

NEW MILLS TOWN COUNCIL

New Mills Town Hall, New Mills, High Peak SK22 4AT

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Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in The Council Chambers, New Mills Town Hall, New Mills At 7.00pm on Monday 11 November 2024

Councillors Present Steve Davey (Chair), Lyn Bannister, Andrew Denton, Katy Pearson, Matthew Donavon, Michelle Bancroft, Margaret Ritchie, Beth Eadie and John Reed.

In Attendance 1 member of the public, a representative of Rock Mill Centre. Derbyshire County Council (DCC) Cllr Anne Clark, Clare Wild (Clerk)

Meeting opened at 7.02pm

FTC/24/242 Introductions and Apologies for Absence

Absent Cllrs: Katy Pearson and Simon Evans had had presented apologies.

No apologies had been received from local police or High Peak Borough Council (HPBC) Cllrs

All present made introductions

FTC/24/243 Variation of Order of Business

None

FTC/24/244 Declaration of Members Interests

None

FTC/24/245 Public Speaking

No member of the public spoke

No members of the Community Police had attended.

Derbyshire County Council (DCC) Councillor Anne Clarke provided a verbal report to the Council, which highlighted

- Thank you to New Mills Town Council for organising the Remembrance Sunday event, it had been well attended.
- DCC Consultation relating to discretionary funding had concluded and annual funding to the New Mills and District Volunteer Centre would cease.
- The Chair advised that he had responded on behalf of the Council on the DCC Consultation on the 2025-2029 draft plan
- Attention would be given to Meal Street as this had been of required remedial work for some time, and members expressed

concern that any cobbles that would be removed during remedial work be replaced.

Cllr Lyn Bannister spoke as a member of the public

- to complain about the 'white' lighting at the front of the Town Hall that encroached into her property
- to advise that New Mills Primary wanted to hold their School Council meeting in the Council Chamber, Cllr Beth Eadie(BE) as Chair of Communications and Engagement Committee considered this to be a useful community initiative that could be offered to all school in the Town and would look towards progressing this offer.

FTC/24/246 Minutes of the previous meetings

Chair advised that temporary internal changes in responsibility for production of the minutes would not be continuing and that this, again, would be for the Clerk to facilitate.

Council had expressed their frustration and disappointment at crucial information not being shared with public in a transparent way.

Recommendations from the Councils Committees

FTC/24/247 Parks and Open Spaces Strategy Group

RESOLVED: The Council appointed a working party to develop the New Mills Town Councils Five Year Strategy for their Parks and Open Spaces. It had been anticipated that the group would be in place for approximately a year in order to scope, develop the strategy and create an action plan.

Whilst it had been hoped that Council will be presented with a proposal to consider in a smaller time frame, it had been envisaged that the group would carry out some initial monitoring in order to make suggestions of any adjustments or improvements.

FTC/24/248 Lighting at the Town Hall

With regards to fulfilling a previous resolution for the lighting in the car park to be turned off late evening, the Council requested that the cost for the introduction of sensor lighting be investigated to ensure the safety of members of the public using the Town Hall and also the officers that worked in the building.

RESOLVED: The Council agreed to change the base of the lighting on the Town Hall to a red/orange light as recommended by an external lighting specialist and install shielding to ensure building illuminated only.

FTC/24/249 Rock Mill and NMTC joint Signage Project

Members noted that Cllr Lyn Bannister would be the lead for New Mills Town Council on this project, which had already secured funding.

Policies presented by the Communications and Engagement Committee

Council had been presented with the following policies for consideration

- FTC/24/250** **RESOLVED:** The Council to update the new Co-option Policy with the agreed word limit of 500 words on each section on the application form
- FTC/24/251** **RESOLVED:** The Council to update the volunteer policy to introduce a new shorter agreement for one off events and confirmation that not all roles would require Officers to complete an ID check when not deemed necessary.
- FTC/24/252** **RESOLVED:** The Council to introduce and adopt a new Complaints Policy
- FTC/24/253** **RESOLVED:** The Council to introduce and adopt a new policy for Appointing non-council members to committees of New Mills Town Council.

New Mills Town Council Membership

- FTC/24/254** **RESOLVED:** The Council noted that as no poll has been called there would be two vacancies on New Mills Town Council and wanted to proceed with the recruitment process, in accordance with the new Co-option Policy. The advertisement would be displayed from tomorrow, using the usual methods of communication, and the closing date would be 29 October 2024.
- FTC/24/255** Members noted that the written application would be considered at the next Council meeting, to be held on Monday 9 December 2024 and agreed to provide a list of the questions to be shared with the candidates in advance of the meeting to the Clerk by 29 October 2024.

