

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 9 December 2024

Councillors Present Steve Davey (Chair), Lyn Bannister, Katy Pearson, Matthew Donovan, Margaret Ritchie, Beth Eadie, Simon Evans and John Reed.

In Attendance 1 member of the public, Clare Wild (Clerk)

Attendance

Meeting opened at 7.03pm

FTC/24/280 Introductions and Apologies for Absence

Absent Cllrs: Andrew Denton, and Michelle Bancroft had presented apologies.

Derbyshire County Council (DCC) Cllr Anne Clarke sent her apologies.

High Peak Borough Council (HPBC) Cllr Jeni Benzer sent her apologies.

No apologies had been received from local police.

All present made introductions

FTC/24/281 Variation of Order of Business

None

FTC/24/282 Declaration of Members Interests

Cllr Lyn Bannister (LB)

- Item 9 Future Use of Co-op Fields. As the owner of Mount Pleasant and licensee with access through Co-op Fields. LB would leave the meeting during the discussion and any votes

Cllr Simon Evans (SE)

- Item 11 Planning. As a member of the Development and Planning Committee HPBC. SE would remain in the meeting but have no vote.

FTC/24/283 Public Speaking

No members of the public spoke

No member from the Community Police had attended.

DCC Councillor Anne Clarke (AC) provided a written report to the Council that had been read aloud by the Chair, which highlighted

- Ofsted Report following a review of DCC Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) had voiced significant concerns over widespread failings.
- DCC Cabinet met and decided to close and sell The Jubilee Centre in New Mills, an adult day care centre and a further eight care homes across Derbyshire. Discretionary Funding had also been withdrawn, this had previously supported New Mills and District Volunteer Centre (NMDVC).
- Plans to develop residential dwellings within the former New Mills Adult Education Centre (NMAEC) had been submitted to HPBC.
- Cllr AC had spent majority of last month working to restore blocked and damaged drains.

HPBC Cllr Simon Evans, New Mills West Ward, provided a verbal report

- He expressed thanks to New Mills Town Council (NMTC) for allowing HPBC to use the Town Hall to host an information and consultation session regarding the proposed changes for New Mills Leisure Centre on 3 December 2024. The session had been well attended and allowed the community to express their views to HPBC offices and representatives. The consultation remained open until 10 January 2025 and provided three options. Two provided investment and the other indicated no change/investment. However, following a question over the future of the squash court at Glossop Leisure Centre no final decision would be made until this matter had been resolved.
- After attending an earlier HPBC planning meeting he reported that the construction of Energy Storage System on Marsh Lane had been approved. NMTC had previously raised concerns with HPBC and SE confirmed that several conditions required resolving before any installation could proceed.
- He would be calling for the planning application submitted for the development of the previous NMAEC to be reviewed by the full HPBC planning committee due to potential traffic issues and requested that residents shared any views on the proposals.

As a member of the board at NMDVC he advised that there had been confidence that whilst discretionary funding had been lost from DCC it would continue to be forthcoming from other sources.

FTC/24/284 Town Mills Town Council Membership

Prior to the meeting Council had informed that two candidates had expressed an interest in becoming a member of NMTC. Applications had been circulated to Cllrs in advance of the meeting.

One of the candidates had been in attendance at the meeting and following the question and answer process it became apparent that the candidate would not be eligible to be considered at this stage.

Member of public left the meeting 7.27pm

NMTC considered the second candidate and a proposal had been made to make an appointment. With four members abstaining from the vote an appointment could not be made.

Members request the Clerk re-advertised the vacancies post meeting with a hope to recruiting new members early in 2025.

FTC/24/285 Minutes of the previous meetings

Clerk had presented members with the minutes from Council meetings that had been held on 14 October 2024, 11 November 2024 and Extra-Ordinary Meeting 25 November 2024. Members made the following corrections

11 November 2024 :

24/250 – Co-option Policy

24/248 - install shielding to ensure building illuminated only.

RESOLVED: Minutes of the New Mills Town Council meetings, held on 14 October 2024, 11 November 2024 and Extra-Ordinary Meeting 25 November 2024 had been confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meetings.

