

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 14 April 2025

Councillors Present Steve Davey (Chair), Lyn Bannister, Simon Evans, Andrew Denton, Margaret Ritchie, John Reed, Charles Jevon, Mark Paxton and Anne Hallam

In Attendance Clare Wild (Clerk) and Abbey Bailey (Minute Taker)

Derbyshire County Council (DCC) Cllr Anne Clarke
Two members of the public, representatives for Torr Vale Mill

Meeting opened at 7.02pm

FTC/24/379 Introductions and Apologies for Absence

Absent Cllrs: Beth Eadie, Esther Morrison and Matt Donovan had presented apologies.

HPBC Cllr Jenni Benzer and Cllr Peter Inman had sent their apologies.

PCSO Robert Nicklin sent apologies.

All present made introductions.

Cllr Matt Donovan tendered his resignation prior to the meeting, and the Council gave thanks for his attendance and work over the past two years.

FTC/24/380 Variation of Order of Business

Item 9iii, Request to leave contract early (Finance), had been withdrawn from the agenda due to new information.

Item 11i and 11ii, Sexual Harassment and Whats App NMTC Policies would be deferred to the next meeting.

FTC/24/381 Declaration of Members Interests and Dispensation Applications

Cllr Lyn Bannister (LB)

- Item 7ii. New Mills Events: Torr Vale Mill (TVM) Trail of Light Event. As director of the New Mills Festival (NMF) who have been approached by TVM asking to be a partner, this offer had been declined. LB would remain in the meeting but have no vote.

Cllr Simon Evans (SE)

- Item 7ii. New Mills Events: Torr Vale Mill Trail of Light Event. As a member of the Development Control Committee HPBC. SE would remain in the meeting but have no vote.
- Item 10 Planning. As a member of the Development and Planning Committee HPBC. SE would remain in the meeting but have no vote.

FTC/24/382 Public Speaking

No members of the public spoke

PCSO Robert Nicklin provided a written report to the Council, which highlighted:

- Car theft had decreased over the past month, and scrap metal thefts need to continue to be reported so that the police can investigate these further.
- Notices had been issued for parking on double yellow lines on Market Street.

DCC Councillor Anne Clarke (AC) provided a verbal report to the Council, key points noted

- DCC engineer advised that Meal Street needed a fence putting in place but there was no plan to rebuild the original wall structure.
- Double yellow lines had been installed on Longlands Road. A patrol would be put in place during school drop offs and pickups for a short period of time after the Easter holidays to monitor parking violations.
- Responding to a query from Cllr relating to the condition of Station Road Network Rail had confirmed no ownership of the unadopted section.
- AC had visited the motorcycle safety event recently held at New Mills Fire Station that had been well attended.
- Potholes remained a problem in many areas of New Mills. AC continued to resolve these issues with DCC highways department but made little progress. AC would continue to pursue and provide updates.

AC informed Council the meeting would be the last meeting as DCC Councillor for this term, and she advised she had enjoyed working with the Council, passing thanks.

High Peak Borough Council Cllr Simon Evans (SE) provided a verbal report to the Council

- New Mills High School received a 'Good' rating in all four areas of their Ofsted inspection. SE, as Governor, noted the hard work done by all parties involved in achieving this outcome, adding that further Governor vacancies existed at New Mills High School. SE had been working to progress structural repairs that had already been agreed with DCC.
- At a Special Devolution Meeting the Borough Council had supported a North/South Derbyshire split proposal. High Peak would be part of the North Derbyshire Unitary Council. The proposal would be open for consultation collecting views from members of the public.
- High Street public toilets still remained closed. SE had recently queried the delay but as yet no received a reply.

FTC/24/383 Minutes of the last meetings of the Full Town Council

Clerk had presented members with the minutes from Council meeting, minor corrections had been made.

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

FTC/24/384 To note minutes from the committee meetings

Minutes from committee meetings not been presented.

