

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 September 2024

Councillors Present Steve Davey (Chair), Lyn Bannister, Andrew Denton, Simon Evans, Katy Pearson, Michelle Bancroft, Margaret Ritchie, Matthew Donovan and John Reed.

In Attendance 3 members of the public, Clare Wild (Clerk), DCC Cllr Anne Clarke.

Meeting opened at 7.00pm

FTC/24/188 Introductions and Apologies for Absence

Absent Cllrs: Beth Eadie, Katy Pearson and David Aris-Sutton had presented apologies.

FTC/24/189 Variation of Order of Business

RESOLVED: to move certain discussion, likely to disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of the schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, relating to Items 12, Network Rail Update and High Lea Hall Updates to after the exclusion of the Press and Public.

FTC/24/190 Declaration of Members Interests

Cllr Simon Evans (SE)

- Item 9 Planning. As a member of the Development and Planning Committee of High Peak Borough Council (HPBC). SE would remain in the meeting but have no vote.

Cllr Lyn Bannister (LB)

- Item 9 Planning. LB had a planning application that the council would be commenting on. LB would leave the meeting.
- Item 15 Co-op Fields. LB had a pecuniary interest and would leave the meeting.

FTC/24/191 Public Speaking

A representative from Rock Mill Centre, advised New Mills Town Council that the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT) would be welcoming applications to their fund for grants from £500-£3,000 to support community projects. First application needed to be submitted by the 23 October 2024. Cllrs and Council Officers had also been invited to meet with a DWT representative on Friday 20 September 2024 whilst they tour Torrs Riverside Park and Mousely Bottom.

Cllr Michelle Bancroft (MB), speaking as a member of the public raised concern regarding the prevalence of repeat drug taking/dealing in a small number of locations in New Mills. MB would report the matter to the police and explore what preventative measures could be put in place. Derbyshire County Council (DCC) Councillor Anne Clarke had been pleased to be celebrating Fairtrade Fortnight 30th year, an initiative that is supported in New Mills and Hayfield.

- The sink hole on Hayfield Road that has caused issues for residents due to traffic management should see the road reopening later this week. DCC are continuing to monitor the situation.
- Planned double yellow lines have been installed at all the proposed sites in New Mills
- DCC Public Rights of Way were in the process of trying to assist with resolving an issue of drainage discharge that had an impact on a footpath in the Town Centre under section 149 of the Highways Act 1980.

High Peak Borough Council (HPBC) Councillor Cllr Simon Evans (SE) informed

- He had requested an increase level of regular maintenance for the pathway that had been effected by the drainage discharge and high levels of bird droppings.
- HPBC had granted planning permission to rebuild, to the same standard, the property that had destroyed by a gas explosion.
- Refurbishment to the public toilet on High Street should commence in September and he would monitor progress.
- He continued to seek a solution to the bins that reside on Union Road for a block of flats.

Cllr Lyn Bannister (LB), speaking as a member of the public advised that she had written to the council and expressed her frustration in being unable to complete work on her property as NMTC had not been in a position to approve proposals first submitted in February 2024. Chair expressed that NMTC should accept responsibility for causing some delay.

Changes in Governance

FTC/24/193

Following the resignation of Cllr Liam Stowell (LS) a Notice of Vacancy had been issued and would be in place until 13 September. HPBC would confirm if a bi-election would be required. If not, a process of councillor co-option would be considered at the Council Meeting on the 14 October 2024.

FTC/24/194

Council thanked LS for his contributions during his time in office.

RESOLVED: Cllr John Reed (JR) would serve as Vice Chair for High Lea Hall Committee, following LS resignation.

FTC/24/195

RESOLVED: To change Standing Orders for Committee meetings to be quorate with three members present, to fall in line with Councils Committees Terms of Reference.

FTC/24/196 **RESOLVED:** Personnel Committee Terms of Reference to include the three named members plus the option to draw on another three reserve councillors, excluding the Chair, in order for meeting to be quorate.

FTC/24/197 **Minutes of the previous meetings**

RESOLVED: Corrections SE surname in minute 24/125 and 24/159. 24/159 Police replaced Policy.

Minutes of the last New Mills Town Council meetings held on Monday 8 July 2024, Monday 12 August 2024 and Extra-Ordinary meeting held on Friday 12 July 2024. Had been confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Members noted that the draft minutes for the Personnel Committee had been published.

