[Post Meeting Note: Includes 6 flags at £74.50 each, 5 other flags at £90.59 each, plus delivery of £21.11 and VAT]***

RECOMMENDED: That the Schedule of Payments for the period 1 – 31 July 2025 in the sum of £132,624.39 be ENDORSED for Town Council approval.



42. MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2 – Monthly Accounts for July.

The Town Clerk highlighted overall savings of just over £2k to date referring to Amenities, highlighting the savings on tree work including ash tree dieback.

The F&GP budget is also showing savings of just under £15k to date, due mainly to unbudgeted income of £17k from HCC/HAF.

43. YOUTH REPORT

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3 - Youth Report, circulated previously. Noted, including the HCC/HAF agreement.

44. GRANT AID

The Chairman referred to Appendix 4, a youth grant aid request from New Milton Youth Trust for £14,136.00 towards six months' salaries and oncosts for five youth workers delivering building-based provision at the Empire Skate Building on New Milton Recreation Ground.

It was

RESOLVED:

That New Milton Youth Trust be granted £14,136.00 from the Youth Grant Aid Budget under the General Power of Competence.

45. REFERRED MATTERS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 5, which contained a recommendation from the Amenities Committee meeting held on 01 September 2025 (Minute 37) to waive the £250 fee for the Mini Rugby Festival scheduled for Sunday, 05 October 2025.

It was

RESOLVED: *That the Town Council waive the £250 fee, as previously in March.*

46. INTERNAL AUDIT

The Town Clerk referred to Appendix 6, a letter regarding the Re-appointment of Auditing Solutions Ltd for 2025/26. Noted, with the Town Clerk signing it off at the meeting.

47. RISKS REGISTER

The Chairman referred to Appendix 7, Risk Register relating to Governance and Management risks. Noted, along similar lines to NFDC Principal Risks.

48. EXTERNAL AUDIT

The Chairman referred to Appendix 8, External Audit Report & Certificate. Noted, including difference of opinion regarding Christmas light tender treatment.

49. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATES

The Chairman had no updates.



50. **NEXT MEETING** **MONDAY 27 OCTOBER 2025** at 6.30pm in the Town Hall, New Milton.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 7.32pm.

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
39	Rural Fund Grant of £9k	ASAP	YSM
40	Additional Events x 3	29.09.25	Comms Officer
41	Post Meeting Notes x 2	ASAP	Estates Manager
43	HCC / HAF Agreement	ASAP	Clerk / YSM
44	Youth Grant – NMYT	29.09.25	Asst. Town Clerk
45	Rugby Club Fee Waiver	ASAP	Estates Manager
48	Notice of Conclusion of Audit	29.09.25	Town Clerk

Distribution:

Town Councillors
District Councillors J L Cleary
County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter and K Mans
NMTC Officers
New Milton Police
Press
Editor - Focus
Sue Larking – NMRA