

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 12th MARCH 2025** AT 7.00 P.M. AT NEWTON'S PLACE, WOLBOROUGH STREET, NEWTON ABBOT

Present: Councillors A Hall (Mayor) Presiding
C Parker (Deputy Mayor)

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

Officers in attendance: Phil Rowe Town Clerk
Sam Scott Deputy Town Clerk
Pierre Doutreligne Projects & Strategy Officer
Linda McGuirk Principal Administrator
Thomas Collard Green Spaces Officer
Nigel Canham Communications Advisor

By invitation Carol Bunday, Freewoman
Mike Hocking, Freeman

Also, present 3 x Members of the public

455. WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor welcomed those present to the meeting and invited Councillor L Cooke to deliver a reading. Councillor Cooke recited the poem "*The Road Not Taken*" by Robert Frost.

456. APOLOGIES

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

457. INTERESTS

None declared.

458. MINUTES

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 22nd January 2025 were received and signed as a correct record.

459. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

460. REPORTS OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

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

District and County Councillor P Bullivant reported on issues in which he has had direct involvement:

- Local Transport Plan
- Devon Cycling & Walking Plan
- Bus Service Improvement Plan
- A382 highway changes

District Councillor C Parker reported on issues in which he has had direct involvement:

- Last two Local Planning Authority committee meetings have been cancelled
- Bat consultant – issues liaising with the District Council
- Attended a Risk Management briefing

District Councillor R Buscombe reported on issues in which he has had direct involvement:

- Local Government Reorganisation
- Future housing scheme

District Councillor M Ryan reported on issues in which he has had direct involvement:

- Attended a Risk Management briefing

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

461. MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor provided an update on recent engagements that he and the Mayoress had attended, as detailed in the report circulated prior to the meeting.

The Deputy Mayor shared that he had greatly enjoyed attending the NADSA concert.

The Mayor reminded Members of the upcoming VE Day events taking place in May 2025 and encouraged their participation and support for the occasion.

462. WHAT'S IN STORE PROJECT

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

- a) The Town Clerk advised the What's In Store Project Board meets regularly to oversee the Heritage Lottery-funded museum store project, which is now nearing completion of its first stage and moving into the delivery phase. However, two significant grant applications were unsuccessful. To progress to the next stage, assurance must be provided to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) that the necessary funding is secured.

The Town Clerk requested that Members consider the Town Council underwriting any shortfall in funding for the What's In Store project. Members were assured that the project is continuing to seek and submit further grant applications to mitigate any deficit.

In response to a query from Councillor Bullivant regarding the potential financial commitment and funding source, it was confirmed that £135,000 could be allocated from the Capital Fund.

- b) Members were advised that due to Councillor Bullivant being unable to fulfil his role on the project board a vacancy has arisen for a Councillor.

Arising from the above discussions, it was:

RESOLVED that the Town Council hereby

a) underwrites any shortfall in funding for the What's In Store project.

and

b) Councillor A Hall is appointed to the What's In Store Project Board.

463. **RECOMMENDATION FROM STAFFING COMMITTEE**

Cllr R Buscombe reported that in accordance with minute 25/03(452a) and 25/03(452b) - the Staffing Committee recommends to the Full Council that the following policies be adopted:

- a) LGPS Employer Discretions Policy
- b) Flexible Retirement Policy

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the policies in relation to the:

- a) LGPS Employer Discretions Policy
- b) Flexible Retirement Policy

Be hereby approved and adopted.

464. **PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES**

- a) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 28th January 2025, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor M Joyce, were received and approved.

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

- b) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Community & Heritage Committee** held on 5th February 2025, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor L Cooke were received and approved.
- c) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Policy & Resources Committee** held on 12th February 2025, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor D Corney-Walker were received and approved, subject to:

In accordance with Standing Order 10(11), Councillor M. Joyce referred to Minute 25/02(404) and proposed that the Town Council write to the Police & Crime Commissioner to acknowledge the success of the Street Marshals project in Newton Abbot and to request continued funding to support the extension of the initiative.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be instructed to write to the Police & Crime Commissioner to formally recognise the success of the Street Marshals project in Newton Abbot and to request ongoing funding for its continuation.

- d) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee**, held on 18th February 2025, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor M Joyce were received and approved.
- e) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Finance & Audit Committee**, held on 19th February 2025, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor C Parker were received and approved.

465. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE ORGANISATION**

Item deferred.

466. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

467. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting to be held on Wednesday 14th May 2025 will be the Annual Council Meeting.

Freeman, Mike Hocking expressed his and the Freewoman's gratitude to the Mayor for a successful Mayoral year and extended their best wishes to the Mayor-Elect for the year ahead.

468. **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

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

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.

469. **ASSETS – PROPERTY**

The Town Clerk provided an update on a potential property asset opportunity. Members were presented with a detailed overview of the asset, including financial costings and two options for consideration.

Following a comprehensive discussion, Members expressed strong support for the opportunity, recognising its potential to enhance and expand the Town Council’s presence and services within the town.

Arising from the discussion, it was:

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk proceeds with discussions with the owner regarding Option 1 as presented to the Council.

470. **COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY**

The Town Clerk advised that in accordance with minute 25/02(435) Kings Counsel’s written opinion has been received regarding the Notice received under Regulation 59E of the CIL Regulations 2010 that CIL funds had been spent otherwise than in accordance with Regulation 59C.

Members reviewed King’s Counsel’s written opinion and the recommended actions. Following a detailed discussion, it was:

RESOLVED that Newton Abbot Town Council proceed with Actions A & B as outlined in King’s Counsel’s written advice and extend a final invitation to Teignbridge District Council to engage in discussions to seek a resolution to the matter.

Meeting closed at 20:28 hours.

Chairperson (Mayor).....Date.....

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....