

NEW MILLS TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the COUNCIL MEETING of NEW MILLS TOWN COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, New Mills Derbyshire, on 11th September 2023, starting at 19:00hrs.

Present :-

Cllr Eadie (in the Chair), Cllr Aris-Sutton, Cllr Bancroft, Cllr Bannister, Cllr Denton, Cllr Donovan, Cllr Evans, Cllr Reed, Cllr Ritchie, Lesley Bramwell (Town Clerk), Sue Mycock, Minute Taker.

3 Members of the Public, 2 members of NMTC staff, County Councillor Anne Clarke and Borough Councillor Peter Inman were also present

Non-Confidential Information (Public in Attendance)

Filming of Council Meetings

Any persons intending to record this meeting are requested not to film the public seating area and staff, to respect the wishes of members of the public and staff, who have come to the meeting to speak at a meeting but do not wish to be filmed. Please be reminded that oral commentary at the meeting is not permitted.

The Meeting was recorded for the accuracy of the minutes. Meetings open to the public may be recorded by representatives of the media or by members of the public.

The Chair of the Meeting may ask people to stop recording and leave the meeting if they act in a disruptive manner.

2023/138 Introductions and Apologies for absence (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies were received from Cllr Davey, Cllr Pearson, Cllr Stowell.

2023/139 Variation of Order of Business (Agenda Item 2)

NONE

2023/140 Declaration of Members Interests (Agenda Item 3)

a) Cllr Aris-Sutton - Agenda Item 10 - Additional Correspondence received by the Clerk re Friends of New Mills Stations – Personal

Cllr Evans - Agenda Item 10 - Additional Correspondence received by the Clerk re Friends of New Mills Stations – Personal

b) NONE

2023/141 Public speaking (Agenda Item 4)

a) A representative from Rock Mill Centre (RMC) gave a short talk about linking RMC with Torr Vale Mill (TVM) and High Lea Hall (HLH) to provide walks and more attractions to interest tourists; he had shared this proposal with Cllr Eadie. There were various local organisations interested in being involved including Walkers are Welcome and Northern Rail had given permission to advertise at stations and RMC are currently involved in sourcing grants/funding towards this project; he hoped the project would be ready for summer 2024.

He asked for NMTC's permission to eventually erect an A1 sign at New Mills Bus Station. The Parks Manager (PM) indicated that he did not have a problem with the sign being placed as proposed.

Cllr Eadie said she had insight into the speed RMC progress their ideas, and that this project should be an Agenda Item at a future NMTC meeting.

b) There was no Police Liaison Officer (PLO) present.

County Councillor Anne Clarke reported that: -

- i She had been meeting with local residents regarding local issues eg speeding and was pleased to report that Highways had now agreed to install flashing school zone lights, in both directions, highlighting New Mills Primary School.
- ii She had given grants, from her Members' Community Leadership Fund, to support work at Rock Mill Centre, New Mills Pantry and Friends of New Mills Stations. Cllr Clarke would welcome applications from organisation/groups if they

have identified projects which would be of use to local residents.

- iii Mark Rogers had been appointed Interim Chief Officer of the East Midlands Devolution Programme.
- iv Following the recent election, Cllr Alan Haynes was elected the new County Councillor for Swadlincote.

Cllr Evans reported that: -

- v There had been more training for new Councillors including Data Protection, General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- vi There had been setting of High Peak Borough Council (HPBC) priorities such as next version of the High Peak Borough Plan (formerly the Local Plan). The key areas will be town centre regeneration, affordable housing, investment in parks and leisure centres, which includes the ongoing 2 million pounds investment in New Mills Leisure Centre (NMLC). It is hope that the works will start early in 2024; presently it is at the design stage and structural checking.
- vii NMLC has a high usage in all areas. There are still some free swimming vouchers for High Peak organisations and Cllr Evans can be contacted for further information on how to apply for these.
- viii Other priorities are community involvement and co-working with Town and Parish Councils across the High Peak including the climate change agenda.
- I ix HPBC are also be forming a Tourism Strategy Group and New Mills will be asked to join that.
- x Have met with the Trades Hall Bowling Club who will be looking to raise funding to provide a permanent facility at their ground.
- xi All Cllr Evans' HPBC Councillors Initiative Fund has now been used. Funding has gone to Visit New Mills, New Mills Junior Football Club, New Mills Festival, New Mills Youth and Community Project and Rock Mill Centre.

c) NONE

2023/142 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on (Agenda Item 5)

14th August 2023 (NMTC)

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the NMTC Council Meeting of 14th August 2023 be accepted as a true record of that meeting, with an amendment that **Min No 2023/122b)i)** reads “and a petition, which closes on 14th September 2023, against such a large increase”.

