

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE **COMMUNITY & HERITAGE COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 14th OCTOBER 2026** AT **7:00 P.M.** AT NEWTON'S PLACE, WOLBOROUGH STREET, NEWTON ABBOT.

PRESENT Councillor: A Ineson - (Chairperson) Presiding
B Bailey - (Vice Chairperson)

Councillors: J Bradford A Gibbs
R Buscombe A Hall
L Cooke (Mayor) M Ryan
C Davieson

Officers in attendance: Sam Scott – Deputy Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Pierre Doutreligne – Assistant Town Clerk (Strategy)
Joanna Eccles – Museum Curator
Kate Green – Community Engagement Officer
Nigel Canham – Communications Advisor

By invitation: Freeman Mike Hocking

Also present: DCC Councillor Mick Cockerham
1 member of the public

230. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Valid reasons for absence were received from Councillors Richard Buscombe and Alan Gibbs. Apologies were also noted from Linda McGuirk, Assistant Town Clerk & Deputy RFO.

231. **INTERESTS**

Councillor B Bailey declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 12, Review of Asset, by virtue of his ownership of a catering business.

232. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Community and Heritage Committee held on 10th June 2026 were received and signed as a correct record.

233. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

234. **PRESENTATION – MUSEUM**

The Museum Curator introduced the report as circulated, highlighting:-

- visitor numbers;
- income and fundraising;

- volunteers;
- staffing;
- exhibitions and displays;
- events and engagement;
- group travel and partnerships;
- St Leonard's Tower; and
- the What's In Store project.

During discussion, Members praised the quality and range of events organised by the museum. Councillor C Parker felt that the smooth running of the What's In Store project showed how well the council and the museum made use of National Lottery Heritage Fund money.

235. PRESENTATION – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Community Engagement Officer introduced the report as circulated, highlighting:-

- the museum's new heritage store extension;
- engagement figures; and
- an outline of activities for Round 2 that she had undertaken since June.

During discussion, Members:-

- praised the diversity of the various groups engaged with;
- highlighted the benefits for people in care homes to touch objects;
- stressed the importance for Ukrainian people in Devon to keep their culture alive; and
- noted the high number of museum volunteers.

The Community Engagement Officer clarified that Heathfield would no longer be used as storage by the museum.

236. SUB-COMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/FORUMS

- a) The Minutes of the meeting of the Community Engagement Group held on 8th July 2026, as presented by Councillor C Parker, were received and approved.
- b) The Minutes of the meeting of the Events Sub Committee held on 23rd September 2026, as presented by Councillor A Hall, were received and approved.

237. ACCOUNTS/INCOME & EXPENDITURE

The Committee received and noted an overview of income and expenditure statements for the Community & Heritage Committee, Newton In Bloom and the Museum for the period 1st April 2026 to 30th September 2026.

The Deputy Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer advised that no questions had been submitted in advance.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the Town Council hereby approves the Income and Expenditure Statements for the periods, 1st April 2026 to 30th September 2026 for: -

- the Community and Heritage Committee.
- Newton In Bloom.
- Museum.

238. LATE CORRESPONDENCE

None.

239. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 3rd February 2027

240. EXCLUSION OF 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.

241. REVIEW OF ASSET

In response to questions raised by Members at the meeting of the Committee held on 10th June under minute 53/06/2026, the Deputy Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer talked Members through the confidential report by the Town Clerk regarding the review of an asset.

Arising from the discussion, it was:

RESOLVED to delegate to officers to carry out due diligence and review the existing lease terms for the asset in question, as well as liaising with all parties concerned.

242. TRANSFER OF COMPETENCE

The Assistant Town Clerk (Strategy) provided an update on a potential transfer of responsibilities from Teignbridge District Council to Newton Abbot Town Council. He outlined both an immediate approach and a long-term goal for the transfer of the competence.

Members thanked the Assistant Town Clerk (Strategy) for his update and renewed efforts to make the transfer happen.

The Meeting closed at 20:09

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