FTC/24/198 **Finance**

Accounts for payment

Payments to be approved - 9th September 2024				
Payment	Recipient		Details	Sub Total
D	Deere Financial	6007	Tractor Rental - Aug 24	£ 725.92
D	Everflow	6035	Water Inv 01-31 Oct 24	£ 396.04
D	Sage	6040	Chargable Period 01-30 September 2024	£ 89.40
D	Opus	6005	LLR Gas 10 Jly-11 Aug 2024	£ 50.10
D	Clover	6045	FDMS Card reader charges	£ 30.20
D	Clover	6044	FDMS Card reader charges	£ 14.38
POA	WildC	6018	Booker Order - HC Coffee Shop Stock & Sundry Items - PO 100172	£ 492.43
POA	CN Pearson	6004	HLH - Install Extra 32A Electricity Supply - PO100157	£ 465.70
POA	WildC	6001	Booker Order - HC Coffee Shop Stock & Sundry Items - PO100161	£ 461.40
POA	WildC	6036	Booker Order - HC Coffee Shop Stock & Sundry Items - PO100128	£ 298.61
POA	Cake Crush	6012	Celebration Cake - PO100143	£ 165.00
POA	Ginge & Co	6008	Ice Cream PO100145	£ 165.00
POA	County Drains Limited	6002	HLH - Drain Blockage & CCTV Inspection - PO100155	£ 144.00
POA	PPL/PRS	5994	HLH Music Licence - PO100162	£ 141.06
POA	Ginge & Co	6009	Ice Cream- PO100158	£ 132.00
POA	Ginge & Co	6010	Ice Cream - PO100169	£ 132.00
POA	BT - HLH	6014	Regular Charges 01-31 Aug 2024 & User Charges 20 Jly-21 Aug 2024	£ 79.88
POA	WildC	6017	Organic Breakfast Tea x 7 Boxes - PO100173	£ 62.93
POA	Peak Bean	6015	Ground Coffee -PO100171	£ 57.00
POA	BT	5991	HC - Regular Charges 01-31 July & Usage Charges 11-19 Jul 2024	£ 46.76
POA	WildC	6022	Poppy Wreaths x 2 - PO100174	£ 39.98
POA	Staff	6000	Travel Expenses 24 Jul-02 Aug 2024	£ 28.35
POA	HPBC	6021	Bonfire Road Closure Application - PO100177	£ 23.50
POA	WildC	6042	TENs Licence - Summer Party - PO100176 (6019)	£ 21.00
POA	WildC	6043	TENs Licence - NMFE - PO100180 (6020)	£ 21.00
POA	WildC	5992	HLH - Party Cups - PO100160	£ 14.41
B	Storry	6032	Professional Fees - August 2024	£1,363.33
B	World of Power	6024	Petrol Hover Mower - PO100109	£ 722.79
B	DJ Catterall	6006	Fuel Acc. July 2024 (Tractor/LR/Cans)	£ 374.00
B	Perpetual Fire Protection	6030	TH Annual Fire Extinguisher Service PO100178	£ 373.80
B	Ricoh	5999	Print Charges 01 May-31 Jul 2024 & Rental Period 01 Aug-31 Oct 2024	£ 294.46
B	SLCC	6013	Council Administration Books + Delivery Charges - PO100165	£ 277.64
B	Screwfix	6037	Multit Tool Kit/Drill Bits	£ 194.32
B	Wm Eyre & Sons	6034	Equipment -Gloves/Tools/Ryegrass	£ 189.77
B	Screwfix	6011	Drill Bits/Woodscrews/Disposable Gloves	£ 186.24
B	HPBC	6036	TH Premises Licence 2024-25	£ 180.00
B	Ginge & Co	6038	Ice Cream - PO100170	£ 132.00
B	Ginge & Co	6039	Ice Cream - PO100136	£ 132.00
B	Tomlinson Parbans	6033	Bolts/ Plumbing Components/Handsaw	£ 107.86
B	Perpetual Fire Protection	6029	HC Annual Fire Extinguisher Service PO100178	£ 106.80
B	Espo	5996	Office Stationery & Storage Supplies - PO100159	£ 96.53
B	CPC	5998	Smoke Alarm/Ear Defenders/Mouse Traps	£ 90.28
B	Perpetual Fire Protection	6028	HLP Annual Fire Extinguisher Service PO100178	£ 48.00
B	WildC	6025	Heavy Duty Bin Liners - PO100166	£ 34.99
B	SettVale Plumbing & Heating	6016	Fire Foam & Foam Gun	£ 28.57
B	WildC	6041	TENs Licence - HLH Birthday Party - PO100154 (6031)	£ 21.00
B	Lewis	6023	Mower Blades 1 Set	£ 19.99
B	WildC	6026	Urinal Splash Guards - PO100125	£ 12.99
B	WildC	5997	Keys Cut - Chamber & Bin Store	£ 10.00
B	WildC	5995	Bin Liners for Parks x 4	£ 8.00
B	WildC	6027	Nitrile Gloves x 100 - PO100125	£ 5.99
				£ 9,309.40

