

NEW MILLS TOWN COUNCIL

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

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Draft Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in The Council Chambers, New Mills Town Hall, New Mills At 7.00pm on Monday 10 March 2025

Councillors Present Steve Davey (Chair), Lyn Bannister, Simon Evans, Andrew Denton, , Margaret Ritchie, John Reed, Beth Eadie, Charles Jenvon, Mark Paxton and Esther Morrison (appointed under minute FTC 24/363).

In Attendance Clare Wild (Clerk) and Abbey Bailey (Minute Taker)
Derbyshire County Council (DCC) Cllr Anne Clarke
Two members of public attended on behalf of New Mills Junior Football Club (NMJFC)

Meeting opened at 7.01pm

FTC/24/358 Introductions and Apologies for Absence

Absent Cllrs: Matthew Donovan had presented apologies.

HPBC Cllr Jeni Benzer and Cllr Peter Inman sent their apologies.

Applicant for NMTC Membership Ann Hallam sent her apologies.

No community police officers had been in attendance

All present made introductions

FTC/24/359 Variation of Order of Business

Item 8, NMJFC lease extension, would be discussed before Item 5, New Mills Town Council (NMTC) membership.

FTC/24/360 Declaration of Members Interests

Cllr Beth Eadie (BE)

- Item 8 NMJFC lease extension a declared personal interest for item 12. As family were members of the club and she had previous volunteered marketing services. BE would remain in the meeting but have no vote.

Cllr Simon Evans (SE)

- Item 12 Planning. As a member of the Development and Planning Committee HPBC. SE would remain in the meeting but have no vote.

FTC/24/361 Public Speaking

No members of the public spoke

No member from the Community Police had attended.

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

- The Local Government Reform (LGR) had been discussed, with the Conservative party favouring one large unitary council for the whole of Derbyshire, whilst Labour had opted for the county to be split in half.
- Speeding at Hague Bar had been noted as a high concern and a community speed watch would be planned, with local residents to work with alongside community PCSO's.
- AC had been monitoring the gas leaks works on Albion Road and holding ongoing discussions with the working team to ensure public safety.
- Responding to a question from a member she advised that there had been no further updates on structural work required on Meal Street, but AC would make further enquires to feedback position.

HPBC Cllr Peter Inman provided a written report to the Council, which was read by the chair and highlighted:

- That he would be establishing a speed watch in Birch Vale as community reported as a high-speed area.
- Further contact with Building Control had taken place regarding the White Hart Pub as instructions to carry out work had not been actioned within the given time period.
- An untaxed vehicle that had been repaired at the roadside on Hayfield Road in Birch Vale had been removed.

HPBC Cllr Jeni Benzer provided a written report to the Council, read by HPBC Cllr Simon Evans (SE) and highlighted:

- The work to refurbish the toilets in the centre of New Mills should be completed by the end of March.
- Heat pumps and solar panel installation work had commenced at New Mills leisure centre.
- During an extraordinary meeting of High Peak Borough Council, the council tax increase that would take effect from April 2025 would be 2.99%.
- A planning application which NMTC members had previously objected, to build three houses at the top of Albion Road, had been deferred for a more detailed and robust report from Highways department regarding the potential for an increase in traffic.

Cllr Simon Evans advised that New Mills School would have an Ofsted inspection on this week.

FTC/24/362 New Mills Junior Football Club (NMJFC) lease extension

NMJFC had presented a proposal to enter into a new lease for Ollersett Fields for a period of 25 years that would meet the criteria placed on a funding application to the Football Foundation for the welfare facilities.

Members noted that although an additional 60²m would be added to the main building, the layout would not change.

NMJFC had received input from local residents during NMTC public consultation on this development and hoped that the club would become a useful space for the community to use.

Members advised that they agreed to explore in principal, but the detail would need to be established before Council would provide approval. It had been noted that the new lease would need to be in place to support submission of the funding application due in July 2025.

RESOLVED: A new lease to be developed for a period of 25 Years between NMJFC and NMTC for Ollersett Fields to be brought back to the Council to review and approve.

FTC/24/363 New Mills Town Council Membership

Prior to the meeting members had received two applications for the two co-option vacancies to consider. The candidates had been invited to attend the meeting and one had been in attendance. Esther Morrison (EM) provided a five-minute introduction and asked questions set by Council.