Section 137 Funding

FTC/24/286

Parks and Open Spaces Committee recommended that the Town Council make a donation to Kinder Mountain Rescue as they had over several earlier years from the donations received from the community bonfire. Members acknowledged continued support to this voluntary organisation used widely across the High Peak including New Mills,

RESOLVED: The Council to provide Kinder Mountain Rescue with a donation of £500.

FTC/24/287

Policy to allocate Section 137 Funding

Following a lengthy discussion the Council noted that in order to provide funding to local groups the money would need to be requested as part of precept from HPBC. No allocation had been budgeted for this in the 2024-2025 Budget and The Council acknowledged they had not been in a position to provide funding to any requested that he been received for consideration.

Members noted that there were several areas that the Council planning investment to make key improvements and in order to not place a higher burden on the residents of New Mills, during the cost of living crisis, it would be unlikely for community funding to be included in the budget proposal for 2025-2026 increasing the ask for Tax Payers.

RESOLVED: Any requests for past funding, and in future, would be responded to with an automatic response advising the Councils current stance from the Clerk, until the Council felt in a stronger financial position to rescind this action.

FTC/24/288

RESOLVED: The Council agreed to develop a policy that ensured fair and equitably allocation of future grants and/or funding to community groups

or projects that benefited New Mills. Ensuring open and transparent process, when able to consider applications.

FTC/24/289 Rowarth Parish Statement

Council had been presented with a proposed statement which had been developed between the Parks, Open Spaces and Events Chair and two members of The Friends of Rowarth Community Group.

RESOLVED: The Council would provide the statement to the Peak National Park to be included on their website and any future strategic planning.

New Mills Town Council Consultations

LB left the meeting.

FTC/24/290 Future Use of Co-op Fields

Licensee requested for pedestrian only access to be added as part the consultation and had confirmed that the bin store for Mount Pleasant would be held within the property boundary and not on NMTC land.

The Clerk had also wanted the Council to consider use of this space to enhance hire options at the Town Hall, and working with local community groups on a project to develop the area.

Co-op fields would remain a public open space regardless of the future use.

Therefore the options to be considered would be extended as follows

1. Co-op Fields to be reinstated as required by the existing licence
The reinstated space would be managed as an open space
 - with biodiversity benefits possibly through a community project
 - With flexibility to be available to complement the hiring offers of New Mills Town Hall, with the aim to increase income
2. Co-op Fields cleared of vegetation for additional free car parking spaces for the Town Hall uses and local residents.
3. Co-op Fields clear it of vegetation for additional free car parking spaces for the Town Hall uses and local residents. Also allowing limited vehicle and pedestrian access from Aldersgate to the rear of Mount Pleasant. (Option 2 and 4 combined)
4. Limited vehicle and pedestrian access off Aldersgate. Using the existing temporary road to rear of Mount Pleasant to
 - Vehicles would be limited to deliveries to the café (commercial use)
 - Private vehicle access and off road parking for the owners and friends/family
 - Provide access for bins to be taken from the rear of Mount Pleasant to Aldersgate to be emptied, (revision to existing planning permission would be required)

5. Pedestrian only access for Mount Pleasant residents and immediate family from Aldersgate, across Co-op Fields.
6. Pedestrian/flat access via Town Hall front car park to Mount Pleasant. Via a gate in keeping with the railings and gate around the Town Hall Cottage. Would require removal of a section of the existing dry stone wall and section of flower bed which would be tarmacked to match the existing carpark surface.
7. Limited vehicle and pedestrian access off Aldersgate, across Co-op Fields. Using the existing temporary road to rear of Mount Pleasant and pedestrian access via Town Hall front car park (Both options 3 and 6 Combined).
8. Pedestrian only access for the residents and immediate family off Aldersgate, across Co-op Fields and pedestrian access via Town Hall car park (Both options 5 and 6 Combined).

Options 4 & 7 would

- Include additional features at Co-op Fields such as new planting and seating areas. But decrease green space area available due to the vehicle access. And track could limit flexibility of use detailed in option 1.

Options 6 - 8 would

- Allow a minimum of 7-10 days public access to the Sunday School and graveyard/wildlife garden annually with no accessibility barriers.

Any long-term access would require a new licence, charge for access to be determined. The Licensee would incur the cost of any associated legal fees for a licence to drawn up.

If rear access provided under a long term licence a change to existing planning would be submitted to HPBC to place the store at the rear of the property to access collection from Aldersgate.