New Mills Events

FTC/24/385 VE Day and VJ Day 80 Arrangements

HPBC had offered funding to run an event for VE Day (8th May). Due to the short timing until VE Day, it was determined by members that an event for VE Day would not be possible. Members noted that an event for VJ Day, in August, could be possible and would be discussed at future council meeting.

RESOLVED: - Clerk to purchase two flags (one for Town Hall, one for High Lea Park) to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day in 2025.

FTC/24/386 Torr Vale Mill (TVM) – Trail of Light Event

TVM proposed the 'Trail of Light' event in October 2025. A new proposal had been presented to the council that addressed concerns that had been previously raised during a committee meeting. TVM required permission from the landholder to hold the event as the trail would pass through Torrs Riverside Park and partial closure of the area had been requested.

A discussion on the logistics, accessibility and health & safety took place, the council recommended some measures that could further improve the event, including the installation of a hand rail on TVM steep steps that would be part of the route.

Council had requested insurance being put in place that would remove any liability for any damage caused by the event. Another consideration would be an arrangement to be put in place to cover any remedial work to the area post event.

TVM confirmed that whilst these additional measures could increase the ticket cost there could be Arts Council Funding available to lower ticket costs post approval to hold the event by NMTC.

Council discussed a nominal fee to be charged to TVM to hold the event.

RESOLVED:

Council approved the event, in principle, subject to final consideration at the next council meeting. If permission granted then TVM would be charged £100.

Two members of the public left the meeting.

FTC/24/387

New Mills Junior Football Club Memorial Bench

RESOLVED: Retrospective approval for installation had been provided as the work had been completed to required standard.

Finance

FTC/24/388

Authorisation of payments presented

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Revised - Town Hall Payments to be Authorised April 2025				
Direct Debit	Recipient		Details	
DD	HPBC - 90054193	6355	TH & Library Business Rates 01 Apr 2025 - 31 Mar 2026	£ 3,517.95
DD	HPBC - 90054040	6356	Rowarth Car Park Business Rates 01 Apr 2025 - 31 Mar 2026	£ 835.83
DD	Deere Financial	6330	Tractor Rental - Mar 2025	£ 725.92
DD	Ecotricity - HC	6312	Elec Acc - 09-25 Feb 2025	£ 587.06
DD	BT	6331	TH- Phone & Broadband Charges to 01 Mar-31 May 2025	£ 517.28
DD	Ecotricity - TH	6314	Elec Acc -28 Jan - 28 Feb 2025	£ 504.37
DD	EDF	6309	TH - Gas Acc. 01-28 Feb 2025	£ 276.84
DD	Ecotricity - Parks	6313	Elec Acc - 09-25 Feb 2025	£ 196.36
DD	Ecotricity - LLR	6315	Elec Acc -01-27 Feb 2025	£ 57.61
DD	Clover	6347	Service Charges & Fees 01-28 Feb 2025	£ 48.84
DD	Clover	6351	Base Service Charges 01-31 Mar 2025	£ 25.20
DD	HPBC - 92111417	6354	HLH Business Rates 01 Apr 2025 - 31 Mar 2026	£ 0.50
DD	American Express	6353	Card Charges to 31 Mar 2025	£ 0.22
DD	American Express	6346	Card Charges to 02 Mar 2025	£ 0.12
				Sub £ 7,294.10
Town Hall Payments to be Authorised April 2025				
Payments Made	Recipient		Details	
POA	Arden Controls	6328	HLH Electrical Upgrades - PO100285	£ 5,016.00
POA	Senior Building Supplies Ltd	6324	Timber/Aggregates	£ 2,087.08
POA	NFU	6319	Vehicles Annual Insurance	£ 1,049.04
POA	Wild	6343	Tools - PO100284	£ 781.00
POA	Wild	6359	Freezer & Coffee Shop Stock - PO100294	£ 563.56
POA	Senior Building Supplies Ltd	6321	Timber/Aggregates	£ 580.13
POA	SLCC	6333	CILCA Qualification Fee - PO100278	£ 450.00
POA	Headmasters (Gear4Work)	6334	Staff Uniform - PO100275	£ 110.40
POA	Ginge & Co	6345	Ice Cream Tubs - PO100273	£ 82.50
POA	Ginge & Co	6311	Ice Cream Tubs - PO100269	£ 66.00
POA	Ginge & Co	6344	Ice Cream Tubs - PO100291	£ 49.50
POA	Screwfix	6322	Timber screws/Staff Footwear	£ 47.98
POA	BT	6350	HC - Regular Charges 01-31 Mar 2025	£ 35.96
POA	Peak Bean	6217	Ground Filter Coffee - PO100267	£ 30.00
POA	Lewis	6332	Mobile Phone Top-up - PO100280	£ 15.00
				Sub £ 10,400.59
Town Hall Payments to be Authorised April 2025				
Payments to Make	Recipient		Details	
B	PKF	6318	External Audit Fees	£ 2,431.50
B	Asbestosgo	6342	Asbestos Removal - PO100282	£ 1,140.00
B	Storry	6323	Professional Fees	£ 1,060.00
B	Cuttlefish	6357	Website Annual Licence 01 May 2025 - 30 Apr 2026	£ 810.00
B	Alken Engineering Ltd	6337	Tractor Transport Box Repair - PO100283	£ 360.00
B	Wild	6329	HLH Coffee Shop Stock - PO100277	£ 213.49
B	Senior Building Supplies Ltd	6336	Aggregates/Laths - PO100292	£ 227.35
B	Espo	6320	Office Stationery/Cleaning Materials - PO100274	£ 178.56
B	Wm Eyre & Sons	6340	Safetywear/Cleaning Materials/Tools - PO100290	£ 159.50
B	DALC	6341	Charity Training - PO100289	£ 110.00
B	Catterall	6325	Fuel Acc. - Feb 2025	£ 78.50
B	Catterall	6348	Land Rover MOT	£ 66.00
B	ESPO	6338	TH - Stationery/Parks - Cleaning Solution - PO100287	£ 52.44
B	Lewis	6335	Mobile Phone Top-up - PO100293	£ 30.00
B	Wild	6326	TH - Splash Mats - PO100276	£ 29.90
B	Wild	6327	Caretaker Keys - PO100279	£ 16.00
B	Wild	6349	Mileage Costs	£ 14.85
B	Wild	6339	TH - Batteries - PO100288	£ 14.49
B	Cuttlefish	6316	Email Account 03 Mar-30 Apr 25	£ 6.67
B	T Dawson	6310	Postage Tracked & Signed	£ 5.30
				Sub £ 7,004.55
				Total £ 24,699.24