Members of the council voted to fill the vacancies.

RESOLVED: The Council appointed Esther Morrison, as an independent Cllr for Ollersett Ward and Ann Hallam, as an independent Cllr for Thornsett Ward.

FTC/24/364 Minutes of the last meeting of the Full Town Council

Clerk had presented members with the minutes from Council meeting, no corrections had been made.

RESOLVED: Minutes of the New Mills Town Council meeting held on 10 February 2025 had been confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

New Mills Town Council Governance Structure

FTC/24/365 Replacing Communications and Engagement Committee with a Working Group

Council had been presented with a draft terms of reference for the working group, to continue development of this area for the Council. This would allow swifter process and allow group to be called enabling quicker responses to issues effecting the Town. The Communications and Engagement Working Group (CEWG) would report to the Council and present updates at Council meetings.

RESOLVED: Council agreed to dissolve the Communications and Engagement Committee and replace with the Communications and Engagement Working Group, approving terms of reference and Cllr Beth Eadie appointed as Chairperson.

FTC/24/366 Appeals Committee Terms of Reference

Members considered terms of reference presented by Clerk members discussed and suggested amendments to be made for improvements. The Clerk would provide a revision to members prior to the next personnel meeting, approval of the terms of reference would be deferred to the next FTC meeting.

FTC/24/367 New Mills Community Orchard requesting Local Wildlife Site Status

New Mills Community Orchard had provided the council with a proposal to request approval for the community group to submit a Local Wildlife Site application to Derbyshire Wildlife Trust for NMTC, as landowner of High Lea Park. This action had included in the DWT Ecological Appraisal and Management Recommendations 2024. The full report had also been shared with the Council.

NMTC Parks and Open Spaces Manager had confirmed that he had supported the application in a short report that he had presented to the Council in response to some of the comments and management practices recommended in the DWT Appraisal. The Council would discuss this in further detail at the next Parks and Open Spaces Meeting.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed for New Mills Community Orchard to submit an application to DWT for the orchard in High Lea Park to become a Local Wildlife Site.

FTC/24/368 Network Rail Update

Chair, advised that he had attended a site meeting recently at Hague Bar with other representatives from NMTC.

- Network Rail confirmed that the completion date for the emergency works would be later than they originally anticipated due to the wet and cold weather conditions. The Chair had notified the Allotment Society about the delays in the works finishing.
- The lack of a defined pathway and condition of the ground had been highlighted by NMTC as a potential safety issue. Advising that the area would need to be of a better standard before the Council would consider responsibility being passed back.
- The pond area had been constructed but fencing needed to be completed.
- Parks and Open Spaces Manager had ideas on how the area can be reinstated, which would hopefully fulfil biodiversity requirement which the Clerk would communicate to Network Rail.

Finance

FTC/24/369 Review of Asset Register

The Clerk presented the previous existing asset register to Cllrs to review advising that it had not been updated during 2024-2025. But this would be

carried out shortly and the information would be transferred into a new format, being obtained from another Town Council, which would allow additional information, such as the purchase values, where available and the insured/reinstatement value of the assets. Clerk advised that this had been a recommendation from the 2021 internal Audit.

Clerk would also be adding other assets belonging to the Council to establish a replacement programme for higher value equipment used for the provision of services to the community.

RESOLVED: Council noted the present assets register and acknowledged the improvements that needed to be made, progress on this would be monitored by the Finance, Building and Asset Committee