Finance

FTC/24/256 Authorisation of Payments

Town Hall Payments Arising - To 5th November 2024				
Payment	Recipient	Trans	Details	Sub Total
D	Clover	6146	Card Reader Rental to 01 Sept 2024	£ 8.39
D	Clover	6145	Service Charges & Fees 01-30 Sept 2024	£ 25.99
D	American Express	6.47	Card Charges to 11 Oct 204	£ 0.02
D	Deere Financial	6142	Tractor Rental - Oct 24	£ 725.92
D	Everflow	5158	Water Inv 01-30 Nov 24	£ 382.77
Credit	Everflow	6035- CN	Water Inv 01-30 Oct 24	-£ 396.04
D	Sage	6157	Chargable Period 01-30 November 2024	£ 89.40
Credit	Ecotricity	6150-CN	LLR - 01-31 Aug 2024 - previous invoice presented	-£ 66.24
D	Ecotricity	6150	LLR - 01-31 Aug 2024 - represented invoice - actual charge	£ 23.04
Credit	Ecotricity	6151-CN	LLR - 01-30 Sep 2024 - previous invoice presented	-£ 67.06
D	Ecotricity	6151	LLR - 01-30 Sep 2024 - represented invoice actual charge	£ 22.63
			Direct Debit	£ 748.82
POA	Ginge & Co	6137	Ice Cream PO100217	£ 66.00
POA	BT	6139	HC - Regular Charges 01-31 Oct & Usage Charges 22 Sept-20 Oct 2024	£ 58.28
POA	Peak Bean	6138	Ground Filter Coffee PO100128	£ 57.00
			Paid Previously	£ 181.28
B	Storry	6144	Professional Fees - October 2024	£ 1,256.67
B	RMS Ambulance	6160	Medical Services for Bonfire	£ 408.00
B	CBC Computers	6143	TH - Server Battery - PO100223	£ 261.60
B	Nemisis	6141	Fireworks Dislay Charge Increase - 2nd November 2024 - PO100082	£ 240.00
B	Foster	6153	JD Tractor Wing Repair	£ 227.93
B	DJ Catterall	6134	Fuel Acc. Sept 2024 (Tractor/LR/Cans)	£ 211.10
B	ESPO	6132	Parks - ExHD Bin Liners/Hand Towels/Toilet Rolls - PO100221	£ 205.50
B	Wild C/Bookers	6159	HLH/HC - Coffee Shop Stock	£ 182.18
B	Wild	6148	Petty Cash Top up for HLH	£ 150.00
B	FP Mailing	6135	Charge Period 15 Oct 2024 - 14 Jan 2025	£ 90.00
B	David G Ross	6136	Parks Plants/Potting Grit/Horticultural Sand	£ 85.44
B	ESPO	6133	TH-HLH/HC - Office Stationery - PO100211	£ 83.28
B	Wild C/Amazon	6131	Foam Fire Extinguishers x 3 - PO100226	£ 71.85
B	Senior	5156	Tarmac & Laths	£ 60.91
B	A Ainsworth	6154	Pest Control	£ 50.00
B	Espo	6155	HLH/HC - Toilet Rolls/Blue Roll/Handwash - PO100231	£ 46.14
B	Screwfix	6140	Padlocks for Parks Toilets x 4	£ 36.96
B	Lewis	6149	Mobile Phone Top up	£ 20.00
B	Wild C/Amazon	6152	Union Flag - PO100229	£ 17.00
			To be Paid	£ 3,704.56
				£ 4,634.66

RESOLVED: The Council approved payments for the expenditure presented to all members in advance of the meeting.

FTC/24/257 Financial Information

Finances for New Mills Council - Meeting 11-11-24

New Mills Town Council
Financial Information for Council - 11th November 2024
(as at 6th November 2024)

BANK RECONCILIATION

Total Balances brought forward	01/10/2024	£	281,252.36
		Income	£ 38,841.36
		Expenditure	£ (78,050.06)
		Income banked but not showing on statement	£ -
		Income unrepresented last month now showing on bank	£ -
Total Balances Carried forward	31/10/2024	£	242,043.66

Bank Balances from statements dated			31/10/2024
Account		Balance	
Community Directplus	£	8,000.00	
Business Select Instant Access	£	179,457.14	
Business Select 14 Day Reserves	£	28,395.85	
Business Select 14 Day Ring Fenced	£	7,419.51	
Unity Trust Reserve	£	20,108.15	
Petty Cash	£	89.34	
	£	<u>243,469.99</u>	

Oct-24	Actual YTD	BudgetYTD	Variance
Income	£466,252	£454,392	£11,860
<u>Expenditure</u>			
HC Purchases	£6,082	£11,330	(£5,248)
Personnel Costs	£159,510	£177,467	(£17,957)
Property Costs	£35,312	£37,844	(£2,532)
Vehicle & Equipment costs	£38,972	£12,446	£26,526
General Expenses	£42,550	£39,004	£3,546
Professional fees	£13,041	£16,805	(£3,764)
Net income/(Expenditure)	£170,785	£159,496	£11,289

The Council noted financial information as at 6 November 2024. Cllr John Reed voiced concern over the rise in employers National Insurance on budget setting and the impact of projects to be included for 2025-2026.

