

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING** OF THE **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 21st OCTOBER 2026** AT 7.00 P.M. AT NEWTON'S PLACE, WOLBOROUGH STREET, NEWTON ABBOT

PRESENT: Councillor C Parker (Chairperson) Presiding
L Wood (Vice Chairperson)

Councillors	P Bullivant	A Gibbs
	L Cooke (Mayor)	A Ineson (Deputy Mayor)
	C Davieson	M Joyce
	A Hall	M Ryan

In attendance: Phil Rowe - Town Clerk
Sam Scott - Deputy Town Clerk & RFO
Linda McGuirk - Assistant Town Clerk & Deputy RFO
Pierre Doutreligne - Assistant Town Clerk - Strategy
Communications Advisor - Nigel Canham

By invitation: Freeman Mike Hocking

248. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

A valid reason for absence had been received from Councillor B Bailey.

Councillor D Corney-Walker did not attend.

249. INTERESTS

None declared.

250. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 16th September 2026 were received and signed as a correct record.

251. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

252. REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The Chairperson invited Members who served as representatives on outside bodies to provide updates on meetings they had attended.

- a) Councillor P Bullivant reported that he had attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting the previous week. The Chamber was keen to work collaboratively with Newton Abbot Town Council, support its activities.

Chair initials.....

- b) Members noted the detailed report of the Teignbridge Citizens Advice Bureau, as previously circulated.

253. **POLICIES**

The Chairperson introduced the policy documents, which had been previously circulated to Members. The policies under consideration were:

- Health & Safety Policy
- Scheme of Delegation (New)
- Clear Desks & Screens Policy (New)
- Sexual Harassment Policy & Risk Assessment
- Maternity Policy
- Paternity Pay & Leave
- Flexible Working Policy (New)

The Town Clerk reminded Members of the importance of adhering to the Council's Scheme of Delegation and clarified that delegated authority could not be conferred upon an individual Councillor.

Following a review and discussion of the documents, it was:

RESOLVED that the existing policies be approved and adopted, and that the new policies be recommended to Full Council for formal adoption.

- a) Health & Safety Policy
- b) Scheme of Delegation
- c) Clear Desks & Screens Policy
- d) Sexual Harassment Policy & Risk Assessment
- e) Maternity Policy
- f) Paternity Pay & Leave
- g) Flexible Working Policy

254. **MINUTES OF PROJECT BOARDS AND WORKING GROUPS**

- a) The Minutes of the Meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group held on 8th September 2026, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor L Cooke were noted.
- b) The Minutes of the Meeting of the What's In Store Project Board held on 22nd September 2026, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor M Ryan were noted.
- c) The Minutes of the Meeting of the Infrastructure Plan Working Group held on 21st September 2026, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor P Bullivant were noted.

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255. **ACCOUNTS INCOME & EXPENDITURE**

The Committee received the overview of Income and Expenditure statement for the Policy and Resources Committee for the Period 1st April 2026 to 30th September 2026.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the Income and Expenditure statement for the Period 1st April 2026 to 30th September 2026 be hereby approved.

256. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

257. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 10th February 2027.

258. **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.

259. **ASSETS**

The Chairperson, Councillor C Parker, reminded Members of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted under this agenda item and the importance of maintaining confidentiality.

a) Asset Acquisition opportunity

The Assistant Town Clerk (Strategy) provided an update on the due diligence undertaken in relation to a potential asset acquisition. Members were advised that sufficient progress had been made to enable the Council to proceed with the Heads of Terms.

b) Old Forde House

Members were advised that there had been no further developments to report since the previous meeting.

c) Asset acquisition feasibility study

The Assistant Town Clerk (Strategy) provided an update on matters relating to previous potential Town Centre asset freehold acquisition opportunity.

Chair initials.....

Members also held a detailed discussion regarding the potential progression of a previously considered Town Centre asset acquisition opportunity, which had been placed on hold.

Arising from the discussion, it was:

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the Mayor writes to Teignbridge District Council regarding the abortive work and costs arising from the offer and subsequent withdrawal of a freehold asset and that any further action be held in abeyance at this stage.
- (ii) that a feasibility study be progressed in respect of the previously considered Town Centre asset premises to assess the viability of a potential leasehold acquisition.

Meeting closed at 20:03

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

Chair initials.....