A Cllr queried the business rates for Rowarth Car Park. The Clerk advised that this was a historic annual charge but would investigate this matter further and report back to the Council.

RESOLVED: The Council approved payments presented for April 2025.

FTC/24/389 To note financial information for the month ended 31 March 2025

**New Mills Town Council
Financial Information for Council - 14th April 2025
(as at 11th April 2025)**

BANK RECONCILIATION

Total Balances brought forward @ 01/03/2025		£ 158,353.43
RECEIPTS		
	Cash receipts	-
	Bank receipts	2,157.23
	Supplier refund	-
	Customer receipts	<u>31,288.57</u>
		£ 33,445.80
PAYMENTS		
	Cash payments	32.08
	Bank payments	27,704.36
	Supplier Payments	<u>17,690.41</u>
		£ (45,426.85)
OTHER RECEIPTS	Bank interest on Deposit accounts	£ -
Opening unrepresented items		
Unrepresented items	Union Subscriptions	(168.00)
	Takings	59.20
		£ 108.80
		£ -
Total Balances carried forward @		31/03/2025 <u>£ 146,481.18</u>

Represented by:-

Bank Balances

Statement date	Account	Balance
31/03/2025	Community Directplus	£8,000.00
31/03/2025	Business Select Instant Access	£78,523.80
31/03/2025	Business Select 14 Day	£28,395.85
31/03/2025	Business Select 14 Day*	£11,419.51
31/03/2025	Unity Trust	£20,078.15
31/03/2025	Petty cash	£63.87

Total Balances carried forward @ 31/03/2025 £146,481.18

- * £4,200 of this balance is held in respect of phone box defibrillator projects.
- * £3,011 of this balance is ringfenced for signage and heritage projects
- * £4,000 of this balance is held in respect of pond maintenance (HBM).