RESOLVED: Council made a revision to previous resolution FTC/24/211 to include additional options that had been presented and proceed to launch the public consultation.

LB returned to the meeting

FTC/24/291 New Mills Town Council Event Bonfire for 2025

RESOLVED: The Council requested that the Park, Open Spaces and Events Committee develop and recommended a consultation to the Council at the meeting on the 10 February 2025. Council wanted to approve and launch consultation before the end of the February allowing time to implement changes to the 2025 event.

FTC/24/292 New Mills Junior Football Club – Welfare Facilities at Ollersett Fields

Council noted that the extended consultation period ended today and they would make a decision on next steps once the findings had been presented at the Council Meeting to be held on 13 January 2025.

Finance

FTC/24/293

Increasing Annual Charges for the Parking Spaces

Council discussed the current charges for the spaces it had in the Town and noted that they had not been increased over several years.

Members agreed more work should be carried out on benchmarking to ensure charges in line with current market rate and long term NMTC should look towards moving the annual payments to financial year rather than the calendar year.

RESOLVED: The Council agreed to increase rental cost by 10% for 2025-2026, allowing time to complete full review and introducing changes from 2026 by the Finance, Building and Assets Committee.

FTC/24/294 Authorisation of Payments

Town Hall Payments for Approval - December 2024				
Payment	Recipient		Details	
Direct Debits				
D	American Express	6177	Card Charges to 13 Oct 2024	£ 0.28
D	Clover	6181	Service Charges & Fees 01-31 Oct 2024	£ 58.12
D	Deere Financial	6178	Tractor & Mower Rental - Nov 24	£ 725.92
D	Ecotricity	6173	TH - Elec Acc. 28 Sep-28 Oct 2024	£ 459.05
D	Ecotricity	6204	HC - Elec Acc. 01-31 Oct 2024	£ 408.08
D	Ecotricity	6172	PARKs - Elec Acc. 01-31 Oct 2024	£ 99.33
D	Ecotricity	6174	LLR - Elec Acc. 01-31 Oct 2024	£ 51.71
D	EDF	6190	TH_ Gas Acc 01 Sep-27 Nov 2024	£ 1,865.74
D	EDF	6191	LLR - Gas Acc. 01-30 Nov 2024	£ 65.52
D	EDF	6175	Parks - Gas Acc. 01 Sep-10 Nov 2024	£ 62.04
D	EDF	6185	LLR - Gas Acc. 01-31 Oct 2024	£ 46.54
D	EDF	6192	Parks - Gas Acc. 11-30 Nov 2024	£ 14.50
D	Everflow	6198	Water Inv 01-31 Jan 25	£ 860.24
D	Everflow	6178	Water Inv 01-31 Dec 24	£ 400.78
D	Sage	6203	Chargable Period 01-31 December 2024	£ 89.40
Payments already made			Sub Total	£ 5,205.21
POA	The Polycarbonate Store	6180	Bus Shelter Panels - PO100236	£ 683.18
POA	Brophy	6171	Collection of Bonfire Wood & Build Support	£ 450.00
POA	Juice Graphics	6167	Remembrance Order of Service Printing - PO100216	£ 240.00
POA	Lewis	6179	Christmas Trees - PO100240	£ 105.00
POA	Peak Bean	6187	Filter Coffee- PO100244	£ 57.00
POA	Lewis	6188	Crib Enhancement Christmas Trees , Hay, Lights, Wreath - PO100247	£ 49.99
POA	BT	6185	HC - Regular Charges 01-30 Nov & Usage Charges 24 Oct- 01 Nov 2024	£ 46.40
POA	Wild	6189	Arch For Christmas Display - PO100238	£ 34.99
Payments to be made			Sub Total	£ 1,666.58
B	Storry	6202	Professional Fees - November 2024	£ 1,300.00
B	Fenland Leisure (OLP)	6193	Replacement Rocker Spring & Rocker Handle Grips	£ 952.40
B	ADT	6166	HC Alarm - Charge Period 27 Nov 2024 - 26 Feb 2025	£ 275.35
B	Ricoh	6168	Copier Rental 01 Nov 24-31 Jan 25 & Print Charges 01 Aug-31 Oct 2024	£ 197.86
B	SiteLink	6164	Radio Hire for Bonfire & Remembrance Events 2024	£ 192.00
B	Senior Building Supplies	6201	Plywood & Eaves Protector - Crib Renovations & Repairs	£ 150.48
B	Hydro X	6169	HLH-HC & Parks - Legionella Control Nov 2024	£ 133.20
B	Hydro X	6170	TH - Legionella Control Nov 2024	£ 133.20
B	Tomlinson Parbans	6199	Crib Repair & Restoration Materials	£ 127.86
B	Catterall	6161	Fuel Account - October 2024	£ 104.00
B	CPC	6200	Christmas Tree Lights	£ 80.69
B	Wild	6196	HC - Sugar Shaker, Napkins, Wooden Teaspoons, Order Pads	£ 77.32
B	CPC	6195	HL Park Toilets - Tubular Heaters	£ 55.78
B	Wm Eyre & Sons	6197	Tools	£ 49.73
B	Lowleighton Methodist Church	6184	NMJFC Consultation Room Hire 15-11-2024	£ 36.00
B	Bannister	6194	Paint for Christmas Display Board - PO100242	£ 33.60
B	Wild	6163	Clerk - Mileage for Cilca Training	£ 30.60
B	Wild	6162	Remembrance Refreshments	£ 17.50
B	Wild	6188	Table Cloth & Christmas Decorations- PO100246	£ 14.70
			Sub Total	£ 3,962.27
			Overall Total	£ 10,834.04

