NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON FRIDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 14.00 HRS AT THE TOWN HALL.

Councillors: p R A Reid – Chairman p S J Clarke

p G R Blunden p D Rice-Mundy

In attendance:

Councillor: D E Hawkins, A D O'Sullivan

Officer: G Flexman - Town Clerk

The Chairman welcomed members to this second budget meeting for 2025-2026.

23. APOLOGIES - D N Tungate

24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members have a general dispensation to discuss budgets and set a precept for 2026-27.

25. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

26. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the last meeting held on 31 October 2025.

It was,

<u>RESOLVED</u>: That minutes 13 – 22 of the meeting held on 31 October 2025 be signed as a correct record.

The minutes were duly signed.

27. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 18 a)

The Clerk referred to the email from Kathy Sirl regarding the New Milton "market", and it was agreed to refer to the Amenities Committee meeting on 24 November 2025.

Minute 21

The Clerk referred to a Letter of Support for Friends of New Milton Station, and this was agreed by members present. The letter was forwarded to Julia Stamper, as requested.

28. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk referred to a letter received from the Honeypot Children's Charity thanking the Town Council for two grants totalling £1,500 received in the last quarter of 2024-25, reporting how this funding was used to provide Honeypot support to young carers who currently live in the New Milton area. Thanks to the grant, they were able to welcome three young carers to Honeypot House for a 3-day / 2-night residential respite break over the last year. All three young carers were girls (53% of Honeypot children are girls) and their ages ranged from 9 to 12 years old. All the girls' wellbeing scores improved during the break, creating happy childhood memories that will last a lifetime.

29. FEES & CHARGES 2026-27

The Town Clerk referred to Annex A (Version 2), being Fees & Charges for 2026-27 based on an inflation rate of 4.0%, with annual review of leases and licences as they arise. It was

RECOMMENDED:

That Schedule of Fees & Charges for 2026-27 be endorsed by Amenities Committee.

30. COMMITTEE BUDGETS 2026-27

The Town Clerk referred to Annex B (Version 2) including those items previously discussed. Members went through and agreed the Amenities Committee items mentioned at Minute 20 including increased wages, staff numbers and revised managerial roles (discussed in more detail in private session). The Amenities Capex budget of £250k was confirmed. It was

RECOMMENDED:

That the Amenities Budget (v.2) for 2026-27 be endorsed by the Amenities Committee

Regarding Finance & General Purposes Committee Budget for 2026-27, a presentation by the Comms Officer detailed a reduced Communications budget of £6.5k and an increased Advertising budget of £6k. Other items referred to at the end of Minute 20 of the last meeting were agreed by members, including the Town Development budget of £11.7k which was retained following presentation by the TDM at the last Executive's meeting. The Youth Services Manager ran through the Youth Services budget of £37,780 for 2026-27, as detailed on page 18 of Annex B – Committee Budgets. The Clerk confirmed an additional amount of £20k is earmarked under Salaries & Wages for an Assistant to the YSM. It was

RECOMMENDED:

That the F&GP Budget (Version 2) for 2026-27 be endorsed by the F&GP Committee.

31. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

Reference was made to TDM duties, and the need to review these following the NP review.

32. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – To be advised.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting went into private session at 2.45pm.

PRIVATE SESSION

33. ESTATES & FACILITIES PERSONNEL

Current staffing levels were discussed, and the need for an additional person was agreed.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked attendees, closing the meeting at 3.00pm.

CHAIRMAN	DATE _	

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