FTC/24/260 Pre-Payment Cards for Council Officers

RESOLVED: The Council approved that agreed named officers roles/ department leads would be allocated a Pre-Payment card with limits already set in the Financial Regulations.

Clerk would develop the internal controls and payments would be presented to members for authorisation as will other payments

FTC/24/259 Planning

The Chair advised all present that NMTC had limited weight in the decisions made by HPBC. Four options would be provided to members on the applications presented between 5 August 2024 and 3 September 2024: support, object, do not object, or just provide comment.

RESOLVED: The Town Council made the following comments

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	SITE ADDRESS	APPLICANT	COMMENT
HPK/2024/0300	Retrospective permission for a detached summerhouse and engineering works	Hurstfield House Hague Bar New Mills SK22 3AT	Mr B Wood	Do not object
http://planning.highpeak.gov.uk/portal/servlets/ApplicationSearchServlet?PKID=267619				
DET/2024/0036	Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Change of use from Commercial Business and Service (Use Class E) to One Dwellinghouse (Use Class C3)	Printers Arms Thornsett Birch Vale SK22 1AZ	Mrs V Turner	Do not object
http://planning.highpeak.gov.uk/portal/servlets/ApplicationSearchServlet?PKID=268559				
HPK/2024/0440	Proposed removal of existing conservatory and replaced with new single story rear extension	17 Parkway New Mills SK22 4DU	Mr E Bilvinas	Do not object
http://planning.highpeak.gov.uk/portal/servlets/ApplicationSearchServlet?PKID=268475				

Chair reminded members that an extension to extend temporary access over Co-op Fields by owners of Mount Pleasant had been considered by HPBC planning department.

Correspondence

- FTC/24/261** The Town Council noted the correspondence received during October 2024.
Chair advised members that the footpath 93 closure notice provided by DCC for Hague Bar Meadows had been revoked as plans had not been finalised by Network Rail.
- FTC/24/262** Cllr BE read out a letter that had been sent to her by a member of the public requesting additional information on how the Council had reached the decision to waive legal fees (FTC/24/147). The Council noted this correspondence.

New Mills Town Council Events

- FTC/24/263** **Bonfire and Fireworks**, Saturday 2 November 2024. LB, who would be acting as Event Co-ordinator, thanked Staff and Volunteers for helping with the event. £2,236 had been taken in donations, a proportion of these donations had been presented to Kinder Mountain Rescue for supporting the event and their wider service to the Town.
A post event review meeting had been with key officers which would be discussed with more detail at the next POSE committee meeting when members would form a recommendation to make to the council regarding early in 2025 and if a consultation should take place, what questions the public could be asked.
- FTC/24/264** **Remembrance Sunday** A post event review meeting had been with key officers and there had been slight operational improvements that could be made for next year. The Council had provided light refreshments at High Lea Hall, when the service had ended at High Lea Park, which had been an opportunity for members of the public to view a newly acquired memorial plaque recently erected in the hall way.
- FTC/24/265** **NMJFC/NMTC Public Meeting, Friday 15 November 2024.** Cllr BE declared a personal interest in the item, but had not been required to leave the room. Meeting had been advertised across the Town and particularly in New Mills East and with local residents.
RESOLVED: The Council would accept further comments as part of the latest consultation up until Monday 9 December. Findings would be considered by members in the Council meeting to be held on Monday 13 January 2025.
- FTC/24/266** **Christmas Lights and Town Light Switch On**
RESOLVED: The Council would not be providing an event but would consider other ways to engage with the community over the festive period.

High Lea Hall (HLH)

FTC/24/267

The Council expressed their thanks to the Hospitality Lead and Communications Officer efforts, especially opening High Lea Hall through the summer months.

The Council noted that there had been no internal expressions of interest regarding the High Lea Hall Lead Role but would continue to support HLH opening at weekends throughout the winter.

FTC/24/268

Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED: The press and public had been excluded from the meeting of the following matters on the grounds that they could involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in The Local Government Act, Schedule 12A, Part 1.

High Lea Hall Lead Officer Role

FTC/24/269

Council discussed the job description that had been presented for consideration and to advertise the vacancy externally but concluded they wanted more time to reflect on the future of High Lea Hall, including the development to the five year plan before proceeding with any further decisions.

FTC/24/270

RESOLVED: The Council agreed to extend the meeting by ten minutes.

FTC/24/271

RESOLVED: The Council wanted to develop a new zero hours HLH Café Supervisor role that would enable HLH to be operational whilst the High Lea Committee could present the Council with proposals for staffing considerations for the New Year and requested that the Personnel Committee review the job description before being put forward for Council approval.

Cllrs would lead any events that had already been scheduled at High Lea Hall in the coming months.

FTC/24/272

RESOLVED: The Council agreed to close the meeting at 9.10 pm

Signed as a true and correct record of the meeting

Chair _____ Date _____

**** Please ensure that each page is signed and dated****