

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE **EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 20th MAY 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 L Wood
A Ineson

In attendance: Natalie Hicks - Events Co-ordinator
Linda McGuirk - Principal Administrator
Nigel Canham – Communications Advisor

By invitation: Two representatives of Little Big Town Festival Ltd

E01. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON OF THE EVENTS SUB COMMITTEE 2026/27

Nominations were received for the election of the Chairperson of the Events Sub Committee for the year 2026/2027.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that Councillor Alex Hall be elected Chairperson of the Events Sub Committee for the year 2026/2027.

E02. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

A valid reason for absence was received from Councillor Paul Parker. Members were advised that Councillor Laura Wood would be arriving to the meeting late.

E03. APPOINTMENT OF VICE - CHAIRPERSON OF THE EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE 2026/27

Nominations were received for the appointment of the Vice Chairperson of the Events Sub Committee for the year 2026/2027.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that Councillor Brian Bailey be appointed Vice Chairperson of the Events Sub Committee for the year 2026/2027.

E04. INTERESTS TO BE DECLARED

Councillor Brian Bailey declared a pecuniary interest in agenda items 7,9 and 11 by virtue of owning a food business in the town.

Chair initials.....

E05. MINUTES

The minutes of the Events Sub-Committee meeting held on the 28th January 2026 were received and signed as a correct record.

E06. COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee gave due consideration to the Terms of Reference for the Events Sub-Committee, as circulated prior to the meeting. Members suggested a minor amendment to item 8 – Limitations, to clarify that only members of the Event Sub Committee will be permitted to vote.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the Terms of Reference for the Events Sub-Committee be hereby adopted subject to a minor amendment to item 8.

E07. PRESENTATION – LITTLE BIG TOWN FESTIVAL COMPANY

A representative of Little Big Town Festival Company (previously known as Born Hectic) gave a presentation regarding plans for the Christmas market 2026. The representatives explained that the business had undergone restructuring with several business activities now consolidated under Little Big Town Festival Ltd. Members were advised that Newton Abbot is now the company's only event. It was noted that the rebrand aimed to provide greater clarity moving forward.

The representatives confirmed that applications for traders are now live on the website.

Members raised the following points and questions:

- Concern regarding the balance of stalls and the need to attract a greater number of craft stalls.
- Consideration should be given to expanding the market into Wolborough Street.
- Members stressed the importance of ensuring a good mix of stalls, with the event not becoming overly focused on food traders.
- Reference was made to the Ashburton and Dawlish food festivals as examples of successful events with strong variety. Members reiterated the importance of quality and diversity of stalls.
- Members discussed the dates of events and highlighted the need to avoid clashes with other local events. Consideration was also given to allowing traders earlier access and longer trading hours.

The Chairperson expressed his thanks to the representatives for their reassurance and commitment to the event and requested that the organisers continue to keep the Council updated on booking progress and trader numbers.

At 19:21 the representatives left the meeting.

Chair initials.....

Following the presentation, Members discussed the Bovey Tracey craft markets and whether applications for market stall holders are being advertised early enough.

E08. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

E09. VICTORIAN EVENING

The Events Co-ordinator highlighted the Victorian Evening report, as circulated prior to the meeting.

Members asked whether additional entertainment had now been booked and stressed the importance of increasing the level of entertainment provided during the event.

At 19:26 Councillor Laura Wood arrived at the meeting.

Members discussed the provision of charity stalls and whether organisations previously awarded Council grants could be approached to participate.

It was agreed that the Communications Advisor would compile a list of Newton Abbot charitable organisations.

Members also discussed contacting local schools to invite participation through music performances or carol singing.

A wider discussion took place regarding the types of entertainment to be provided during the event.

Arising from the discussion, it was:

RESOLVED that the Victorian Evening event be hereby changed to Charity Christmas Market.

Cllr J Bradford abstained from voting

E10. BAND CONCERTS

Members received an update on the programme of Band Concerts scheduled for 2026, as circulated prior to the meeting.

Members reported that the first band concert of the year had been a great success.

E11. EVENTS UPDATE

The Events Co-Ordinator gave an update on forthcoming events:

- Saturday Classic Car Show. 65 vehicles are currently booked to attend. Entertainment will include the Taiko Drummers and a vinyl DJ in Courtenay Street.

Chair initials.....

- Music in the Museum. A folk band from South Brent has been booked and ticket sales were reported as going well.
- Party in the Park Weekend:
 - Saturday 4th July. Organised by Rotary and including the Dog Show this year. Stalls have been booked alongside entertainment including the Rock Choir, Taiko Drummers, an owl display and inflatables.
 - Sunday 5th July. Organised by Newton Abbot Town Council. Planned attractions include local youth bands, Bubble Fairy, Creative Newton Abbot, balloon modelling and face painting, circus skills, Box Bar, cocktails and hot drinks, ice cream, The Toasty Badger hot food and three bands covering different music genres.

Members discussed the delivery of posters to local businesses for display and queried how the event was being advertised. It was confirmed that promotion included posters on the website and social media, banners on the Wolborough Street gates and inclusion within the Cryer newsletter. The Communications Officer agreed to draft a press release.

- Barham Cup. In partnership with the Teignmouth Regatta. A Town Council boat will participate and councillors and staff are invited to join the leisure boat to follow the race.
- Town Criers Competition. Scheduled for Saturday 5th September. Members were advised that the Council currently does not have an appointed Town Crier, however a Town Crier from the Guild will host the event. The vacancy continues to be advertised, with two enquiries received to date. Austins will again support the event this year. The programme will include coffee and refreshments, followed by the Cry and then lunch at a venue to be confirmed. Approximately 15 Town Criers have booked so far.

The Mayor, Councillor Louise Cooke, expressed her thanks to everyone involved with the Annual Town Meeting on Saturday and stated that she looked forward to building on the event in October.

E12. INCOME & EXPENDITURE

The Chairperson, Councillor A Hall referred to the Income and Expenditure report for the period 1st April to 30th April 2026 for the Events Sub-Committee, previously circulated.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the Income and Expenditure report for the period 1st April to 30th April 2026 for the Events Sub-Committee be hereby noted and accepted.

Members requested confirmation of the Events budget, noting that the figures contained within the report appeared higher than the previously agreed budget allocation.

The Events Co-ordinator advised that this would be followed up with the Responsible Financial Officer and clarification would be circulated to members of the Sub-Committee by email.

Chair initials.....

E13. LATE CORRESPONDENCE

None.

E14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairperson closed the meeting and advised the next meeting of the Events Sub Committee would be held on Wednesday 23rd September 2026.

Meeting closed at 20:00 hrs.

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

Chair initials.....