

**MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF NEYLAND TOWN COUNCIL, HELD ON THURSDAY  
16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 6.00PM AT NEYLAND COMMUNITY HUB**

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This meeting was recorded.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Cllr. P Hay (Mayor)

Cllr. M Harry  
Cllr. E Phelan  
Cllr. A Richards  
Cllr. A Thomas  
Cllr. S Hancock  
Cllr. S Campodonic  
Cllr. D Devauden  
Cllr. S Thomas

Miss. Libby Matthews – Town Clerk & RFO

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr. A Phelan (Deputy Mayor) (arrived at 6.15pm)

Cllr. B Rothero

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs. Rhian Young – Monitoring Officer, PCC

Mr. Tom Sinclair - Press

Ms. Sarah-Jane Absalom – Press

*Ahead of the Mayor opening the meeting, Mrs. Pam Percival-Maxwell addressed Council with a statement which had been produced by a few members of the public regarding a petition relating to Cllr. M Harry. Mrs. Percival-Maxwell was joined by some other members of the public. Mrs. Percival-Maxwell handed the petition to the Mayor. The Clerk thanked the members of the public for attending and they then left the meeting room. The petition was entitled 'Petition to Remove Councillor Mike Harry from Neyland Town Council'.*

Meeting opened at 6.00pm

**4431 - TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS REGARDING THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED**

<b>Member:</b>	<b>Interest:</b>	<b>Agenda Item:</b>
Cllr. M Harry	Personal; Neyland CIC	N/A
Cllr. S Hancock	Personal; County Councillor at PCC	N/A
Cllr. E Phelan	Personal; Teacher at the PLC	N/A
Cllr. S Thomas	Personal; Llanstadwell Community Council	N/A

*During Members declarations of interest, Cllr. Devauden raised his hand and stated "Point of Order. Cllr. Harry your declaration should be Neyland CIC otherwise you are committing fraud" Cllr. Harry advised that the Neyland Community Hub and the Neyland CIC are the same thing. Cllr. Devauden continued to accuse Cllr. Harry of committing fraud. A heated discussion ensued. The Clerk spoke directly with Cllr. Harry and asked if he would be happy for the declaration to be recorded as Neyland CIC in order for sensibility to return to the meeting. Cllr. Harry confirmed to the Clerk that he was happy with this. The Mayor moved the meeting along.*

*Ahead of the Mayor beginning the agenda items, Cllr. S Thomas asked the Mayor if he could speak on a matter. Cllr. Thomas asked for an explanation as to why he had been removed from the Bank mandate. The Clerk answered Cllr. Thomas with the following: Barclays Bank had advised, during an unrelated call, that there were too many names on the mandate that be good governance. The Clerk, as the Proper Officer, therefore removed several Cllr's, some of whom who were former Cllr's, but that out of the current Cllr's she had removed Cllr. Harry, Cllr. Rothero and Cllr. S Thomas. This leaving herself, Cllr. Hay as Mayor, Cllr. A Phelan as Deputy Mayor and Cllr. Richards. The Clerk further explained that as all members of NTC know, the bank needs authorisation from two signatories for any payments to be made. She advised that, given the fraught relationship that is evident between herself and Cllr. Thomas, she would not be willing to contact him directly if the need arose and would be more comfortable in contacting Cllr. Richards. Cllr. Thomas did not appreciate the explanation and advised that the Clerk had unlawfully removed him from the mandate, insinuating that he was the only member 'outside of Cllr. Hay's cohort who scrutinised the bank'. The Clerk countered that ALL members of NTC are sent, monthly, a full list of transactions, a full bank reconciliation and a full bank statement for the month. All have access to scrutinise accounts whenever they wish. In order to move the meeting along, Cllr. Hay advised he would look into adding Cllr. Thomas back on to the mandate of he so wished.*

*Due to the Council receiving, 2 days before the meeting and after the completion of the draft precept & budget, a request from PCC to commit to part-funding the Neyland Library, this item was added to the agenda at the discretion of the Mayor.*

#### **4432 – TO FORMALLY RESOLVE TO SUPPORT AND PART-FUND THE NEYLAND LIBRARY**

Neyland Town Council had been approached with a request from PCC to 50/50 fund the Neyland Library staffing hours. The alternative would be that the staffed hours at the Neyland Library would be halved. NTC were offered two options if they wished to support the Library:

Option 1. To commit to a recurring 12 month contract of 50% support, which would increase per annum

Option 2. To commit to a 5 year contract of 50% support, which would be set at £5,600 per annum

Please see attached letter for full details.