7 votes **FOR**,

2 (Cllrs Bannister and Reed – not at the meeting) **ABSTENTIONS**,

0 votes **AGAINST**

Thanks were expressed for the early distribution of NMTC Draft Minutes, giving Councillors more time to consider them, before the next meeting.

It was noted that no representative from Derbyshire Constabulary had attended NMTC’s Meeting for some while. Cllr Evans said that he would contact the local policing team to check what problems there might be preventing a police representative from attending.

2023/143 Update on HPBC response regarding the opening times of their toilets in New Mills (Agenda Item 6)

The Clerk reported that, on HPBC’s website, the toilets on High Street, New Mills are advertised as open 8am to 6pm. The Clerk had asked HPBC to confirm that these times are constant. She had not received a reply to date. Cllr Evans asked the Clerk to send HPBC’s report reference number and he will follow-up this enquiry.

2023/144 Update on the opening times of the toilets in High Lea Park (Agenda Item 7)

Cllr Eadie thanked the Parks Manager (PM) for NMTC’s Parks staff help during the recent Festival event in High Lea Park, and arranging for the toilets at High Lea Park to remain open later.

It was highlighted that consistency in the opening and closing of the toilets in High Lea Park is necessary.

The current situation is that the Parks Team open and close the toilets in line with their working hours from Monday – Friday. At the weekend a volunteer (currently the tenant of the first floor flat at High Lea Hall) opens and closes the toilets.

The PM wanted 7pm to be the latest closure time for the toilets in High Lea Park; he explained that a considerable amount of money had been spent updating the toilets and there could be an increased risk of anti-social behaviour later in the evening.

It would be necessary to either, have a volunteer or a paid employee, to keep the toilets open until 7pm on weekdays and 9am to 7 pm at weekends and Bank Holidays.

Cllr Reed suggested that, in winter the toilets could be closed at dusk. as there was little likelihood of many children/families being in the Park after dark.

Cllr Aris-Sutton suggested that this matter be referred to NMTC's Finance and Assets Sub-Committee as more information was required to make an appropriate recommendation.

2023/145 Update on Committee Meeting schedule (Agenda Item 8)

It was noted that the sub-committee meeting date for the 27th May 2024 is a Bank Holiday, so Cllr Stowell would be asked to arrange a different date.

It was RESOLVED that the meeting dates for the Community Matters and Council Matters Committees be accepted with an alternative date to replace the 27th May 2023 Bank Holiday date. 9 votes **FOR**, 0 **ABSTENTIONS**, 0 votes **AGAINST**

It was noted that any Personnel issues would be discussed at the end of the Council Matters Committee meeting behind closed doors.

The dates for these meetings can be found on the NMTC website; click on 'About the Council' and then 'Council Meetings'.

2023/146 Updates of previous Town Council Resolutions (Agenda Item 9)

It was noted that most of the previous Town Council Resolutions queries had been addressed.

Cllr Evans asked about the present situation regarding Dyehouse Lane (see **Min No 2023/126**). The Clerk reported that she had sent a special delivery letter to the lessee; the site does not appear to be being used for parking at present. She has asked NMTC's solicitor to get in touch with the lessee's solicitor. Once this issue has been resolved then all business with NMTC's current solicitors will be completed.

**2023/147 Finance
(Agenda Item 10)**

a) Accounts for Payment – details to follow

**To access the Finance Information documents
Open the document Addendum A, click Enable Editing
Then double-click on each icon to view details**

b) Payments received – August 2023

**To access the Finance Information documents
Open the document Addendum A, click Enable Editing
Then double-click on each icon to view details**

The Clerk reported that she was still awaiting a reply from the Co-operative Bank about the new NMTC bank signatories.