FTC/24/370

Authorisation of payments presented

Town Hall Payments to be authorised March 2025				
Direct Debit	Recipient		Details	
D	Ecotricity	6297	HC - Elec Acc. 01 Jan -09 Feb 2025	£ 1,522.74
D	Ecotricity	9294	Parks Elec Acc. 01-31 Feb 2025	£ 846.44
D	Deere Financial	6279	Tractor Rental - Feb 2025	£ 725.92
D	Ecotricity	6281	TH -Elec Acc.28 Dec 2024 - 28 Jan 2025	£ 517.67
D	Everflow	6301	Water Inv 01-30 Apr 2025	£ 494.68
D	EDF	6284	TH - Gas Acc. 01-31 Jan 2025	£ 319.10
D	EDF	6305	Parks - Gas Acc. 01-28 Feb 2025	£ 155.56
D	Sage	6308	Charge Period 01-31 March 2025	£ 99.00
D	EDF	6299	LLR - Gas Acc 01-28 Feb2025	£ 84.99
D	EDF	6280	LLR - Gas Acc 01-31 Jan 2025	£ 77.90
D	Ecotricity	6292	LLR - Elcec Acc. 01-31 Jan 2025	£ 67.54
			Sub Total	£ 4,911.54
Payments Made				
POA	#4SK Metals	6287	Appliance Removal x 2	£ 200.00
POA	Ginge & Co	6283	Ice Cream Tubs - PO100259	£ 49.50
POA	BT	6298	TH - Regular Phone & BB Charges 01-28 Feb 2025 + Usage Charges 28 Jan-16 Feb 2025	£ 37.40
			Sub Total	£ 286.90
Payment to Make				
B	Storry	6308	Professional Fees - February 2025	£ 1,002.66
B	Catterall	6290	Land Rover Vehicle Repairs for MOT	£ 947.80
B	ADT	6291	HL - Alarm Charge Period - 27 Feb-26 Jun 2025	£ 275.35
B	Wild	6289	Bookers Coffee Shop Re-stock Order - PO100265	£ 230.83
B	Ricoh	6286	Rental Period 01 Feb-30 Apr 2025 / Print Charges 01 Nov 24 to 31 Jan 25	£ 217.56
B	AV IT Services	6282	Supply & Install APC UPS	£ 214.49
B	Time Assured	6285	Town Hall Clock Annual Service	£ 192.00
B	ESPO	6302	Parks - PO100268 - Toilet Rolls/Bin Bags/Handtowels/Floor Cleaner	£ 177.66
B	Tomlinson Parbans	6300	FlatBit/Coircular Saw Blade/Screws	£ 148.16
B	David G Ross	6303	Plants	£ 121.74
B	Screwfix	6288	Disposable Gloves x 3pks / Natron Works Boots x 1	£ 75.96
B	Wm Eyre & Sons	6304	Chainsaw Oil/Cleaning Materials/Twine	£ 70.03
			Sub Total	£ 3,674.24
			Total	£ 14,071.12
	HPBC		HLH Rates refund including interest	-6363.05
				£ 7,708.07

The Council noted financial information in March 2025. The Clerk advised concern regarding the high cost of electricity at High Lea Hall and would be investigating if these payments were based on actual readings. Findings would be presented with suggest cost saving measures.

Clerk advised that invoices would need to be paid prior to the next FTC that exceeded financial limits in order to meet the funding deadlines and confirming that the bulk of these expenses would be covered by an approved grant. Council also noted that there had also only been opportunity to gain two quotes for the electrical work.

- Electrical work for HLH, approx. £5,000
- Material purchases for boardwalk at Hague Bar Meadows, totalling approx. £2,000

In addition, the purchase of tools to progress work that has been classed as a priority, including removal of unsafe playground equipment.

- Tools approx. £800

Financial regulations would need to be suspended, not meeting the procurement guidelines and in order to make these payments. The invoices would be presented to the Council at the next meeting to approve.

RESOLVED: The Council approved payments presented and agreed to suspend the financial regulations for the additional payments to be made.

Clerk informed the Council that they had been presented with a full and final settlement from the insurance company to manage the non-fault accident repairs locally. A recently obtained estimate indicated that the amount offered would cover the repair cost and enable side steps to be fitted, which had been identified as an improvement that would assist staff undertaking their duties by increasing accessibility.

FTC/24/371 To note financial information for the month ended 28 February 2025, as of March 4 2025

BANK RECONCILIATION

Total Balances brought forward	01/02/2025	£	178,573.65
		Income	£ 11,834.38
		Expenditure	£ (32,054.60)
		Income banked but not showing on statement	£ -
		Income unrepresented last month now showing on bank	£ -
Total Balances Carried forward	28/02/2025	£	158,353.43

Bank Balances from statements dated			28/02/2025
Account		Balance	
Community Directplus	£	8,000.00	
Business Select Instant Access	£	94,357.97	
Business Select 14 Day Reserves	£	28,395.85	
Business Select 14 Day Ring Fenced	£	7,419.51	
Unity Trust Reserve	£	20,084.15	
Petty Cash	£	95.95	
	£	158,353.43	

