NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON FRIDAY 17 JULY 2026 AT 16.00 HRS AT THE TOWN HALL

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

In attendance:

Councillor: D E Hawkins, A D O'Sullivan

Officers: G Flexman - Town Clerk

The Chairman welcomed Executives, two other members, two members of the public and the Town Clerk to this first meeting of the year.

1. APOLOGIES - None

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

   Cllr D Hawkins referred to the Rugby Club ground being within his ward, and Cllr G Blunden said that Public Conveniences came under his remit as an NFDC Portfolio Holder.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

   None

4. MINUTES

   The Chairman referred to minutes of the last meeting held on 14 November 2025. It was

   RESOLVED: That minutes 23-33 of the meeting held on 14 November 2025 be signed as a correct record.

   The minutes were duly signed.

5. MATTERS ARISING

   The Town Clerk quickly went through those minutes and referred to previous items raised:

   Minute 18 a)
   The Clerk referred to the email from a local resident regarding the New Milton "market", and it was agreed to refer this 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 (on 14 November 2025) as requested.

   Minute 33
   Staffing levels were discussed and the need for additional Estates & Facilities person was agreed.

   It was noted interviews are taking place to appoint E&F person next Monday 20 July 2026.

   The Chairman asked the Town Clerk to recite the Terms of Reference of the Executive Committee for information, noting that two items had been referred to the Committee for consideration at this meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

a) The Town Clerk referred to the latest ***New Forest Together*** Campaign Update for July 2026 as attached. This item was referred to NFALC to consider as the appropriate body.

b) The Town Clerk provided an update regarding the future of the main post office in New Milton as it was officially confirmed today that Morrisons Daily on Station Road would close on Saturday 3 October 2026. It had launched a vacancy advertisement via its www.runapostoffice.co.uk website on 28 June, with a 10 July deadline. The advert sought a "successful retailer to incorporate a main post office into their existing or proposed business". They had received expressions of interest from some retailers.

c) Southern Market Traders had asked if it was possible to put 3 additional stalls in Ashley Road around the corner from Boots the chemist. Town Clerk to seek further advice from NFDC regarding extent of Consent Street status and whether this was acceptable.

d) The NHS Blood Transfusion service had approached the Town Council for advice and support regarding parking along the access road leading to the New Milton Memorial Centre. On certain days, the Memorial Centre hosts NHSBT blood donation sessions, which require a large blood donation lorry to access and exit the site safely, but vehicles are parking along this stretch of road making it very difficult for the lorry to manoeuvre Town Clerk will request a list of dates and Town Council will assist with providing cones.

7. NFDC TRANSFERS

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1 being an introductory letter from the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources at NFDC regarding possible asset transfers from NFDC to NMTC. Discussions centred on NFDC Public Conveniences on War Memorial Recreation Ground. Reference was made to our solicitor's comments that most of the "assets" with which we are involved with NFDC are more in the nature of "liabilities" especially in the case of toilets. It was agreed the Town Clerk would seek proper costings from NFDC as far as running and maintenance costs are concerned, as well as annual costs associated with vandalism.

NFDC approved a capital budget of £2 million covering 2026/27 – 2027/28 aligned to the 23 Council owned public conveniences across the district. The programme, informed by detailed condition surveys, will include the full overhaul (demolition and rebuild) of a small number of blocks, alongside maintenance and refurbishment works across the remaining facilities. This investment aims to ensure the estate is modern, safe, and fit for purpose ahead of Local Government Reorganisation. NFDC says it will deliver enhanced community benefit through facilities that better meet accessibility needs, support visitor experience, and provide a lasting legacy of improved public infrastructure for residents and visitors alike.

***RESOLVED*: Town Clerk to seek further advice from NFDC regarding costs of toilets.**

8. RUGBY CLUB

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2 - Rugby Club plans for Ashley Recreation Ground following their presentation to the Amenities Committee on 26 May 2026. The Town Clerk referred to further correspondence between the Chairman of the Rugby Club, and further advice from our solicitor that would be considered in Private Session. While the Council is supportive of their plans, it must address the infrastructure concerns raised covering toilets, car parking and logistics associated with increased activity alluded to. It was suggested a Working Party be formed to consider these and other aspects of the proposals.

***RECOMMENDED*: That a Working Party include Town Clerk, 3 NMTC Cllrs Blunden, Maynard, Clarke, plus an RFU rep, Rugby Club Chairman and Jamie Burton (NFDC).**

9. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

   Cllr Clarke referred to the importance of working with NFDC towards an Emergency Plan.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TBA

The Chairman sought agreement from members to go into private session.

The public then left the Public Session of the meeting.

PRIVATE SESSION - PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS OT MEETINGS) ACT 1960

Chairman moved that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business pursuant to section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reasons of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted:

11. RUGBY CLUB

    The Town Clerk referred to the latest advice from our solicitor regarding rugby club plans.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked Execs and closed the meeting at 5.15 pm.

CHAIRMAN ________________________ DATE ___________________

Distribution:
Members of the Executive Committee
Town Councillors – For Information
District Councillor J L Cleary
County Councillors F Carpenter, J Vigor and D Poole
Estates & Facilities Manager
Press

Terms of Reference of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall:

a) *Guide the Council in the formulation of its plan of objectives and priorities and for this purpose will recommend to the Council such forward programmes and other steps as may be necessary to achieve these objectives, either wholly or in part during specific periods of time.*

b) *Be responsible for reviewing the effectiveness of the Council's work standards and levels of service provided. It will identify the need for new services and keep existing ones under review. It will submit to the Council concurrent reports from other Committees on new policies or changes in existing policy formulated by such Committees, particularly those which may have a significant impact upon the resources of the Council. It will scrutinise the projects of the Standing Committees in particular regard to due process.*

c) *Be responsible for capital projects and land resources of the Council. This shall include arrangements for the acquisition, allocation, disposal and inventory of any land, buildings and / or substantial property.*

d) *Make preliminary budget recommendations to the Finance and General Purposes Committee, Amenities Committee and Planning Committee in time for them to table their formal proposals in accordance with the timetable prescribed in paragraph 4 of Appendix B (Financial Regulations).*

d) *Receive and deal with any special references from the Council.*

f) *Take urgent action in the interest of the Council in any situation where time precludes normal Council or Committee consideration of a particular matter.*

g) *Report back to Council / Committee as appropriate, all action taken with particular reference to any unavoidable departure from Standing Orders.*

h) *The Committee is authorised to incur expenditure on behalf of the Council up to but not exceeding £10,000. Authority to exceed this limit may be given in advance by the Council in specified instances only. (Financial Regulations refer.)*

i) *Hold a budget meeting in November of each year, and Strategy meeting within the first quarter of a new term.*