The Clerk informed Council that:-

- i The new accounting had started to be used, but that the information retrieved from the SAGE accounting system had also been included, as the SAGE references were used to highlight any queries on payments.
- ii The new format needs a column for recording cheque numbers.
- iii NMTC's Accountant recommends that the monthly bank balance be monitored to ensure sufficient funds are available for authorised expenditure.
- iv The Clerk reported that the second quote received for the Town Hall replacement boiler was £26,000 + VAT for one boiler. Another heating company was attending the Town Hall on Tuesday 12th September 2023 to assess NMTC's requirements and provide a quote.

- v The Clerk explained the process for a loan of £20,000 towards the cost of a replacement boiler. A detailed proposal for the replacement boiler would need to go to the Derbyshire Association of Local Councils (DALC) for their consideration before going to the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) for agreement to the loan. There would need to be an NMTC Minute No to accompany the proposal.

It was RESOLVED that an NMTC Extraordinary Meeting would be held as soon as possible to consider the quotes received and determine the preferred option.

9 votes **FOR**, 0 **ABSTENTIONS**, 0 votes **AGAINST**

Cllr Eadie agreed to meet with NMTC's caretaker and the boiler company on Tuesday 12th September 2023.

c) Queries on previous payments – 2 previous queries

Queries at **Min No 2023/127b)**

Question:- 02/07/2023 2000 £3445.70 Estates

Answer:- This is the 5% Recharge for the NMTC Town Hall room used by Derbyshire County Council (DCC) Registrars.

Question:- 24/07/2023 2039 £2376.00 Room Hire.

Answer:- This is the payment for hire of the Large Hall by Lloyds Bank, from 21st August 2023 to 11th December 2023.

It was RESOLVED that the Accounts for Payment and Payments Received in August 2023 be approved.

9 votes **FOR**, 0 **ABSTENTIONS**, 0 votes **AGAINST**

d) Update on a Zettle Account and purchase a card reader for the Heritage Centre

Cllr Eadie reported that Zettle had restrictions on supplying accounts to Government entities, so she had been unable to arrange this. Cllr Eadie will be investigating other alternatives.

The Clerk said she had contacted DALC and asked them to send a Round Robin to other Derbyshire Councils to explore if any local councils have had experience of obtaining a card reader. She is awaiting a reply.

e) Follow-up for Rights of Way Maintenance expenditure

It was RESOLVED that the application for payment for NMTC's work on the DCC Public Rights of Way Maintenance be signed by Cllr Eadie and forwarded to DCC.

9 votes **FOR**, 0 **ABSTENTIONS**, 0 votes **AGAINST**

f) To approve payment of £200 + travel expenses for support and advice from DALC for sourcing and selecting Clerk candidates

It was RESOLVED to approve payment of £200 + travel expenses for support and advice from DALC for sourcing and selecting Clerk candidates.

9 votes **FOR**, 0 **ABSTENTIONS**, 0 votes **AGAINST**

g) To approve a suitable budget for the annual Local History event

It was RESOLVED that there be an annual budget, within the Town Hall budget head of £100, with an annual review, for the annual Local History Event, which is part of New Mills Festival.

9 votes **FOR**, 0 **ABSTENTIONS**, 0 votes **AGAINST**

2023/148 Update from the Parks and Heritage Centre Manager (Agenda Item 11)

a) To discuss and agree details for Guy Fawkes night 4th November 2023

More detail about the arrangements for NMTC's Bonfire event was to be discussed at the Events Sub-Committee following this meeting. However,

It was RESOLVED that there would be a maximum spend of £3,000 on fireworks for NMTC's Bonfire event.

6 votes **FOR**, 2 (Cllrs Bancroft, Denton) **ABSTENTIONS**, 1 (Cllr Ritchie) vote **AGAINST**

b) To discuss chainsaw budget for Parks staff of £976 per person

It was RESOLVED to authorise the PM to book places for 2 members of the Parks staff on a chainsaw course at a cost of approximately £976 per person.