Feb-25	Actual YTD	BudgetYTD	Variance
Income	£514,965	£523,847	(£8,882)
Expenditure			
HC Purchases	£6,807	£6,428	£379
Personnel Costs	£263,223	£268,921	(£5,698)
Property Costs	£46,212	£64,037	(£17,825)
Vehicle & Equipment costs	£44,047	£45,500	(£1,453)
General Expenses	£51,557	£53,818	(£2,261)
Professional fees	£14,985	£16,150	(£1,165)
Net income/(Expenditure)	£88,134	£68,993	£19,141

The Council noted financial information at 4 March 2025. No questions had been raised by the members

FTC/24/372 Consideration and Authorisation of budget transfers (virements)

The Clerk presented a proposal for the council to consider the following virements which included:

- £1,100 for the installation of a 30L water heater in HLH at the end of electrical works;
- £1,200 to Professional Fees to remove the garage with asbestos;
- £2,500 for parks equipment budget which would cover the cost of tools, a new transfer box for the tractor and new bin to help with the increase in waste in the Torrs Riverside Park.

RESOLVED: Cllrs approved all budget transfers.

FTC/24/373 External Audit Final report for 2023/2024

Clerk advised that she had been informed that external audit had been concluded and the council would be presented with an invoice for £976 + VAT. The cost covered additional work carried out by the external auditors arising from 'information brought to the auditors's attention'. The Council still awaited receipt of the final report.

FTC/24/374 Planning

The Chair advised all present that NMTC had limited weight in the decisions made by HPBC. Four options would be provided to members to respond to the applications presented between 5 February 2025 and 3 March 2025: support, object, do not object, or just provide comment.

RESOLVED: The Town Council made the following comments

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	SITE ADDRESS	APPLICANT	COMMENT
HPK/2025/0013	Proposed 20m x 40m Sand and fibre all-weather outdoor arena	Westfield House High Hill Road Birch Vale SK22 1BA	Mrs J Brookman	Do not object
http://planning.highpeak.gov.uk/portal/servlets/ApplicationSearchServlet?PKID=269011				
HPK/2025/0018	Demolition of existing storage buildings and erection of 6 two storey dwellings (arranged as a terrace)	Storage Buildings to the West of High Hill Road New Mills	Mr N Houlihan Detail Homes Limited	Comments of Concern Highway issue- Narrow access for the construction and occupation of the dwellings
http://planning.highpeak.gov.uk/portal/servlets/ApplicationSearchServlet?PKID=269023				
HPK/2024/0512	Retention of wooden structure and the change of use of the land for the preparation of sale of hot food to be consumed off the premises. Collection and delivery service only	4 Hague Bar Depot Hague Bar Road New Mills SK22 3EA	Paul Cain Epic Pizzas	Comments of Concern 1 Highway issue - regarding accessing and exiting the site onto the highway. 2- Negative Effect on Conservation Area.
http://planning.highpeak.gov.uk/portal/servlets/ApplicationSearchServlet?PKID=268902				
HPK/2025/0017	Drop the existing kerb to allow parking on the property	6 Low Leighton Rd New Mills SK22 4PG	Mrs L Burton	Do not object
http://planning.highpeak.gov.uk/portal/servlets/ApplicationSearchServlet?PKID=269021				

New Mills Town Council Policies

The Clerk presented NMTC policies for consideration.

FTC/24/375 **RESOLVED:** Council approved the Document Retention and Disposal Policy.

FTC/24/376 **RESOLVED:** Council approved the Lost Property Policy.

FTC/24/377 Correspondence

A resident expressed interest to cataloguing heritage information at HLH, whilst the members had appreciated the offer the council did not feel in a position to move forward due to the lack of internal resources to support completion of the task. At this stage the council would convey that they were unable to proceed presently contact would be re-established when

the Council recognised that re-gaining museum accreditation as a priority.

Responding to a member's enquiry relating to a health and safety issue the Clerk advised that the Council had been contacted by local quarry where trees owned by New Mills Town Council could have caused falling rocks. A site visit had been arranged but cancelled by the person who had raised the matter. The Council would be advised if further contact on this concern is raised.

FTC/24/378 **RESOLVED:** New Mills Town Council closed the meeting as all the agenda items had been discussed.

The meeting closed at 8.48pm

Signed as a true and correct record of the meeting

Chair _____ Date _____

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

DRAFT