APPENDIX E

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE **EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER 2026** AT 7.00 P.M. AT NEWTON'S PLACE, WOLBOROUGH STREET, NEWTON ABBOT.

PRESENT Councillors A Hall (Chairperson) Presiding
B Bailey (Vice Chairperson)

Councillors	J Bradford	C Parker
	L Cooke	M Ryan
	C Davieson	P Parker
	A Ineson	L Wood

Also in attendance: Councillor M Joyce

In attendance: Natalie Hicks - Events Co-ordinator
Linda McGuirk - Principal Administrator

By invitation: A representative of Rotary Newton Abbot, Jane Camp

E15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All members of the Events Sub-Committee were present. Councillor M Joyce also attended the meeting.

Apologies were noted from the Communications Advisor, Nigel Canham.

E16. INTERESTS TO BE DECLARED

Councillor Brian Bailey declared a pecuniary interest in agenda items 5 and 7 by virtue of owning a food business in the town.

E17. MINUTES

The minutes of the Events Sub - Committee meeting held on the 20th May 2026 were received and signed as a correct record.

E18. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

E19. EVENTS UPDATE

a) A representative of Rotary Newton Abbot, Jane Camp, gave an update on behalf of the Rotary on the summer Party in the Park event and their vision for the event in 2027.

The event had been bigger than in previous years, with 61 stalls and activities and approximately 420 volunteer hours contributed, including support from local schools and Police Cadets. Event shelters donated by Wollens had provided much-needed shade during the exceptionally hot weather.

Chair initials……

The Youth Zone included seven youth charities. An art workshop proved particularly popular with younger children, with approximately 70 children under the age of 12 taking part. Art materials had also been provided to schools through match funding.

The first dog show had been very popular. Tesco had donated 200 bottles of water for distribution to visitors. Thanks were expressed to the Mayor for their support.

Looking ahead, Rotary would like to introduce a hydration/refill station in support of the District Councils plastic-free events policy. An improved PA system would also be required, as the existing system had not been sufficiently powerful. A more robust cordoned area for the dog show was suggested to prevent dogs escaping. Rotary would welcome the opportunity to hold the event again and agree a date for 2027.

The Chairperson thanked the Rotary for organising an excellent community event. Members commented that the event continued to improve each year.

b) The Events Co-ordinator gave an update on the summer events:

Sunday element of Party in the Park - Footfall had been lower than anticipated and two scheduled vendors, including a food vendor and bungee attraction, had withdrawn on the day.

The Events Co-ordinator explained that the Sunday had been intended as a separate event rather than a replication of Rotary's Saturday programme. Members discussed the differences between the two days and the potential for the events to be combined in future.

Vice Chairperson, Cllr Bailey, reported that feedback received from Councillors and residents had been very positive regarding the Saturday event but considerably less favourable regarding Sunday. He suggested that the Sunday event should be discontinued.

Members agreed that the Sunday event required significant revision and suggested establishing a working party to consider future options.

Arising from the discussion, it was:

RESOLVED that:

ii) the Sunday element of Party in the Park be discontinued; with additional support offered to Rotary Newton Abbot for the Saturday Party in the Park event;
iii) the Council establish a separate standalone event celebrating Newton Abbot; and
iv) a working party be established to develop proposals for the new event.

Cllr M Ryan abstained from voting.

Town Criers: The Events Co-ordinator reported that eight Town Criers had taken part in the competition, which was the lowest number of participants for several years. Members expressed their support for the continuation of the event.

Chair initials……

Classic Car Show: The Events Co-ordinator reported that the May Classic Car Show had been very successful, with approximately 65 cars displayed in the town centre. The event had created a positive atmosphere and included live entertainment.

The September event attracted fewer vehicles, with 46 cars in attendance. Members were advised that a new organiser had taken over the event and that the Events Co-ordinator was due to meet with him the following day to discuss future arrangements.

Vice Chairperson, Cllr B Bailey, reported that feedback received from town centre traders on both events had been positive.

c) The Events Co-ordinator gave an update on the Winter events:

Annual Town Meeting: The Annual Town Meeting had been a great success, with strong support and participation from local community organisations.

Meet Your Council: The event would take place on Saturday 3rd October, with several local community organisations attending. Members were reminded that they were expected to be present on the day.

Music in the Museum: The events continued to be very successful, with high demand for tickets and performances regularly selling out. The next event would take place on Monday 5th October and would feature a Cornish band.

Remembrance Sunday: Arrangements were progressing well in conjunction with the Royal British Legion. The necessary road closures were in place and preparations were on schedule.

Christmas Lights Switch-On – 21st November: Plans included performances by the Rock Choir and Taiko Drummers, together with a procession into the town centre featuring Santa on his sleigh. Santa would return to the St Leonard's Tower this year rather than being located outside. A street market and craft stalls were being arranged through Little Big Town. Other planned attractions include the Grinch and carnival floats from Ipplepen and Kingsbridge.

Charity Christmas Market: The market would take place in Bank Street, with live music and carol singing in Golden Lion Square. Additional lighting was being installed in Golden Lion Square and Santa would be based in the Clock Tower. A performer was also being sought to provide entertainment in front of the Clock Tower.

Vice chairperson, Cllr Bailey, advised that Deo Gloria would also be hosting a Christmas Market, complementing the Council's programme of festive events.

Dog-friendly carol service: organised in partnership with Animals in Distress.

Lantern Parade: A new artist from Creative Myth Puppets was involved in this year's Lantern Parade. Local schools were participating in workshops and the parade, with dinosaurs as the theme.

Chair initials……

E20. PRIDE EVENT

The Events Co-ordinator reported that they had met with representatives from Proud2Be, who were now based in Newton Abbot and had established a local group.

Proud2Be had expressed an interest in organising a Pride event in Newton Abbot in September 2027 and would be seeking support from Newton Abbot Town Council in developing the event.

E21. PROPOSED EVENTS FOR 2027

Members noted the list of proposed events for 2027 subject to the agreed changes to Party in the Park and proposals for an additional standalone event.

Members also agreed that planning should commence for a refreshed Town Council events programme from 2028. Councillors were invited to submit ideas and suggestions for events to be considered as part of the 2028 programme and beyond.

E22. INCOME & EXPENDITURE

a) The Chairperson, Councillor A Hall referred to the Income and Expenditure report for the period 1st April to 31st August 2026 for the Events Sub-Committee, previously circulated.

   Accordingly, it was:

   RESOLVED that the Income and Expenditure report for the period 1st April to 31st August 2026 for the Events Sub-Committee be hereby noted and accepted.

b) Members considered the Events Sub-Committee's budget requirements for the 2027/28 financial year.

   Following a discussion, it was:

   RESOLVED that a budget of £45,000, representing a 3.5% increase, be requested for the Events Sub-Committee for the 2027/28 financial year.

E23. LATE CORRESPONDENCE

None.

E24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairperson closed the meeting and advised the next meeting of the Events Sub Committee would be held on Wednesday 27th January 2027.

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Meeting closed at 20:20 hrs.

Chair initials……

Chairperson……Date……

Chair initials……