9 votes **FOR**, 0 **ABSTENTIONS**, 0 votes **AGAINST**

c) Agree per person £200 annually for High speed training

It was RESOLVED that there would be a £200 per employee/per year budget for High Speed training such as, but not restricted to Health & Safety, e-learning training etc.

8 votes **FOR**, 0 **ABSTENTIONS**, 1 (Cllr Reed) vote **AGAINST**

d) Bespoke Parks training to be approved following a proposal for associated costs and benefits

Cllr Reed asked why only the Parks staff were included in this Agenda Item as training would benefit all NMTC staff. There was discussion about an NMTC training budget of £10,000. It was felt that more discussion was needed about this item, including whether there should be a term of service with NMTC required following training or a requirement to repay the cost of training.

This matter was deferred, for consideration by the NMTC Personnel Sub-Committee, and will then be an Agenda Item at a future NMTC Full Council meeting.

e) Possible move to Sutcliffe Play for playground inspections

The PM explained that Sutcliffe Play carry out playground inspections, but also stock spare parts and could complete repairs which NMTC's Parks staff are not able to undertake.

It was RESOLVED that the PM investigate and provide a detailed report about this proposal for the next NMTC Full Council meeting.

9 votes **FOR**, 0 **ABSTENTIONS**, 0 votes **AGAINST**

f) Parks Manager to provide more information regarding playground maintenance courses

It was RESOLVED to authorise the PM to book 4 places for the Parks staff on a playground inspection course, organised by DALC, on 7th November 2023 at a cost of £140 per person.

9 votes **FOR**, 0 **ABSTENTIONS**, 0 votes **AGAINST**

g) Anti-social funding – youth shelter

Cllr Eadie highlighted the Anti-Social Behaviour Fund which is available for grant applications; she felt it might be particularly appropriate funding in relation to Ollersett Fields.

The PM thought that the proposed youth shelter related to High Lea Park.

Cllr Aris-Sutton informed the meeting that Ollersett Fields is not a Park, but a Public Open Space, and it would, therefore, be more problematic to isolate an area in such a space. He also reported that there had been a previous NMTC Resolution to provide a youth shelter in High Lea Park, which would need to be rescinded if there were to be an alternative proposal.

Cllr Eadie suggested arranging a meeting with residents local to Ollersett Fields to discuss ideas for improving the area.

HPBC are keen to improve fitness facilities borough-wide.

Cllr Eadie would like to see NMTC working along the same lines.

It was suggested that a voluntary Friends of New Mills Parks group could be a way to access HPBC grants towards improving all parks in New Mills, with NMTC working closely with any formalised voluntary group, to achieve an overall strategy for these improvements.

It was suggested that contact be made with previous members of the former Friends of New Mills Parks group, which is currently dormant.

2023/149 Update from the Clerk (Agenda Item 12)

a) Appointing New Mills based solicitors

The Clerk had received 3 expressions of interest in providing legal services to NMTC from New Mills based solicitors. She will circulate this information to all Councillors.

b) To agree future content of e-mails forwarded to Councillors

There was discussion about the importance of the context of e-mails being sent along with any attachments, as well as an indication if Councillors needed to take action or if an e-mail was to advise or for information.

It was RESOLVED that e-mails sent to Councillors would include the context of an e-mail along with any attachments and an

indication of whether action was required, or an e-mail was to advise or provide information.

8 votes **FOR**, 1 (Cllr Aris-Sutton) **ABSTENTION**, 0 votes **AGAINST**

c) Update on staff DBS checks

It was RESOLVED that NMTC staff could make an individual decision as to whether they wished to have a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. If they decided to do this through the Gov.uk website they would be reimbursed by NMTC.

9 votes **FOR**, 0 **ABSTENTIONS**, 0 votes **AGAINST**

d) Request to summarise information from Town Council meetings before the Minutes are available

Discussion took place about this Agenda Item. The Clerk expressed concern about any content not being misleading as Resolutions are the legal decision of Council.

