

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 30th SEPTEMBER 2026** AT 7.00 P.M. AT NEWTON'S PLACE, WOLBOROUGH STREET, NEWTON ABBOT

Present: Councillors L Cooke (Mayor) Presiding
A Ineson (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors:	B Bailey	G Jennings
	J Bradford	M Joyce
	P Bullivant	C Parker
	R Buscombe	P Parker
	D Corney-Walker	M Ryan
	C Davieson	L Wood
	A Hall	N Yabsley

Officers in attendance:

Phil Rowe	Town Clerk
Sam Scott	Deputy Town Clerk & RFO
Pierre Doutreligne	Projects & Strategy Officer
Linda McGuirk	Principal Administrator
Nigel Canham	Communications Advisor

By invitation:

Freeman Mike Hocking
Freewoman Carol Bunday
Anna Chaplain, Kim Martin
MP Martin Wrigley
Newton Abbot CIC Manager, Emily Farrell
Community Engagement Officer, Kate Green
Mayor of Kingsteignton Town Council, Councillor Dave Ripping
Town Clerk Kingsteignton Town Council, Michelle Lewis-Clarke

Also, present:

2 x Members of the public
Senior Case Worker - Office of Martin Wrigley MP, Jo Rice

Prior to the commencement of the meeting Community Engagement Officer, Kate Green gave a short address on the launch of the review of the Newton Abbot Neighbourhood Development Plan and urged Members to get involved.

191. **WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR**

The Mayor welcomed those present to the meeting and invited Anna Chaplain, Kim Martin to open the meeting with prayers.

192. **APOLOGIES**

Valid reasons for absence were received on behalf of Councillors T Corney-Walker and A Gibbs.

Apologies were noted from District Councillor Jackie Hook and County Councillors Jacqueline Fry and Mick Cockerham.

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193. **INTERESTS**

Councillor P Bullivant declared an interest in Agenda Item 9 – Community Infrastructure Levy Application, by virtue of his position as a Governor of the school that submitted the application.

194. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15th July 2026 were received and signed as a correct record.

Councillor J Bradford abstained from voting.

195. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

196. **PRESENTATION – WHITE PAPER ON POLICING**

The Mayor, Councillor L Cooke welcomed the MP Martin Wrigley to the meeting and invited him to give an update on the White Paper on Policing.

Mr Wrigley highlighted a number of key areas arising from the White Paper, including:

- the need for reform in response to the changing nature of crime;
- concerns regarding the local visibility of policing;
- the importance of neighbourhood policing being at the heart of local communities;
- the proposed abolition of Police and Crime Commissioners from May 2027 and future arrangements for overseeing police performance;
- proposals for fewer, larger police forces;
- counter-terrorism arrangements; and
- the proposed use of artificial intelligence within police forces, including Police.AI.

Reference was also made to the Hogan-Howe review and its relationship to the proposals contained within the White Paper.

Mr Wrigley commented on the importance of considering the future relationship between Town Councils and local policing arrangements. He also referred to the forthcoming Police Reform Bill and wider local government reorganisation.

The importance of retaining a visible local police presence, including local police stations, was discussed.

The Mayor thanked Mr Wrigley for his update and invited questions and comments from Councillors.

Councillors raised concerns regarding the availability of the local police office. It was noted that considerable effort had previously been made to secure its opening five days a week,

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but that the office was currently not being opened consistently. Concern was expressed that this could ultimately lead to its closure.

Councillors also raised concerns regarding the continuity of local policing, commenting that officers appeared to move on from the area too quickly, making it difficult to establish and maintain relationships with the local community.

Councillors emphasised the importance of retaining a strong and visible police presence in Newton Abbot and asked Mr Wrigley to support the Council's efforts to retain local policing provision.

197. **REPORTS OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

The Mayor invited the District Councillors to provide a report on their recent activity in Newton Abbot.

District Councillor J Bradford reported that she had:

- attended the public inquiry relating to the Wolborough NA3 development. The outcome of the inquiry was expected within the next several weeks.
- an appeal had been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in relation to the HMO application at 28–30 Courtenay Road. Councillor Bradford advised that a new planning application had also been submitted seeking further intensification of the site and that she had called in the application for consideration by the Local Planning Authority.
- advised that the District Council would be considering the Hackney Carriage Policy consultation in mid-October.

District Councillor P Bullivant reported that he had:

- dealt with a number of issues affecting his ward.
- submitted a petition concerning the ongoing failure to adopt roads on a residential estate.
- reported that the planning application for an SEN site had been approved.

District Councillor R Buscombe reported that he had:

- attended the recent Masterplan Project Board.
- Bradley Mill Consultation - encouraged Councillors to engage with the consultation and advised that representatives would be attending the forthcoming Meet Your Council event.

Councillor Buscombe asked Martin Wrigley MP whether he had any further information regarding the likely timescale for the current pause in the Local Government Reorganisation process.

District Councillor A Hall reported that he had:

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- dealt with a number of issues affecting his ward in relation to traffic, trees and parking.