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

Finances for New Mills Council - Meeting 09-12-24

New Mills Town Council
Financial Information for Council - 9th December 2024
(as at 3rd December 2024)

BANK RECONCILIATION

Total Balances brought forward	01/11/2024	£	243,469.99
		Income	£ 31,466.57
		Expenditure	£ (40,738.08)
		Income banked but not showing on statement	£ -
		Income unrepresented last month now showing on bank	£ -
Total Balances Carried forward	30/11/2024	£	234,198.48

Bank Balances from statements dated			30/11/2024
	Account		Balance
	Community Directplus	£	8,000.00
	Business Select Instant Access	£	170,255.24
	Business Select 14 Day Reserves	£	28,395.85
	Business Select 14 Day Ring Fenced	£	7,419.51
	Unity Trust Reserve	£	20,102.15
	Petty Cash	£	25.73
		£	234,198.48

Nov-24	Actual YTD	BudgetYTD	Variance
<u>Income</u>	£492,529	£464,001	£28,528
<u>Expenditure</u>			
HC Purchases	£6,267	£12,948	(£6,681)
Personnel Costs	£192,505	£202,496	(£9,991)
Property Costs	£39,242	£45,253	(£6,011)
Vehicle & Equipment costs	£39,664	£13,277	£26,387
General Expenses	£45,068	£44,635	£433
Professional fees	£15,251	£18,931	(£3,680)
Net income/(Expenditure)	£154,532	£126,461	£28,071

The Council noted financial information as at 3 December 2024. No questions had been raised by the members

FTC/24/296 Year End Financial Forecast and 2025-2026 Budget

Members noted that they had been provided with the latest financial position and forecast for 2024-2025 by the Responsible Finance Officer (RFO). The RFO confirmed that the most committee’s had been reviewing possible projects and improvements that aligned with the mission and aims of NMTC.

High Lea Hall budget for the coming years still needed to be finalised, this had been a challenge to gauge due to lack of solid past financial data and indicators. The 2025-2026 budget would require close monitoring as a very estimated picture.

Chair of Finance, Building and Assets Committee drew members’ awareness to the fact that public sector wage increases and the increase in employers National Insurance contributions already constituted an approximate 7% increase in the precept. He also highlighted that inflation had been factored in at 2.5% and there were several capital projects and maintenance that required funding should grant applications not be available or unsuccessful. It had been unlikely that he could not envisage the 2025-2026 precept increase being less than 10%.

Establishing a stronger general reserve had also been highlighted as a future ambition to enable NMTC be more financially secure.

