

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 15th JULY 2026** AT
7.00 P.M. AT NEWTON'S PLACE, WOLBOROUGH STREET, NEWTON ABBOT

Present: Councillors L Cooke (Mayor) Presiding
A Ineson (Deputy Mayor)

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

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

By invitation Freeman Mike Hocking
Freewoman Carol Bunday
Anna Chaplain, Kim Martin

Also, present 2 x Members of the public

115. **WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR**

The Mayor welcomed those present to the meeting and invited Anna Chaplain, Kim Martin to open the meeting with prayers.

116. **APOLOGIES**

A valid reason for absence was received on behalf on Janet Bradford.

Apologies were noted from MP Martin Wrigley, District Councillor Jackie Hook, County Councillor Jacqueline Fry and the Communications Advisor, Nigel Canham.

117. **INTERESTS**

None declared.

118. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Council Meetings held on:

- a) 3rd June 2026
- b) 24th June 2026 (Special Council Meeting)

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were received and signed as a correct record.

119. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

120. PRESENTATION – WHITE PAPER ON POLICING

It was agreed that the presentation and discussion on the White Paper on Policing would be deferred until the MP Martin Wrigley was able to attend. The Mayor urged Members to read the White Paper on Policing as it will impact policing in Newton Abbot.

121. LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME

The Honorary Freeman and Honorary Freewoman presented the Local Council Award Scheme Silver Award certificate to the Mayor, Councillor L Cooke, in recognition of the Council's high standards of governance.

122. REPORTS OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

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

District Councillor R Buscombe reported that he had:

- Attended the groundbreaking ceremony at Sherborne House.
- Reported that the Bradley Lane site had been confirmed for housing, with a public consultation due to commence shortly.

District Councillor P Bullivant reported that he had had a busy week but had no specific matters to report.

District Councillor A Hall reported on issues relating to travellers at Sandringham Park.

District Councillor C Parker reported that he had:

- Attended safeguarding training.
- Attended a site meeting to consider access arrangements in relation to the travellers at Sandringham Park.
- Responded to residents' concerns regarding the condition of the play area at Osborne Park.
- Continued work relating to the Masterplan.
- Attended the Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) event at County Hall on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), banking and investments.

District Councillor M Ryan reported that he had:

- Dealt with issues relating to travellers.
- Attended a Courtenay Centre CIO meeting in his capacity as a Trustee.
- Attended an Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

- Attended safeguarding training.

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

123. **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members noted the Mayoral events, as circulated prior to the meeting, attended by Councillor L Cooke.

The Mayor highlighted a number of recent engagements, many of which had a musical theme, including two band concerts. She also attended Glendinning School's production of Matilda, which she described as a remarkable performance. In addition, the Mayor had visited several residential care homes to connect with residents and reported that she was thoroughly enjoying the busy start of her mayoral year.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor A Ineson, reported that she had attended the Court Leet Ale Testing.

124. **NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Further to Minute 26/06(37) at which it was resolved that the Town Council prioritise the review of the Newton Abbot Neighbourhood Development Plan and delegate authority to the Town Clerk to progress the review process and report back to a future meeting, Members considered a report circulated prior to the meeting.

Following consideration of the report, it was:

RESOLVED that Newton Abbot Town Council hereby approve the recommendations as set out in the report;

- Approve the timetable as set out in the report.
- Immediately begin recruiting for the Steering Group, with a view to establishing the Steering Group in September 2026.
- Confirm the budget available for undertaking the Review.
- Begin early engagement immediately in September 2026 to maintain momentum.

125. **INTERNAL AUDITOR REPORT 2025/26**

Members considered the Internal Auditor's Report for 2025/26, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no questions or comments from Members.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the Internal Auditor's Report for 2025/26 be noted.

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

126. **POLICIES**

Members considered the following policies, which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The Town Clerk advised Members that following the Policy & Resources Committee meeting, further amendments have been made to the Complaints policy to ensure that it is as robust as possible. The additional amendments were highlighted in red in the revised version which had been circulated prior to and tabled at the meeting.

- CCTV Policy (new - recommendation from the Policy & Resources Committee)
- Data Retention and Disposal Policy (new – recommendation from the Policy & Resources Committee)
- Freedom of Information Request Policy (new – recommendation from the Policy & Resources Committee)
- Town Centre Managed Sites Policy (new – recommendation from the Policy & Resources Committee)
- Complaints Policy
- Statement of Internal Control

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the following policies be hereby approved and adopted:

- a) CCTV Policy
- b) Data Retention and Disposal Policy
- c) Freedom of Information Request Policy
- d) Town Centre Managed Sites Policy
- e) Complaints Policy
- f) Statement of Internal Control

127. **INSURANCE**

The Responsible Financial Officer reported that the Council's insurance policy had been renewed for the forthcoming year. Members were reminded this was the second year of a three-year agreement and, despite the current volatile insurance market, the premium had only increased marginally.

128. **PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES**

- a) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 2nd June 2026, as presented by the Chairperson Councillor N Yabsley were received and approved.
- b) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Community & Heritage Committee** held on 10th June 2026, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor A Ineson were received and approved.
- c) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Policy & Resources Committee** held on 17th June 2026, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor C Parker were received and approved.

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

- d) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 23rd June 2026, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor N Yabsley were received and approved.
- e) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Finance & Audit Committee** held on 24th June 2026, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor A Hall were received and approved.

129. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

130. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting to be held on Wednesday 30th September 2026

131. **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.

132. **STRATEGIC MATTERS – UPDATE FROM THE TOWN CLERK**

The Town Clerk and the Projects & Strategy Officer reported on the following strategic matters:

- a) The Town Clerk provided an update on the due diligence being undertaken in relation to an ongoing asset acquisition opportunity. Members were advised that an alternative location was also being considered, with early-stage due diligence currently underway.
- b) The Town Clerk provided an update on matters relating to Old Forde House.
- c) The Projects & Strategy Officer gave a progress report on the current asset transfer projects.

Following consideration, it was:

RESOLVED that the reports be noted.

Meeting closed at 19:45 hours.

Chairperson (Mayor).....

Date.....

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....