The Council noted financial information provided. When questioned, the clerk confirmed that Union Subscriptions had been paid out for one staff members directly from their wages.

FTC/24/390 To note External Audit Final report for 2023/2024

RESOLVED: The Council noted the report and noted no further actions needed to be taken.

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 4 March 2025 and 14 April March 2025: support, object, do not object, or just provide comment.

RESOLVED: The Town Council made the following comments for all four planning applications:

APPLICATION	PROPOSAL	SITE ADDRESS	APPLICANT	COMMENT
HPK/2024/0494	Proposed change of use of the existing ground floor of the property into a mixed-use space, comprising of commercial premises (Class E) and a 1-bedroom residential flat (Class C3)	14-16 Lloyds Bank Union Road New Mills SK22 3ES	Mr B McDonald	Do not object
http://planning.highpeak.gov.uk/portal/servlets/ApplicationSearchServlet?PKID=268788				

DET/2025/0003	Application to determine if prior approval is required for the proposed conversion of 2 barns to form 2 dwellings	Ravensleach Farm Unknown Road from Hayfield Road to Ravensleach Farm Birch Vale SK22 1DD	J Butler	Do not object
http://planning.highpeak.gov.uk/portal/servlets/ApplicationSearchServlet?PKID=269303				

DET/2025/0004	Application to determine if prior approval is required for the proposed development of the conversion of 2 barns to form 2 dwellings	Ravensleach Farm Unknown Road from Hayfield Road to	J Butler	Do not object
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		Ravensleach Farm Birch Vale SK22 1DD		
http://planning.highpeak.gov.uk/portal/servlets/ApplicationSearchServlet?PKID=269305				

HPK/2025/0096	Single story side extension with garage and utility room	6 Longlands Drive New Mills SK22 3DA	Mr & Mrs Hall	Do not object
http://planning.highpeak.gov.uk/portal/servlets/ApplicationSearchServlet?PKID=269272				

New Mills Town Council Policies

FTC/24/392 Income Collection, Overpayment, Debt Prevention and Recovery Policy

RESOLVED: Members approved the policy, with the addition of a late payment charge of £25 to be made after 60 days of late payment.

FTC/24/393 Consider approval of Appeals Committee terms of reference

RESOLVED: Members approved the policy with no amendments.

FTC/24/394 Correspondence

Council discussed that residents had raised concerns with regards to Goyt Valley House. SE confirmed that a planning application for 17 flats had been submitted for the premises.

FTC/24/395 Network Rail Update

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

- Works had been still progressing. A new stream had been discovered and additional work to redirect into the new pond would be carried out.
- Hague Bar Meadows should remain closed as NMTC did not consider the area to be safe for the public and advised Network Rail to seek a footpath closure from DCC or carry the risk as NMTC had not accepted the site back as works had been ongoing.
- Tree planting and biodiversity enhancements had been discussed, however members raised that a guarantee would be needed from Network Rail, due to potential weather damage throughout the year. The Chair recommended that this was a period of one year

but would confirm this further with Network Rail.
Cllr John Reed (JR) reported that a portion of the railway line near Mousley Bottom would be subject to monitoring over a three month period.
Following this Network Rail would decide if any work would be required

FTC/24/396 New Mills Town Council Meetings

- Parks and Open Spaces Committee 28 April 2025 -7pm
- High Lea Hall Committee 28 April 2025 – 8pm
- Annual Council Meeting 12 May 2025 – 7pm
- Annual Parish Meeting 13 May 2025 – 7pm (doors at 6.30pm)

The Council noted the date of upcoming council meetings

FTC/24/397 RESOLVED: New Mills Town Council closed the meeting as all the agenda items had been discussed.

The meeting closed at 8.51pm

Signed as a true and correct record of the meeting

Chair _____ Date _____

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

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