**Proposal: Neyland Town Council to commit to the 5 year contract of support for the Neyland Library**

**Proposed: Cllr. S Hancock**

**Seconded: Cllr. S Thomas**

**8 in favour, 1 abstention**

**RESOLVED: NEYLAND TOWN COUNCIL WILL UNDERTAKE A 5 YEAR CONTRACT OF 50% SUPPORT FOR NEYLAND LIBRARY**



letter to Neyland  
town Council Janua

#### **4433 – TO DISCUSS AND CONFIRM THE BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2025/26**

Cllr. Hay opened the discussion by advising all Members of Council that the figures for the draft budget & precept request had been put together at the Finance Committee meeting on 14.11.2024. Cllr. Hay further explained that all Members of NTC had been invited to attend the meeting, along with the Committee, and that there had only been 4 Councillors in attendance, 3 of which were on the committee. Cllr. Hay felt it important to formally mention this to Cllr's, as he felt the turn-out was shockingly low considering the meeting was to discuss such an important matter. Cllr. Hay felt it also important to make reference to an email Cllr. S Thomas had sent late the previous afternoon, with a list of 20 questions he required explanation to regarding the budget figures. Cllr. Hay addressed Cllr. Thomas and advised him that the figures had been sent out in November after the finance committee meeting, as well as on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January along with the meeting summons and agenda. He further requested that if Cllr. Thomas has multiple queries about a meeting or a document, to, in future, allow the Clerk and Council more sufficient response time. The Clerk advised she had Cllr. Thomas' questions collated on a document and was happy to answer them at the meeting. Please see attached.



Cllr. S Thomas  
Query Responses.dc

The questions that were answered covered pretty much all of the draft budget & precept figures. Council was asked if they had any further questions, to which there were not. A brief discussion ensued surrounding the Burial Board and the potential future impacts on NTC's budget, as the financial support required had increased drastically for the year 2025/26. It was noted and discussed that the Burial Board had requested £13.5-£15k from Neyland Town Council for the year 2025/26, elevating Council's original budget of £10k. The Clerk had circulated a document to Council with figures relating to the estimated EOY balance and the availability of funds for reserves. Within this document, the Clerk had calculated the ability of Council to utilise remaining funds from 2024/25 at the sum of £5k to assist with the requested amount for the Burial Board, thus allowing the precept request to remain at £10k for the Burial Board. It was decided within Council that the Burial Board will be allocated a £10k budget and that £5k would be kept in reserves for an 'if necessary' basis. This figure would be kept in reserves and rolled over annually as a 'back-up' for the Burial Board.

The Clerk elaborated and explained the document she had circulated regarding the estimated EOY balance for the current account and reserve accounts. Council was happy with the sums provided and were happy for the Clerk to implement the figures into reserves at the end of the financial year.

The original draft budget presented by the Finance Committee brought draft precept request to £117,000, an increase of 4.78% from the 2024/25 precept request of £111,669. After discussions, the final precept request was set at £123,600.00 for 2025/26, with an increase of the Clerk's salary due to the annual pay increase, along with an additional £5,600 to support Neyland Library, giving the final increase as 10.6%.

It was highlighted that the committee had put a lot of focus on keeping the precept and budget figures as low as they could whilst still being able to function, to allow the most minimal increase to our rate payers as possible. The committee were highly conscious and kept at the forefront of their minds the current economic situation we are in, however with the necessary and unexpected requirement for the Library, the precept had to be increased.



Final Budget  
2025-26.pdf



NTC Precept  
2025-26.pdf

**Proposal: To accept the Precept request for 2025/26 as £123,600 and accept the budget figures.**

**Proposed: Cllr. M Harry**

**Seconded: Cllr. S Hancock**

**9 in favour, 1 against**

**RESOLVED: THE 2025/26 PRECEPT REQUEST IS SET AT £123,600.00**

Meeting closed at 6.50pm.