

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2025** AT 7.00 P.M. AT NEWTON'S PLACE, WOLBOROUGH STREET, NEWTON ABBOT

PRESENT: Councillor L Wood (Chairperson) Presiding
M Ryan (Vice Chairperson)

Councillors B Bailey C Davieson
P Bullivant A Gibbs
L Cooke M Joyce
D Corney-Walker C Parker (Mayor)

Councillor P Parker was in attendance

In attendance: Phil Rowe - Town Clerk
Pierre Doutreligne - Projects & Strategy Officer
Linda McGuirk - Principal Administrator
Thomas Collard - Green Spaces Officer
Nigel Canham - Communications Advisor

By invitation Freeman Mike Hocking

Also, present A representative of the Cwtch Hub CIC

162. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

A valid reason for absence was received from Councillor A Hall. An Apology was also received on behalf of Sam Scott - Deputy Town Clerk & RFO.

163. INTERESTS

Councillor L Wood declared a non-pecuniary interest agenda item 5, the presentation by the Cwtch Hub CIC on proposed plans to enhance the public realm in Union Street.

164. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 18th June 2025 were received and signed as a correct record.

165. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

166. PRESENTATION – CWTCH HUB CIC

The Chairperson, Councillor L Wood, welcomed a representative of the Cwtch Hub CIC to the meeting and invited them to give a presentation regarding proposed plans to enhance the public realm on Union Street.

Chair initials.....

A representative gave a visual presentation outlining plans to enhance the public realm in Union Street. Members were advised that Devon County Council Highways had been supportive of the project, and that support from the Town Council was required in order for the project to progress.

The presentation highlighted the following key aims and proposals:

- Improve pedestrian safety and accessibility
- Increase community engagement and foster a sense of pride
- Encourage greater footfall in the area
- Introduction of a mural depicting an historic event in Union Street
- Painting of 49 bollards, with local schools contributing designs
- Collaboration with Devon County Council Highways on improved signage, repair of bollards, upgrades to the disabled crossing, and the installation of traffic-calming measures
- Contribution from the Museum in the form of a commemorative plaque for the mural
- Funding has been received through locality funding, fundraising at Sunday Markets, private investment and a GoFundMe campaign
- Community engagement through an online survey, sessions with residents and businesses, and workshops to support collaboration

The project's target completion date is December, culminating in a celebratory street party.

The Chairperson thanked the representative for the interesting presentation and invited Members to ask questions. Members raised the following points:

- Confirmation was sought that school children would be involved in painting the bollards, and the representative was commended for his efforts to attract people to Union Street.
- It was noted that the area was currently awaiting approval from the Community Speed Watch scheme.
- Members expressed their thanks for the presentation.

Members expressed their support of the project to enhance Union Street.

167. **REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Chairperson invited members that are representatives on outside bodies to report on meetings they had attended.

- Councillor L Cooke reported on a meeting of the Bradley Community Centre held on 26th June. A copy of the finances had been received, and it was noted that improvements were ongoing and positive. Overall, signs of improvement were evident.
- Councillor M Joyce reported that he had attended a quarterly meeting of the Police Advocates. A written report would be circulated shortly. It was noted that

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by January 2027 significant improvements were expected in the number of officers on the streets.

- Councillor C Parker reported on a meeting of the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). The organisation currently had 65 volunteers and 22 paid employees, with salaries funded through specific projects. A volunteer value calculator had estimated the contribution of volunteers to be worth £631,000. Common issues included the impact of the cost-of-living crisis, benefits and tax credits, Personal Independence Payments (PIP), debt, and housing. Concerns were also raised about the potential impact of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) on CAB funding.

168. **GRASS VERGE MANAGEMENT**

The Chairperson invited the Green Spaces Officer to provide a verbal update on the proposed changes to the management of certain grass verges in Newton Abbot.

The Green Spaces Officer reported that he had been working closely with a local ecologist to identify verges suitable for a change in management. To date, ten possible locations had been identified. In addition, a recent public survey had shown strong support for the proposed changes.

Councillor L Cooke commended the Green Spaces Officer for his sensitivity and professionalism in dealing with a recent matter in the Community Garden.

169. **POLICIES**

The Chairperson introduced the policy documents, as previously circulated:

- Green Spaces Strategy (new)
- GDPR – Privacy Policy

A request was made for a minor amendment to the spelling of Chamomile Allotment Field. It was noted that two variations of the spelling are in use, and it was suggested that the version adopted should align with the highways street signage in the area.

Following a review of the policy documents among Members, it was:

RESOLVED that the policies in relation to the:

- a) Green Spaces Strategy
- b) GDPR – Privacy Policy

be hereby, approved and adopted subject to a minor amendment.

170. **SUB- COMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/FORUMS**

The notes of the Meeting of the Old Forde House Task & Finish Group held on 22nd July 2025, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor L Cooke were noted.

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171. **ACCOUNTS INCOME & EXPENDITURE**

The Committee received the overview of Income and Expenditure statement for the Policy and Resources Committee for the Period 1st April 2025 to 31st July 2025.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the Income and Expenditure statement for the Period 1st April 2025 to 31st July 2025 be hereby approved.

172. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

173. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 22nd October 2025.

174. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

The Chairperson reminded Councillors of their duty to ensure that all matters discussed in confidential session must remain strictly confidential.

Due to the sensitive 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.

175. **COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY**

The Town Clerk circulated a letter received from Teignbridge District Council (TDC) in response to the Town Council's letter sent to the authority in April, regarding the recovery of CIL.

A discussion took place about the contents of the letter and the importance of ensuring that the District Council reports to the Town Council on how it spends future CIL in Newton Abbot.

RESOLVED that the letter be hereby noted.

176. **ASSET ACQUISITION OPPORTUNITY**

The Town Clerk provided a verbal update on a potential asset acquisition opportunity.

Arising from the discussion, it was:

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RESOLVED that it be recommended to Full Council that the Town Clerk be delegated authority to proceed with discussions, surveys, consultations and associated actions to acquire the premises on a long leasehold.

Meeting closed at 20:30

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

Chair initials.....