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

Cllr JR shared concern over the electricity costs and informed Cllrs that the pay award for 2024-2025 has not been agreed as yet. Clerk explained that the increase in charges were a combination of factors

that Town Hall had been heated by electric heaters until boiler replaced. This work is scheduled to be completed by the end of September. Plus increases in rates due to end of a long term fixed rate, plus Council decision to gain supply from a company to support sustainability, which had not been as competitive as alternative options.

FTC/24/198 Financial Information

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

BANK RECONCILIATION

Total Balances brought forward	01/08/2024	£	178,339.31
	Income	£	18,296.55
	Expenditure	£	(40,253.72)
	Income banked but not showing on statement	£	-
	Income unrepresented last month now showing on bank	£	-
Total Balances Carried forward	31/08/2024	£	156,382.14

Bank Balances from statements dated			31/08/2024
	Account		Balance
	Community Directplus	£	8,000.00
	Business Select Instant Access	£	92,579.12
	Business Select 14 Day Reserves	£	28,173.93
	Business Select 14 Day Ring Fenced	£	7,377.49
	Unity Trust Reserve	£	20,131.55
	Petty Cash	£	120.05
		£	156,382.14

Aug-24	Actual YTD	BudgetYTD	Variance
<u>Income</u>	£282,729	£290,014	(£7,285)
<u>Expenditure</u>			
HC Purchases	£4,353	£8,093	(£3,740)
Personnel Costs	£109,536	£125,340	(£15,804)
Property Costs	£28,697	£29,883	(£1,186)
Vehicle & Equipment costs	£8,754	£8,478	£276
General Expenses	£26,114	£36,015	(£9,901)
Professional fees	£9,332	£12,078	(£2,746)
Net income/(Expenditure)	£95,943	£70,127	£25,816

The Council noted financial information as at 31 July 2024.

FTC/24/199 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
7.35pm LB left the meeting				
HPK/2024/0344	Variation of a Condition 1 in relation to HPK/2022/0573	Co-op Fields Rear of Mount Pleasant Spring Bank New Mills SK22 4AS	Ms L Bannister	Support
7.40pm LB returned to the meeting				
HPK/2024/0345	Installation of a new window, installation of 1 new conservation roof light, replace 2 existing roof lights with conservation roof lights and internal alterations	The Long Barn Whitle Fold Whitle Bank Road New Mills SK22 4EF	C & A Beale	Do not object
HPK/2024/0352	Listed Building Consent for the installation of a new window, installation of 1 new conservation roof light, replace 2 existing roof lights with conservation roof lights and internal alterations	The Long Barn Whitle Fold Whitle Bank Road New Mills SK22 4EF	C & A Beale	Do not object
HPK/2024/0351	Proposed two new 3-bed detached houses on vacant land	Land adjacent 149 High Hill Road New Mills	Mr T Green	Support

FTC/24/200 Correspondence

The Town Council noted the correspondence received during August 2024.

Chair drew members attention to the invitation that had been extended to Cllrs to attend the 'The Longest Yarn' event being held by Providence URC in November to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day

50th Anniversary of The Torrs Riverside Park

FTC/24/201 Rock Mill exhibition – ‘Park Under the Town’

Rock Mill Centre Director, Toby Hardwick, introduced artist David Lowther who showed an example of the artworks that would be displayed in the Torrs in the exhibition that consisted of ten pieces. A report outlining details, including site locations and installation methods had been circulated to Members in advance of the meeting.

RESOLVED: The Town Council granted approval for eight art works to be displayed on land owned by New Mills Town Council. From 13 September 2024 until 13 October 2024.

