

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON FRIDAY 31 OCTOBER 2025 AT 15.00 HRS AT THE TOWN HALL.

Councillors:	p	R A Reid – Chairman	p	S J Clarke
	p	G R Blunden	p	D N Tungate
		D Rice-Mundy – Vice Chair		

In attendance:

Councillor: D E Hawkins, A D O’Sullivan, R Maynard

Officers: G Flexman - Town Clerk
C Rabbito – Town Development Manager (from 4.00 – 4.30pm)

The Chairman welcomed members to this first Budget meeting this year.

13. APOLOGIES

Cllr D Rice-Mundy

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTERES

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

15. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

16. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the last meeting held on 16 July 2025. It was

RESOLVED: That minutes 1 to 12 of the meeting held on 16 July 2025 be signed as a correct record.

The minutes were duly signed.

17. MATTERS ARISING

Having referred to a hosepipe ban for parts of the New Forest from 21 July 2025 at Min 6a), Southern Water had today announced its cessation after 3 months. At Minute 7, reference was made to a Business Plan prepared for Gore Road Hub, recently updated (Town Cllrs).

18. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) An email from Kathy Sirl regarding New Milton market. It was agreed to defer this for consideration at the next Execs meeting.
- b) An email from Leigh Nash, NFDC Engineering Officer mentioning the availability of their line-marking machine for a range of tasks at local council sites.
- c) An email from NFDC confirming receipt of CIL Neighbourhood Proportion of £47,729.86 covering the first half of 2025-26. This 25% amount was received on 23 October 2025 and will need allocating / earmarking asap. A local council must use CIL receipts passed to it to support the development of the local council’s area, or any part of it, by funding:
 - (a) the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure or
 - (b) anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on it.

19. FEES & CHARGES 2026-27

The Town Clerk referred to Appendix 1, being the first draft of Fees & Charges for 2026-27 based on an inflation rate of 4.0%, with some fees rounded where appropriate.

The Chairman went through Fees & Charges page by page, the Town Clerk highlighting proposed ground rent reviews for the Football Club at Fawcetts Field, and the Friendly Dog Club at Long Meadow. Executives queried where the Men's Shed rent appears, and this will be shown on the last page under Open Space Fixed Rents.

Subject to the above, and amendment of the New Forest Runners fee on page 6, plus clarification of returnable deposits / charitable car boot sales on page 18, it was

RECOMMENDED:

That Fees & Charges for 2026-2027 be re-run and presented to Executive Committee.

20. COMMITTEE BUDGETS 2026-27

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2, being first draft of Committee Budgets for 2026-27. Councillors went through the budgets page by page and F&GP line by line as noted below.

Amenities - Central Costs

4001 – Increased wages and staff numbers after revised number of employees was agreed.

4002 - Employers National Insurance (NI) contributions are budgeted to increase by £16.5k.

4760 – Service Level Agreement costs cover town centre and Ashley Parade (Town Cllrs).

4761 – Statutory Testing costs including repairs are listed / budgeted to increase to £47.5k.

Fawcetts Field

1001 – Revised Football Clubhouse ground rent comes into effect 1 April 2026 (as shown).

Playgrounds

4101 – Play Equipment Maintenance budget of £2.5k is deemed sufficient after new equip.

Amenities CapEx - Projects totalling £250k include overall contingency of £17k, as agreed.

F&GP

4047 – The Town Development budget was retained following presentation from the TDM.

The Town Clerk was asked to review the Job Description of TDM (at forthcoming appraisal) Town Clerk was also asked to review various budget descriptions and prior year comments.

RECOMMENDED: *That Committee Budgets for 2026-2027 be revised, as noted above.*

21. CHAIRMAN'S ITEM: It was agreed to consider letter of support for FONMS at next meeting.

22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: **Friday 14 November 2025 from 2.00pm.**

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked Execs and closed the meeting at 4.45 pm.

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____

Distribution:

Members of the Executive Committee

Town Councillors – For Information

District Councillor J L Cleary

County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter and K Mans

Press