District Councillor C Parker reported that he had:

- been involved in discussions regarding the installation of barriers and bollards at Sandringham Park and that the works were currently awaiting contractors.
- dealt with an issue relating to trees.
- attended a CIC meeting as the Council's representative, where mural and other art projects had been discussed.

District Councillor M Ryan reported that he had:

- attended a Planning Committee meeting and had spoken in relation to a major planning application at Haccombe-with-Combe that would impact Buckland.
- dealt with issues in Buckland due to the utility works within the area.
- regularly attended the Buckland Hub, providing an opportunity to speak with and engage with local residents.

The Mayor thanked the District Councillors for their reports as they provided a valuable Insight into the issues within Newton Abbot.

198. **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members noted the Mayoral events, as circulated prior to the meeting, attended by Councillor L Cooke.

The Mayor highlighted a number of the engagements including:

- Band Concerts: The Mayor commented on the success of the recent band concerts and expressed her thanks to Councillors C Davieson, Alex Hall and Amanda Ineson for their work and support.
- Devon General Remembered
- Rotary Event – the Mayor expressed her thanks to the Rotary Club, on behalf of Newton Abbot Town Council, for its work and contribution to the local community.

199. **COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL)**

The Town Clerk reported that an application for CIL funding had been received on behalf of Highweek Primary School for a Sensory Regulation Extension. The Town Clerk advised Members that Newton Abbot Town Council was unable to provide CIL funding directly to the applicant. However, should Members wish to support the application, the Council could notify Teignbridge District Council of its support and progress the application through the appropriate process.

Having declared an interest in this item by virtue of being a Governor at the School, Councillor P Bullivant advised that he would not take part in discussions or voting but was happy to answer any questions.

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Members expressed support for the application and agreed that it should be progressed and submitted to Teignbridge District Council.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that Newton Abbot Town Council support the CIL application and that the Town Clerk be hereby authorised to progress and submit the application to Teignbridge District Council through the appropriate CIL process;

Councillor P Bullivant abstained from discussions and voting.

200. **NEWTON ABBOT WAR MEMORIAL**

Members considered the report, as circulated prior to the meeting, regarding the proposed inclusion of additional names on the First World War Memorial at Newton Abbot War Memorial.

Members expressed their sincere thanks to Museum Volunteer, Mr John Ellis, for the extensive and painstaking research he had undertaken to identify Newton Abbot service personnel whose names were not currently commemorated on the Memorial.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the following recommendations, as laid out in the report, be approved:

- a) That the 22 additional names of Newton Abbot service personnel who had lost their lives arising from WW1 be added to the Newton Abbot War Memorial.
- b) That notice is given in the local press and through digital means to allow any relatives of the service personnel to be commemorated to contact the town Council with any comments or objections.
- c) That a local monumental mason be commissioned to install the names at the War Memorial as required.
- d) That if necessary, planning permission be sought in relation to (C) above;
- e) That the Council's sincere gratitude be expressed to Museum Volunteer, Mr John Ellis for all his painstaking research to compile the list of names missing for the Newton Abbot WW1 Memorial.

201. **QUEEN STREET, NEWTON ABBOT – GREENING AND SEATING**

The Town Clerk advised Members that it had always been intended that Newton Abbot Town Council would assume responsibility for the planters, trees and associated street furniture installed as part of the Queen Street pedestrianisation scheme. An agreement had now been received to formalise the transfer of responsibility, and Members were invited to approve the associated licences.

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Members raised the possibility of providing additional seating in Queen Street in the future and asked whether the replacement the railings removed from in front of the War memorial could be reconsidered.

Members also sought clarification regarding responsibility for removing rubbish from the planters and whether additional litter bins could be requested.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that:

- a) the licence and agreement relating to the Queen Street greening and seating scheme be approved and signed on behalf of the Council;
- b) that consideration be given to the provision of additional seating, floral displays on the railings if replaced and additional litter bins in Queen Street.

Councillor M Ryan abstained from voting.

202. **COMMON SEAL**

Arising from minute 201 above, it was;

RESOLVED that the Common Seal of the Council be hereby affixed to any document or documents necessary to give effect to the resolutions passed by the Council at this Meeting.

203. **NEWTON ABBOT TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLAN**

The Projects & Strategy Officer gave an update following a recent meeting of the Newton Abbot Town Centre Masterplan Project Board. Members were advised that the Project Board has approved the development of different workstreams to help progress the Newton Abbot Town centre masterplan. These six workstreams will help shape the development of the Masterplan and were:

1. Vision
2. Economy and Activity
3. Culture and Heritage
4. Greening and Street Scene
5. Travel and Parking
6. Homes

Councillor R Buscombe referred to the membership of the Project Board and expressed the view that Newton Abbot Town Council was not sufficiently represented. He encouraged greater representation from both Town Councillors and Council officers.

Councillor C Parker referred to the Masterplan having been established on a joint basis and expressed disappointment that a recent One May presentation had not included

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reference to Newton Abbot Town Council. He also encouraged Members to become actively involved in the Masterplan workstreams.