Chair encouraged members to attend the Finance, Building and Assets Committee meeting on the 16 December 2024, when these matters would be discussed in further detail

FTC/24/297 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 4 November 2024 and 3 December 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/2024/0438	Retrospective permission for the erection of 2 no. outbuildings	22 Spinnerbottom Birch Vale SK22 1BL	Mr W Harrison	Do not object
http://planning.highpeak.gov.uk/portal/servlets/ApplicationSearchServlet?PKID=268467				
DET/2024/0037	Application to determine if prior approval is required for - The proposed development consisting	Ravens Leach Farm Unnamed Road from Hayfield Road	J Butler	Do not object

	of converting 4Nr agricultural barns to 5Nr dwellings. The barns are located adjacent Ravens Leach Farm on Hayfield Road, Birch Vale.	to Ravens Leach Farm Birch Vale SK22 1DD		
http://planning.highpeak.gov.uk/portal/servlets/ApplicationSearchServlet?PKID=268639				
HPK/2024/0429	Installation of new heat pump in location of existing oil boiler (to be removed), removal of existing storage tank, replacement of internal equipment	Whittle Fold Cottage Whittle Fold Whittle Bank New Mills SK22 4EF	Mr R Davies	Do not object
http://planning.highpeak.gov.uk/portal/servlets/ApplicationSearchServlet?PKID=268421				
HPK/2024/0430	Listed Building Consent for - Installation of new heat pump in location of existing oil boiler (to be removed), removal of existing storage tank, replacement of internal equipment	Whittle Fold Cottage Whittle Fold Whittle Bank New Mills SK22 4EF	Mr R Davies	Do not object
http://planning.highpeak.gov.uk/portal/servlets/ApplicationSearchServlet?PKID=268422				
HPK/2024/0405	Proposed L-shaped single storey extension to the rear/right hand corner of the house	21 Park Way New Mills SK22 4DU	Mr P Laugesen	Do not object
http://planning.highpeak.gov.uk/portal/servlets/ApplicationSearchServlet?PKID=268243				
HPK/2024/0480	Application for Lawful Development Certificate for the retention of prefabricated bungalow	Birch House Spinnerbottom Birch Vale SK22 1DH	Mr J Redfern	Do not object
http://planning.highpeak.gov.uk/portal/servlets/ApplicationSearchServlet?PKID=268700				

FTC/24/298

HPK/2023/0193 - LAND AT Marsh Lane

Cllrs had discussed this matter earlier in the meeting - FTC/24/283

Correspondence

FTC/24/299

The Town Council noted the correspondence received during November 2024 and did not raise any questions.

- FTC/24/300 High Peak Borough Council Gambling Policy Consultation**
Chair noted that only minor corrections would be suggested from NMTC and would respond accordingly before closing on 13 December 2024
- FTC/24/301 Government Consultation on Remote Meetings and Proxy Votes**
Clerk requested that Cllrs as individuals submit a response to the consultation that closes on 19 December 2024.
- FTC/24/302 New Mills Leisure Centre Consultation**
Members and Clerk shared information that they had gained from the information session and discussion with representatives from HPBC. Whilst both proposals would require removal of the squash courts, option b would not reduce the size of the sports hall, and therefore viewed as preferable. As both options had been presented as businesses cases that planned to pay off the development, funding by the Publics Works Loan (PWLb), through increased income generation. As there had been no other planned improvement that could achieve this no alternative investment develop would not be an option or considered.
Members noted that the energy improvement capital work had already received ring-fenced funding that would commence early in 2025.
RESOLVED: NMTC would respond as a collective with views and concerns on the proposals before closing date of 10 January 2025.
- FTC/24/303 High Peak Borough Council Animal Licensing Policy Consultation**
The Council did not have any comments to make on this consultation.
- FTC/24/304 RESOLVED:** The Council agreed to extend the meeting by five minutes.
- FTC/24/305 Network Rail Update**
Chair informed the Council that the drainage pond design had still to be agreed and involved Derbyshire County Council due to the location of a public right of way. Once approved it had been estimated that a completion time for the works of two weeks would be required.
Site operations would close down for Christmas from the 23 December and it had been hoped that Network Rail would be off site by March 2025.
Two further site meetings had been arranged with Network Rail in the New Year to discuss reinstatement of the allotments and playground.
- FTC/24/306 RESOLVED:** The Council agreed to close the meeting at 9.04 pm

Signed as a true and correct record of the meeting

Chair _____ Date _____

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