

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE **FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE** HELD AT
NEWTON'S PLACE, WOLBOROUGH STREET, NEWTON ABBOT ON
WEDNESDAY 15th JANUARY 2025 AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors C Parker (Chairperson) Presiding
D Corney-Walker (Vice-Chairperson)

Councillors	B Bailey	A Hall
	P Bullivant	M Joyce
	L Cooke	P Parker
	C Davieson	M Ryan
	A Gibbs	

Invitees: Mr Mike Hocking, Freeman of Newton Abbot
Mr Vincent Willson, Chief Officer, Citizens Advice
Teignbridge

Officers in Attendance: Phil Rowe – Town Clerk
Sam Scott – Deputy Town Clerk and RFO
Nigel Canham – Communications Advisor

346. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor L Wood and
Linda McGuirk, Principal Administrator.

347. **INTERESTS**

Councillor C Parker referred to agenda item 7 Grant Applications and
informed the meeting that he was the Council's representative on Citizens
Advice Teignbridge.

348. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance & Audit Committee held on 30th
October 2024 were received and signed as a correct record.

349. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

350. **SUB-COMMITTEES**

The report of the Meeting of the **Strategic Planning Forum** held on 20th
November 2024 as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor M Joyce, was
received and approved.

351. GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Chairperson advised that a late application had been received on behalf of Citizens Advice Teignbridge for financial support in the sum of £5,500 towards supporting the people of Newton Abbot. He informed Members that the Council had a long-standing commitment to support Citizens Advice Teignbridge, but that an annual application was required.

Mr Vincent Willson spoke in support of the application (previously circulated) making the case for his organisation's vital support given to the people of Newton Abbot and surrounding area. He explained that the late submission of the application was simply an oversight on his part.

The Chairperson reminded the Committee that at its October meeting the last of the grants budget had been allocated. Consequently, if the Committee was minded to grant the application, it would need to be funded from savings vired from other budgets.

Members expressed concern that the grants budget had been fully allocated and that the organisation should have made their application in a timelier fashion. Members were however supportive of the application and sympathised with the exceptional circumstances.

Arising from consideration of the application it was

RECOMMENDED that a grant in the sum of £5,500 be made to Citizens Advice Teignbridge in the current year.

Councillor C Parker declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item, took part in the discussion but did not vote.

352. BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2025/26

The Chairperson introduced a report by the RFO (previously circulated) setting out details of the Council's deliberations and conclusions regarding its budget and Precept for 2025/26.

Members discussed in detail the Draft Budget and Precept for 2025/26 as contained in the report, arising from which it was

RESOLVED

(a) that the Council at its meeting to be held on 22nd January 2025 be **RECOMMENDED** to adopt a Precept in the sum of **£1,698,731** for the year 2025/26 representing an *increase* of £8.79p p.a. or 0.16.9p per week (representing an annual payment of £190.67 / £15.89 per month / £3.67p per week) or 4.83% for a Band D property in Newton Abbot and that Teignbridge District Council be

requested to collect on the Town Council's behalf the sum of **£1,698,731**;

(b) that the Strategic Planning Forum at its meeting to be held on 23rd July 2025 give consideration to identifying community groups the Council wished to support financially outside of the general grants scheme;

(c) that the Deputy Town Clerk be thanked for all her efforts on behalf of the Council in preparing the budget and Precept report.

Voting on the above resolutions was unanimously in favour.

353. **INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

a) INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENTS

The Committee received the Income and Expenditure Statements for the period October and November 2024 (previously circulated). The Chairperson invited questions from Members who sought clarification on a few items in relation to expenditure during the period.

Arising from discussion, it was:

RESOLVED that the statements of income and expenditure for the months October and November 2024 as submitted to the Committee be hereby approved and signed by the Chairperson of the Finance and Audit Committee.

NEWTON ABBOT TOWN COUNCIL

INTERNAL AUDIT

31st October 2024

Opening Balance	£ 1,142,201.68
Misc. Income	£ 11,432.70
2nd QTR VAT refund	£ 29,101.75
CIL payment	£ 9,210.12
Total Income	£ 1,191,949.25
LESS:	
Expenditure	£ 107,987.04
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£ 107,987.04

BALANCE as of 31st October 2024 **£ 1,083,959.21**
Business Call & Current Account:

Balances as of 31st October 2024

Current Account	£ 100.00
Business Call Account	£ 1,083,859.21
Petty Cash Account	£ 200.00
Total Cash in hand at bank	£ 1,084,159.21

Total: £1,084,159.21

Balance of CCLA fund at 31st October 2024

£472,198.00

NEWTON ABBOT TOWN COUNCIL

INTERNAL AUDIT

30th November 2024

Opening Balance	£ 1,083,959.21
Misc. Income	£ 7,787.65
Total Income	£ 1,091,746.86
LESS:	
Expenditure	£ 157,953.02
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£ 157,953.02
BALANCE as of 30th November 2024 Business Call & Current Account:	£ 933,793.84

Balances as of 30th November 2024

Current Account	£ 100.00
Business Call Account	£ 933,693.84
Petty Cash Account	£ 200.00
Total Cash in hand at bank	£ 933,993.84

Total: £933,993.84

Balance of CCLA fund at 30th November 2024

£472,198.00

b) FINANCIAL BUDGET COMPARISON

The Chairperson referred to the Financial Budget Comparison summary and report which detailed Income and Expenditure for the Finance and Audit Committee for the period 1st April 2024 to 30th November. (previously circulated). The Chairperson noted that there had been no questions in advance but invited questions from Councillors. Following a brief discussion among Members, accordingly, it was

RESOLVED that the Financial Budget Comparison Summary for the Finance and Audit Committee for the period 1st April 2024 to 30th November 2024, be hereby approved and signed by the Chairperson of the Finance and Audit Committee.

354. BROADCASTING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Further to minute 300/10/24 the Committee received a table setting out details of the practices of eleven Devon town councils regarding their practices for recording/publishing council meetings (previously circulated).

It was noted that within the Government's recently published White Paper on devolution, a consultation had been launched to consider changing current legislation to permit remote attendance at meetings of local authorities in England (and to permit proxy voting). Should this legislation be changed, the Council would be compelled to provide the necessary equipment to facilitate remote access to its meetings.

Consequently, it was

RESOLVED that the information provided on the practices for recording/publishing council meetings by other town councils be noted.

355. COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID

In accordance with minute 303/11/24 the Town Clerk requested approval of action taken in consultation with the Mayor and Chairperson of the Finance & Audit Committee to instruct surveyors to provide a building condition survey and valuation in relation to (Old) Forde House, Brunel Road, Newton Abbot.

RESOLVED that action taken by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Mayor and Chairperson of the Finance & Audit Committee to instruct surveyors to provide a building condition survey and valuation in relation to (Old) Forde House, Brunel Road, Newton Abbot be hereby approved.

356. LATE CORRESPONDENCE

None.

357. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be Wednesday 19th February 2025.

Chairperson initials.....

Meeting closed at 20:00 hrs.

Chairperson.....Date.....

Chairperson initials.....