204. **PROJECTS & STRATEGY OFFICER – UPDATE**

The Projects & Strategy Officer provided Members with an update on the following matters:

Become a Councillor Campaign: The campaign continued to gain momentum through attendance at local events and the use of promotional materials. A recent presentation had been delivered to the Newton Abbot Chamber of Commerce, with Martin Wrigley MP also in attendance. The Chamber had offered its support in sharing future campaign communications.

The campaign would also feature at the forthcoming Meet Your Council event, with further promotional activity planned through social media and the winter edition of the Newton Cryer.

Cluster Model: The Projects & Strategy Officer provided an update on discussions regarding the potential development of a cluster model involving Newton Abbot, Kingsteignton and neighbouring parishes, irrespective of the outcome of Local Government Reorganisation.

Potential benefits included increased capacity whilst retaining local identity, a stronger collective voice, economies of scale and improved resilience.

Members were advised that initial discussions with Kingsteignton Town Council and other neighbouring parish councils had received encouraging responses. It was emphasised that any future arrangement should be collaborative and should not be perceived as a takeover by the larger town.

It was noted that Kingsteignton Town Council had offered to host a future meeting of neighbouring parish councils to enable further discussion of the potential cluster model.

205. **TOWN CLERK TITLE**

The Chairperson of the Staffing Committee, Cllr R Buscombe, reminded Members that the Council meeting held on the 12th November 2025, the Council resolved (Minute No. 25/11(286)) that the title of Town Clerk be changed to Chief Executive Officer (CEO) during the recruitment process.

Following discussions that had arisen at a recent Staffing Committee, Councillors were asked reconsider the previous decision and determine whether the established and respected title of Town Clerk should be retained for the post.

Arising from a lengthy discussion, it was:

RESOLVED that the title of Town Clerk be hereby retained.

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206. PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES

- a) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 14th July 2026, as presented by the Chairperson Councillor N Yabsley were received and approved.
- b) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 4th August 2026, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor N Yabsley were received and approved.
- c) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Policy & Resources Committee** held on 17th June 2026, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor C Parker were received and approved.
- d) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Staffing Committee** held on 5th August 2026, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor R Buscombe were received and approved subject to a minor amendment to Minute No. 26/08(153ii) to confirm that the change to the Facilities and Assets Manager role would take effect from 1st October 2026, and not 1st April 2027 as recorded in the minutes.
- e) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 25th August 2026, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor N Yabsley were received and approved.
- f) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 15th September 2026, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor N Yabsley were received and approved.
- g) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Policy & Resources Committee** held on 16th September 2026, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor C Parker were received and approved.

207. LATE CORRESPONDENCE

None.

208. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting to be held on Wednesday 25th November 2026

209. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

Due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it was:

RESOLVED that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

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210. STRATEGIC MATTERS – UPDATES FROM THE TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk and the Projects & Strategy Officer reported on the following strategic matters:

a) Asset opportunity in Wolborough Street

Members considered a recommendation from the Strategic Planning Forum (Minute No. 26/07(SPF12)) that no further action be taken in respect of the premises in Wolborough Street unless the required works had been completed by the owner.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the Council no longer proceed with the matter and that no further action be taken in respect of the premises in Wolborough Street.

b) Old Forde House.

Members were advised that the Old Forde House Preservation Trust has invited the Town Council to become a trustee.

RESOLVED that it be agreed in principle that the Town Council would agree to becoming a Trustee of the Old Forde House Preservation Trust.

Councillors Phil Bullivant and Richard Buscombe abstained from voting.

c) Asset Transfer Updates

The Projects & Strategy Officer provided Members with updates on potential asset transfer and partnership opportunities within the town centre.

Members received an update regarding the future provision of markets stalls following proposed changes by Teignbridge District Council. A potential temporary partnership arrangement was outlined, and Members considered the need for further due diligence before any arrangement was entered into.

The Projects & Strategy Officer also advised Members of two other separate potential town centre asset transfer opportunities which required further investigation and sought authority to commence initial discussions and report back to a future meeting.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED

i) that delegated authority be granted to the Projects & Strategy Officer to undertake due diligence in respect of a potential temporary partnership arrangement relating to the provision of street markets; and

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ii) that Members support, in principle, the exploration of the potential town centre opportunity and that delegated authority be granted to the Projects & Strategy Officer to commence initial discussions, with a further report to be presented to a future meeting.

Councillors A Ineson and A Hall abstained from voting on (i)

d) Asset opportunity in the Town Centre.

Members were advised that, in light of the scale of the asset opportunities reported above, consideration should be given to either pausing the current project or allocating additional staff resources to progress with all options. Members discussed the options and the need to undertake due diligence in respect of an alternative asset opportunity presented by the District Council.

RESOLVED that the current Town Centre Asset Opportunity be paused while due diligence is undertaken in respect of an alternative asset opportunity presented by the District Council.

Councillors C Parker and M Joyce abstained from voting.

Meeting closed at 20:45 hours.

Chairperson (Mayor).....

Date.....

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