



**Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of New Milton Town Council held on Monday 16 March 2026 at 6.30 pm in New Milton Town Hall.**

Chairman p D N Tungate  
Vice-Chairman p A D O'Sullivan

Councillors: 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:

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

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The Chairman welcomed Councillors, Officers and 2 members of the public.

**Public Participation**

**Sue Larking** spoke in support of the grant-aid application (Appendix 5b) for the Friends of the Indian Memorial, noting that last year was the first time the Friends arranged the event themselves and that it went very well.

The meeting then went into session at 6:40pm.

97. APOLOGIES

Cllr A Reid (none received), Cllr J Adams

98. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr A D O'Sullivan declared an interest regarding the grant-aid application (Appendix 5b) for the Friends of the Indian Memorial, because of his involvement with the Heritage Society and his role in managing their banking.

99. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A discussion took place regarding the possibility of officially designating the Obelisk at Barton on Sea as a War Memorial, with differing views expressed.



100. MINUTES

The Town Clerk highlighted a typo in the Minutes of 02 February 2026 at the start of Minute 89, Schedule of Payments, where the first sentence should record the sum as £276,997.83.

It was

***RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 02 February 2026, as previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record, with the correction to Minute 89 noted above.***

The amended Minutes were duly signed.

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

The Town Clerk reported that all Action Points from the previous meeting had been addressed, including first 3 items referred from Amenities, as follows:

**Minute 91a) - Amenities min. 79c**

The Town Council Solicitor is in contact with Glossbrook Builders.

**Minute 91b) - Amenities min. 79f**

The subsidy request from Lymington & Pennington Town Council relating to the 119 Saturday Bus Service was declined.

**Minute 91c) - Amenities min. 80**

The Lions Club event is now being held on Saturday 23 May and will take the form of a Lions Community Carnival.

**Minute 94)**

The Cyber Security Policies were approved by Town Council. Insurance to be provided by Cybersmart, of London comes with Cyber Security certification from Rejuvenate.

102. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to following items of correspondence:

An email from New Forest District Council, who are inviting feedback on their Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy. More information can be found at:

<https://www.newforest.gov.uk/article/4207/Feedback-invited-on-Homelessness-and-Rough-Sleeping-Strategy>



103. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1 - Schedule of Payments for the period 1 to 31 January in the sum of £110,463.53. The Town Clerk highlighted the following:

|                      |                                                                                                                                                     |            |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Dale Carnegie        | Online Leadership Training Course for 3 Officers                                                                                                    | £4,320.00  |
| HCC (Hants LGPS)     | Pension Contributions – December 2025                                                                                                               | £12,953.66 |
| HMRC Cumbernauld     | Tax and NIC – December 2025                                                                                                                         | £15,560.51 |
| John Shutler         | High Priority Tree Works                                                                                                                            | £4,435.71  |
| Rejuvenate           | Provision of managed services, including pre-paid remote IT support                                                                                 | £1,261.20  |
| Anthony Harris       | Correspondence and attendance with Commercial Lease of Empire Skate building                                                                        | £1,200.00  |
| AquaCare             | January Water Hygiene Monitoring & 1 date in November (£1,180.91) Leak repair at Ashley Pavilion (£420)                                             | £1,600.91  |
| Greenlock Electrical | Site wide remedials on Emergency Lighting (£1,050.31) including replacement of failed emergency lighting at Ashley, Fawcetts & Fernhill (£4,102.90) | £5,153.21  |
| Rejuvenate           | Line rental (£173.39) New server cabinet including installation (£2,829.08)                                                                         | £3,002.47  |
| John Shutler         | Tree works                                                                                                                                          | £2,186.71  |
| Staff/ Members       | Salaries and Expenses – January 2026                                                                                                                | £42,298.20 |
| Lombard              | Vehicle leasing, DY20HTT, DX67UYD, BC21NLU, BV71ZJZ, BW21NYH - Dec                                                                                  | £2,452.61  |

Members queried the following item:

£4,320.00 paid to Dale Carnegie, with one member asking which officers attended the course. The Town Clerk clarified that the Assistant Town Clerk, Town Development Manager and Youth Services Manager had all signed up to leadership training.

