

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21st JANUARY 2026** AT 7.00 P.M. AT NEWTON'S PLACE, WOLBOROUGH STREET, NEWTON ABBOT

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

Councillors: B Bailey A Ineson
J Bradford A Hall
P Bullivant M Joyce
R Buscombe P Parker
David Corney-Walker M Ryan
C Davieson Laura Wood
A Gibbs N Yabsley

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

By invitation Freeman Mike Hocking
Freewoman Carol Bunday
Reverend Gill Daniel
Emily Farrell, Manager of Newton Abbot CIC

Also, present 2 x Members of the public
District Councillor J Hook

339. WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor welcomed those present to the meeting and invited Reverend Gill Daniel to open the meeting with prayers.

Before the meeting commenced, Councillor L Cooke informed Members of the passing of Dr Gill Miller, founder of the Buckland GP surgery.

340. APOLOGIES

Valid reasons for absence were received from Councillors T Corney-Walker and G Jennings.

341. INTERESTS

None declared.

342. MINUTES

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12th November 2025 were received and signed as a correct record.

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

Cllr J Bradford abstained from voting.

343. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

344. PRESENTATION – NEWTON ABBOT CIC

At 19:10 hours Councillor A Ineson joined the meeting.

The Mayor welcomed the representative from Newton Abbot CIC to the meeting and invited them to give a presentation to Members.

The presentation provided a detailed overview of the work of the Courtenay Centre, including its background and current activities. Members were informed that the Courtenay Centre was opened in 1968 and is managed by CIO trustees.

The representative outlined the key services provided, which include a community café, free soup on Thursdays, support groups, the Collective Crew (formerly the Youth Council), a sensory room, a free toddler group, refugee support services, and the delivery of annual community events. The Centre also manages a Community Garden, hosts the Community Fridge, and offers room hire facilities.

Members were advised that approximately 80% of the Centre's income is generated through room rental, with the remaining 20% funded through grants and external funding.

The Mayor thanked the representative for their informative presentation and invited questions from Members. No questions were raised.

345. 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 Councillor J Hook had submitted a report in advance of the meeting and welcomed questions on matters contained within the report, which included:

- Waste & Recycling
- South West Water
- District Carbon Action Plan
- Budget Survey
- Unauthorised encampments
- Warm Home Grant Scheme
- NA3 Planning appeal hearing

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

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

- Future of the Bradley Mill site, continuing to fight for affordable and social housing on the site.

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

- Budget setting
- Attended the Governance Committee
- Ogwell Mill Road traffic works disruption
- Dealing with residents' issues in Bradley Ward, including unadopted highways

District Councillor A Hall reported on issues in which he has had direct involvement:

- Dealing with residents' issues

District Councillor J Bradford reported on issues in which she has had direct involvement:

- Resident issues regarding NA3
- Langford Bridge – developers have blocked the drains, flooding, parking and highways issues
- Residents' concerns regarding proposed HMO developments on Courtenay Road

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

- Attended Overview and Scrutiny committee
- Attended Full Council meeting
- Attended Newton Abbot Town Centre Masterplan meeting
- Seymour Horwell site
- Resident issues regarding potholes

The Projects and Strategy Officer was invited to give a brief update on the Seymour Horwell site.

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

- Expressed concern regarding the future use of the Bradley Lane brownfield site
- Attended Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Works to deter travellers accessing local parks, Osborne Park especially
- Reported vandalism in Courtenay Park public toilets

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

346. **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a) The Mayor, Councillor Colin Parker, provided an update on recent engagements that he and the Mayoress had attended, as circulated prior to the meeting. The Mayor highlighted the following events:

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

- Christmas events
- Ribbon cutting for the refurbished Nationwide Building Society
- High Sheriff of Devon visit to Newton’s Place and the town centre

Councillor M Joyce expressed his thanks to those who had supported the events.

The Deputy Mayor provided an update on recent engagements she had attended, which included a string quartet performance.

b) The Mayor advised that he will be holding a concert at the end of March, with further details to follow.

Councillor M Ryan expressed disappointed that only two Councillors had attended the recent local amateur dramatics society pantomime.

347. PRECEPT 2026/27

The Council discussed the recommendation made by the meeting of the Finance and Audit Committee held on 7th January 2026, Minute number 26/01(334).

The Mayor invited the Chairperson of the Finance and Audit Committee, Councillor David Corney-Walker, to report on the Precept for 2026/27. Councillor D Corney-Walker reminded Members that the budget and Precept included the increase required to progress with an asset opportunity that is under investigation while also meeting the growth in services to be provided to the town.

Arising from the above discussion, accordingly it was:

RESOLVED that Newton Abbot Town Council hereby adopts a Precept of £1,822,075 for 2026/27 representing an increase of £11.73p p.a. (an annual payment of £202.40 / £16.86 per month/3.89 per week) or 6.15% for a Band D property in Newton Abbot and that Teignbridge District Council be requested to collect on the Town Council’s behalf the sum of £1,822,075.

Cllrs J Bradford and P Bullivant abstained from voting.

348. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Members considered a request from Councillor L Wood to amend her committee membership to include the Finance & Audit Committee.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that Councillor L Wood’s committee membership be hereby amended to include membership of the Finance & Audit Committee.

349. REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

Members were asked to consider the appointment of a representative to Newton Abbot CIC to fill the current vacancy created by Councillor A Hall.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that Councillor M Ryan be hereby appointed representative of Newton Abbot CIC.

Cllrs C Parker and L Cooke abstained from voting

350. CALENDAR OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2026/27

Consideration was given to a draft calendar of Events, Council and Committee meetings for the year 2026/27, as previously circulated.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the calendar of Council and Committee Meetings and Events for the year 2026/27 as submitted to the Council, be hereby approved and adopted.

351. DEED OF VARIATION

The Town Clerk advised that the deed of variation in relation to the management of the Council's bus shelters in Newton Abbot is due to be extended for a period of five years, expiring on the 30th December 2028. The Council was also asked to acknowledge the change in company name and to approve use of the Council's Seal on the Deed to acknowledge the company has changed its name

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be hereby authorised to affix the Council's Seal to the Deed of Variation in relation to the management of the Council's bus shelters in Newton Abbot, extending the agreement until 30 December 2028.

352. PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES

- a) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 18th November 2025, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor N Yabsley were received and approved.
- b) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 9th December 2025, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor N Yabsley were received and approved.
- c) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 6th January 2026, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor N Yabsley were received and approved.
- d) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Finance & Audit Committee** held on 7th January 2026, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor D Corney Walker were received and approved.

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

353. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

354. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting to be held on Wednesday 18th March 2026.

355. **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 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.

356. **ASSET OPPORTUNITY**

The Council noted a verbal report by the Town Clerk on the progress of an asset opportunity and the associated Public Works Loan Board application.

Meeting closed at hours 20:01 hours.

Chairperson (Mayor).....

Date.....

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....