NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2026 AT 15.00 HRS IN 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		

Officer: G Flexman - Town Clerk M Jeffries – Estates & Facilities Manager

Chairman welcomed Executives, Town Clerk and Estates Manager to this second budget meeting.

11. APOLOGIES – None

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members have a general dispensation to discuss budgets and set a precept for 2027-2028. Cllr Tungate declared Trusteeship of HOPe charity that was further discussed under Min.15.

13. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

14. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to minutes of the last meeting held on 6 November 2026.

It was

RESOLVED: That minutes 1-10 of the meeting held on 6 November 2026 be signed as a correct record.

The minutes were duly signed.

15. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 6 b) A member asked what a grant to HOPe of £1,000 pa would achieve, comparing it with the £5,000 granted to CAB each year; another thought £1,000 pa was in the right order. HOPe was described as doing more work than people realised, including home visits for advice, which CAB will not do, largely through volunteers with very few paid staff. It was proposed to reduce general grant aid budget from £5,000 to £4,000 /grant HOPe £1,000 pa.

Minute 6 c) The formal decision on the public toilets is to pause any takeover for a year and revisit it in next year's budget. NFDC's figures of £26k were judged to understate running costs: recent indications are the cleaning element alone is likely to cost £21,900, based on two cleans a day, taking the total nearer £37k, rather than £26k. The likely route is to seek a CPI-indexed annual contribution from NFDC rather than accept double taxation.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to a letter from Anthony Harris enclosing an easement for sewer connection on land owned by the council to the rear of the Old Barn Inn that is earmarked for the Youth & Community Centre, off Gore Road. The document was duly signed by Neil Tungate, Chair of F&GP and David Rice-Mundy, Chairman of the Council. Once the “pipe” is in place, no building should take place within 3 metres of the sewer / drain, it was noted.

17. COMMITTEE BUDGETS

Town Clerk referred to Version 2, being second draft of Committee Budgets for 2027-28. Councillors went through the document, noting matters previously discussed, as follows.

Amenities Budget

4001 – In regard to clearing of roads / pavements following loss of the NFDC street cleaner. Estates Manager explained NMTC previously had a regular litter picker employed by NFDC overseen by NMTC, then a dedicated cage driver on the understanding he would do other work in New Milton; he was recently taken away, and now someone attends intermittently. Under the SLA, NFDC was to provide the litter picker for New Milton working under our direction, and that worked well, but has gone. NMTC may undertake cleaning work under the SLA, but is not paid for it; the agreement is only permission to sort out the town centre.

Action Point: Estates Manager to establish from NFDC responsibility for street cleaning.

RECOMMENDED: That the Amenities Budget for 2027-28 be endorsed by Amenities.

Version 2 of F&GP Committee Budget addressed the following items previously discussed.

F&GP Budget
4011 – TDM employment costs now deleted pending a review of the post by consultants.
4029 – Town Development revenue budget now replaced by consultants' fee of £25,000.
4046 – Neighbourhood Planning budget now deleted as the review likely to end 2026-27.
4061 – Election Expenses budget of £36k now increased to £43k following NFDC advice.

RECOMMENDED: That F&GP Committee Budget for 2027-28 be endorsed by F&GP.

18. ***ENDORSEMENT: That total precept of £1,774,028 be endorsed for Council approval.***

19. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

The Chairman confirmed up-to-date Taxable Properties figures for 2027-2028 would be available from NFDC next week, ahead of the F&GP Committee meeting on 7th December. With a further 100 houses, this would reduce the proportion of Council Tax "B" to £162.38 per Taxable Property, equivalent to an increase of £11.66 pa, or 22p per week.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: **TBA**

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone closing the meeting at 3.45 pm.

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____

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