**RECOMMENDED:**

***That the Schedule of Payments for the period 1 to 31 January 2026 in the sum of £110,463.53 be ENDORSED for Town Council approval.***



104. JANUARY ACCOUNTS

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

The Town Clerk highlighted an overall underspend of £49k.

Amenities reported tree work savings of £11.5k, a further £10k on Ash Tree Die Back, and £19k within Public Open Spaces. There were overspends on Wages & Salaries of £11.7k plus £5k on costs and on Statutory Testing of £20k. In relation to the Wages & Salaries overspend, the Town Clerk noted that savings of £19k within Public Open Spaces offset this. Overall, Amenities showed savings of £34k to date including £9.5k underspend on vehicle maintenance.

F&GP saw savings of £5k on Town Development. There were overspends of £4k within Youth Coordination, and £20k on Wages & Salaries, mainly due to youth work. The Town Clerk noted the unbudgeted £26k received from HAF. An additional overspend of £892 on staff training was noted; however, overall, F&GP recorded savings of £15k, pending receipt of Town Hall Costs.

Overall, the accounts show that 24% of the budget remains as the end of the year approaches.

105. REFERRED MATTERS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3, a referred matter from the Amenities Committee.

a) **Minute 98) – Open Access Policy (as amended)**

Following a brief discussion, it was,

**RECOMMENDED: That the amended Open Access Policy be ENDORSED for Town Council approval.**

106. YOUTH REPORT

The Youth Services Manager's report was noted.

A print-out from the Town Council Youth Voice website showing the new 'Meet the Team' page was distributed with members commenting that it could benefit from some refinement.

The Town Clerk referred to the narrative, highlighting the qualifications of the YSM.



107. GRANT AID

The Chairman referred to Appendix 5, Grant Aid requests:

a) New Milton Hub, The Memorial Centre

A request for £1,000 towards a replacement boiler and heating controls.

A discussion was held regarding the form submitted, noting that it exceeded the permitted amount by £500 and lacked supporting documents. Cllr R Maynard proposed granting £500 on the condition that funding is only released once other funding towards the full total had been secured. Cllr A D O'Sullivan seconded the motion. A vote was then held.

**Vote in favour of conditional £500 grant:** Cllr A D O'Sullivan, Cllr R Maynard, Cllr W Davies and Cllr M Scott-Johns.

**Abstaining:** Cllr D N Tungate, Cllr G R Blunden and Cllr S J Clarke.

With four votes in favour and 3 abstentions. It was,

**RESOLVED:**

***That New Milton Hub, The Memorial Centre be granted £500 from the Grant Aid Budget under the General Power of Competence, on condition that the grant is only released once other funding towards the full amount had been secured.***

b) Friends of the Indian Memorial

A request for £500 to “*provide a short service of remembrance, a written programme of the event providing a history of the monument and acknowledgment to supporters and light refreshments*”. It was,

**RESOLVED:**

***That Friends of the Indian Memorial be granted £500 from the Grant Aid Budget under the General Power of Competence.***

c) New Milton Branch Royal British Legion

A request for £250 towards the rewrite of the New Milton Book of Remembrance.

The Town Clerk noted they were now seeking £110 following a donation received. It was,

**RESOLVED:**

***That New Milton Branch Royal British Legion be granted £110 from the Grant Aid Budget under the General Power of Competence.***

108. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATES - None

109. NEXT MEETING **MONDAY 27 APRIL 2026** at 6.30pm in the Town Hall, New Milton.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked members for attending before closing the meeting at 7.12pm.

CHAIRMAN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_



| <b>Minute</b> | <b>Action Points</b>             | <b>Action by date</b> | <b>To be actioned by</b> |
|---------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 102           | NFDC Homelessness Survey         | 3 May 2026            | Local Residents          |
| 105           | Approve Open Access Policy       | 30 March 2026         | Town Council             |
| 106           | Refine YSM 'Meet the Team'       | ASAP                  | YSM                      |
| 107a)         | New Milton Hub £500 Grant        | TBA                   | Town Clerk               |
| 107b)         | Friends of Indian Memorial £500  | ASAP                  | Assistant Town Clerk     |
| 107c)         | Revised RBL Grant of £110 agreed | ASAP                  | Assistant 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