It was agreed that a trial precis of discussions which had taken place at an NMTC meeting would take place, with a caveat that more details would be available in the Approved Minutes which would be published once approved. This content would be posted on social media.

e) Request for electric car charging points in New Mills

Councillor Peter Inman spoke. He had recently met with the Friends of Rowarth (FoR), who would like an electric charging point in Rowarth Car Park, in order for it to be feasible for residents to consider buying electric vehicles. NMTC own the Car Park. Cllr Inman confirmed that the feed would come from a street light. FoR had investigated a company who would put a charger in and share profits with both the owners of the car park and themselves.

Cllr Inman could not confirm whether there would be cost to NMTC.

Cllr Evans would investigate if any companies would be willing to do a feasibility study for electric charging points in New Mills.

It was RESOLVED that NMTC would give permission for a feasibility study to assess Rowarth Car Park for the possibility of installing an electric vehicle charging point.

9 votes **FOR**, 0 **ABSTENTIONS**, 0 votes **AGAINST**

**2023/150 Health and Safety – to Resolve that Cllr Stowell will take on the ambassador role to support the Clerk regarding Health and Safety matters and agree a meeting date
(Agenda Item 13)**

Cllr Stowell had offered to take on an ambassador role in relation to NMTC's Health and Safety matters. It was highlighted that this would not be taking over the paid role but supporting the Clerk.

It was RESOLVED that Cllr Stowell would take on an ambassador role in relation to NMTC's Health and Safety matters, supporting the Clerk and would contact the Clerk to arrange a meeting.
8 votes **FOR**, 1 (Cllr Bancroft) **ABSTENTION**, 0 votes **AGAINST**

**2023/151 Heritage Centre interactive website and app.
(Agenda Item 14)**

Cllr Eadie had met with the PM and Deputy Parks Manager (DPM) to discuss ways in which to maximise the benefits of the Innovation and Infrastructure Funds. One idea was for an HC interactive website and potentially app. Cllr Eadie will prepare a proposal and circulate before the next NMTC meeting, but these funds have to be match-funded.

This matter will be brought as an Agenda Item at the next Full Town Council meeting.

**2023/152 Remembrance Day
(Agenda Item 15)**

This Agenda Item will be discussed at the Events Sub-Committee following this meeting.

**2023/153 Planning Applications
(Agenda Item 16)**

a) Applications received and circulated

(Those Members who are on the High Peak Borough Council Planning Committee, indicate that their views are provisional, and they reserve final judgement on the application until the matter comes before the Planning Committee, when they will have before them all the material considerations including the Planning Officers

report).

Agenda Item 16 – New Mills Town Council Meeting on 11th September 2023
Planning Applications to 8th September 2023

Representations to be made by	Application No	Proposal	Site Address	Applicant	Comment
28/09/2023	HPK/2023/0230	Listed Building Consent for proposed 3 skylights in the roof on the rear side of the property	The Long Barn Whitle Fold Whitle Bank Road New Mills SK22 4EF	Mrs A Beale	No comment
28/09/2023	HPK/2023/0229	Proposed 3 skylights in the roof on the rear side of the property	The Long Barn Whitle Fold Whitle Bank Road New Mills SK22 4EF	Mrs A Beale	No comment
05/10/2023	HPK/2023/0295	Demolition of half of the garage to create off-street parking and the replacement of timber sash windows with UPVC windows	West Mount Longlands Road New Mills SK22 3BL	Mr D Hogg	NMTC wish to highlight that this property is in the New Mills Conservation Area
26/09/2023	HPK/2023/0333	Construction of an outbuilding	Springfield Dale Road New Mills SK22 4NW	Mr & Mrs K Gilsenan	No comment
25/09/2023	HPK/2023/0360	Retrospective application for change of use to a mixed use of residential/dog grooming and boarding and retention of attached outbuilding	10 Mill Pond Avenue New Mills SK22 4HL	N Hicks	No comment

The voting, including the comment regarding Application No **HPK/2023/0295** was as follows:

9 votes **FOR**, **0** **ABSTENTIONS**, **0** votes **AGAINST**

2023/154 Actions for next/future meetings
(Agenda Item 17)

NONE

20:55 It was **RESOLVED** to close the meeting
9 votes **FOR**, **0** **ABSTENTIONS**, **0** votes **AGAINST**