FTC/24/202 New Mills Town Council marking the 50th Anniversary

Cllrs noted progress towards completing a short film, approved at the last Council meeting. Upon completion this would be shared with Rock Mill and Torr Vale Mill to show to visitors. High Lea Hall would also show the film in the display room and it had been hoped that an exhibition could be developed for the last weekend in September.

FTC/24/203 Network Rail Update

Chair reported that the recent meeting held for residents by Network Rail had been well attended and representation from Northern Rail had also been present. The line re-open date had been delayed, and had been re-scheduled to take place Monday 23 September 2024.

FTC/24/204 High Lea Hall Update

Clerk provided a verbal report of main points provided by the Hospitality Lead and Communications Officer.

- Feedback from visitors remained very positive
- Repeat customer base had increased
- Customers have asked for a wider menu choices
- Weather continued to have an impact on sales

A drive to recruit volunteers had been planned to commence before the end of the month.

FTC/24/205 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.

FTC/24/206 High Lea Hall

RESOLVED: The Town Council agreed to recruit further café assistants to increase the pool of staff available to cover opening hours and for future events.

FTC/24/207 Network Rail Update

The Chair explained that to progress the next steps a site meeting with Network Rail had been scheduled for the 12 September 2024 to discuss a drainage solution. The current proposed design would be for an attenuation pond, which would be passed onto NMTC as an asset which they would be responsible for.

Playground equipment provider would be attending the Town Hall on the 19 September 2024 to discuss replacement options for Hague Bar Park. All Cllrs had been welcomed to attend.

8.35pm LB left the meeting

Co-op Fields

FTC/24/208 RESOLVED:

As the council had resolved to write off all outstanding legal fees paid by the council relating to access and over sailing licence cross Co-op Fields at the previous meeting.

The Council had been in a position to consider reducing monthly charge, asked by the licensee.

Against the recommendation of the Clerk and without seeking any external legal advice the Council approved that the commercial rate monthly in the licence would not be doubled as stated or restored at the original monthly fee of £300+vat per month that had been agreed. The Council decided that the amount would be reduced to a nominal amount of £10+vat a month for the remaining period, considering the total fees paid to date. The action would take place through a licence amendment drawn up by the Clerk.

FTC/24/209 RESOLVED: Council agreed to progress developing a consultation on the use of Co-op Fields, to consider alternative proposals put to the Council in addition to moving to restore to previous condition once current need for the access licence had concluded.

FTC/24/210 RESOLVED: Council agreed to extend the meeting by ten minutes.

FTC/24/211 RESOLVED: Following a lengthy discussion Council agreed to hold a six week consultation for the public to provide feedback to include various options available for Co-op fields.

1. Co-op Fields to be reinstated as required by the existing licence.
2. Co-op Fields to remain as a public space but to clear it of vegetation for additional free car parking spaces for the Town Hall uses and local residents.
3. Co-op Fields to remain as a public space but to clear it of vegetation for additional free car parking spaces for the Town Hall

uses and local residents. Also allowing Pedestrian and limited vehicle access off Aldersgate to the rear of Mount Pleasant.

4. Pedestrian and limited vehicle access off Aldersgate. Using the existing temporary road to rear of Mount Pleasant. Vehicles would be limited to off road parking for the owners, friends and family, deliveries to the café and location of rear bin store (revision to existing planning permission would be required).
5. Pedestrian/flat access via Town Hall car park to Mount Pleasant. Via a gate keeping with the railings and gate around the Town Hall Cottage. Change 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.
6. Pedestrian access via Town Hall car park and pedestrian and vehicle access off Aldersgate (Both options 4 and 5).

Options 3-6 would

- Allow a minimum of 7-10 days public access to the Sunday school and graveyard/wildlife garden annually.
- Be supported by a licence for longer-term access, charge to be determined.
- The Licensee would incur the cost of any associated legal fees for a licence to drawn up.

As part of the consultation the public should be asked to state opinions regarding the degree of charge for the licence for access using council land to the front of the Town Hall and over Co-op Fields.

In order to proceed with the consultation clarification, the Clerk had been asked to seek a wider understanding of the proposed commercial operations at Mount Pleasant in order for the public to make a fully informed choice and for the Council to fully understand other matters which they might need to take into consideration before making any final decisions.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm

Signed as a true and correct record of the meeting

Chair

Date_____

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