

MINUTES OF THE **ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 14TH MAY 2025**
AT 6.00 P.M. AT NEWTON'S PLACE, WOLBOROUGH STREET, NEWTON ABBOT.

Present: C Parker (Mayor) Presiding
L Cooke (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors: B Bailey A Hall
J Bradford A Ineson
R Buscombe G Jennings
D Corney-Walker M Joyce
T Corney-Walker L Wood
C Davieson N Yabsley
A Gibbs

Invited guests: Family members and friends of Councillors
Reverend Gill Daniel, Avenue Church
Representative of The Life Chance Trust
Representative of the Citizens Advice Newton Abbot
Freewoman Carol Bunday
Freeman Mike Hocking
Inspector James Johnson, Devon & Cornwall Police
Jane Murden, Mayoress

In attendance: Philip Rowe Town Clerk
Samantha Scott Deputy Town Clerk & RFO
Carla Winsborrow Mayor's Secretary
Kelly Burridge Office Administrator
Linda McGuirk Principal Administrator
Thomas Collard Admin Officer (Green Spaces)
Nigel Canham Communications Advisor

Also, present Robert Hayes Teignbridge District Councillor

RETIRING MAYOR

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Alex Hall, welcomed all present to the Annual Meeting of the Council, with thanks to the invited guests. Councillor Hall invited those present to join him in observing a minute's silence as a mark of respect for the late Mr Ken Purchase, former Mayor, Town Crier, and valued volunteer at Newton Abbot Museum. Following the period of silence, Councillor Colin Parker spoke warmly of Mr Purchase's dedicated involvement with the town and community over many years.

Councillor Hall highlighted key moments from his term, including the great honour of presenting the Freedom of the Town to former councillors Carol Bunday and Mike Hocking. He remarked that it had been an enormous pleasure and a real honour to serve as Newton Abbot's youngest Mayor at the age of 22.

Special thanks were extended to Councillors Colin Parker and David Corney-Walker for their steadfast support during the year. Councillor Hall also presented a cheque for £2,143.61 to a representative of the Mayor's Charity, The Life Chance Trust. The representative expressed

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her gratitude on behalf of the charity and provided a summary of how the funds raised would support the Trust's vital work with young people.

Councillor Hall concluded his remarks by offering his best wishes to the incoming Mayor, assuring them of the Council's full support and respect in the role. Councillor Hall then formally presided over the commencement of the meeting.

1. **ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR – 2025/2026**

The outgoing Mayor, Councillor Alex Hall invited nominations for the election of the Town Mayor for the forthcoming year.

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Colin Parker be elected Mayor for the year 2025/26.

There being no other nominations it was:

RESOLVED that Councillor Colin Parker be hereby elected Mayor of Newton Abbot for the year 2025/26.

Upon transferral of the Mayoral Chain to Councillor Colin Parker, Councillor Alex Hall was presented with a Past-Mayor's insignia.

Freeman, Mike Hocking congratulated Councillor Parker and thanked Councillor Alex Hall for his contribution over the past 12 months.

2. **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Councillor Colin Parker read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Councillor Parker spoke of the opportunities presented through devolution, emphasising the importance of grasping the potential to make Newton Abbot an even more influential town. He praised the town as a special place, recognised for its warm and welcoming community spirit, and stressed his belief in the power of collaboration to achieve collective success. Councillor Parker paid tribute to the work and dedication of all previous Mayors, acknowledging the foundations they had laid for the continued prosperity of the town.

The Mayor confirmed the following arrangements for his term of office:

Mayoress will be Mrs Jean Parker
Mayoral Charity will be the Citizens Advice Teignbridge
There will be a Civic Service, date to be confirmed
Minister will be Reverend Gill Daniel of the Avenue and Shaldon Road Churches

3. **APOLOGIES**

Valid reasons for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Phil Bullivant, Paul Parker and Mike Ryan.

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4. **INTERESTS**

None declared.

5. **APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR – 2025/2026**

The Mayor invited nominations for the appointment of Deputy Town Mayor for the ensuing year.

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Louise Cooke be appointed Deputy Mayor for the year 2025/2026.

There being no other nominations it was:

RESOLVED that Councillor Louise Cooke be hereby appointed Deputy Mayor (Mayor Elect 2026/27) of Newton Abbot for the Year 2025/2026.

6. **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Councillor Louise Cooke read and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

The Mayor congratulated Councillor Cooke upon her appointment as the Deputy Mayor. Councillor Cooke thanked Councillors for voting for her and assured members of her commitment.

7. **MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES**

The Council noted and adopted the details of the memberships of committees and sub-committees of the Council (circulated at the meeting), accordingly it was;

RESOLVED that the membership of committees and sub-committees of the Council be hereby noted and adopted.

8. **PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL**

Further to the Informal Meeting of the Council held on 7th May 2025, where upon Members discussed the proceedings of the Council; it was:

RESOLVED that the existing Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the parent Committees will be responsible for any necessary decisions arising from the business of its Committee, Sub-Committees and Working Parties until such time as the respective Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, as appropriate, are elected and appointed at their first meeting.

9. **APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Council received and noted the statement on appointments to outside bodies, as circulated at the meeting, accordingly it was:

Chair initials.....

RESOLVED that the appointment of representatives on Outside Bodies be hereby noted and adopted.

10. **APPROVAL OF SIGNATURES FOR CHEQUES**

The Mayor reported on the need for the Council to pass a mandatory resolution authorising Lloyds Bank plc to continue to provide banking arrangements for the Council and designate authorised signatories for the purpose of signing cheques on behalf of the Council.

RESOLVED that the following persons be hereby authorised to sign cheques on behalf of the Council:

- Mayor
- Deputy Mayor
- Town Clerk
- Deputy Town Clerk (RFO)
- Office Administrator
- Chairperson of Finance & Audit Committee
- Vice-Chairperson of Finance & Audit Committee

11. **CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING**

At the conclusion of the meeting the Mayor reminded Members that it is the Annual Town Meeting on Saturday and reminded Councillors of their duty to attend.

The Mayor invited all those present to join him for refreshments.

Meeting closed at 18:30

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

Chair initials.....