

**Minutes of a meeting of Newbury Town Council
Held at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 20 May 2020**

Present

Councillors Martin Colston; Jo Day; Billy Drummond; Sue Farrant; Nigel Foot; Chris Foster; Jon Gage; Roger Hunneman; Olivia Lewis; Stephen Masters; David Marsh; Vaughan Miller; Andy Moore; Gary Norman; Elizabeth O’Keeffe (Town Mayor); Erik Pattenden, Sarah Slack and Martha Vickers.

Officer present

Hugh Peacocke – Chief Executive Officer
David Ingram – Community Services Manager
Margaret Gore - Corporate Services Officer

Apologies for absence

Councillor: Phil Barnett; Jeff Beck; Pam Lusby Taylor and Tony Vickers
Absent: Councillor Jeff Cant

1. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Billy Drummond, David Marsh, Stephen Masters; Andy Moore, Erik Pattenden and Martha Vickers are also Members of West Berkshire Council, which is declared as a general interest on their behalf and a dispensation is in place to allow them to partake in discussions relating to West Berkshire District Council business

2. Minutes

Proposed: Councillor Billy Drummond

Seconded: Councillor Martin Colston

Resolved: That Standing Orders, as approved on 21 October 2019, have due regard to the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020

Proposed: Councillor Nigel Foot

Seconded: Councillor Martin Colston

Resolved: To ratify the decisions made at the virtual meeting on Monday 30 March 2020 which do not relate to Standing Orders

Proposed: Councillor Andy Moore

Seconded: Councillor Jon Gage

Resolved: To approve the minutes of a meeting of Newbury Town Council held on Monday 30 March 2020

3. Questions and petitions from members of the public

None received.

4. Members' questions and petitions

None received.

5. Town Mayor's Report

The Mayor reported on Civic and Mayoral activities since the meeting of the Council on 3 February 2020.

6. Leader's Report

The Leader presented his report which was noted by the Council.

7. Chief Executive Officer's Report

The Chief Executive Officer presented his report which was noted by the Council.

8. Detached Youth Work

The meeting received a presentation from Mr. David Seward, Berkshire Youth, detailing proposals for youth outreach work in Newbury. The meeting noted that the provision of this service was a key objective in the Council Strategy 2019-2024 and that £25,000 had been provided in this year's budget for this work.

Proposed: Councillor Erik Pattenden

Seconded: Councillor Martha Vickers

Resolved: That the Council approves the proposal from Berkshire Youth for the provision of detached youth work in Newbury.

Proposed: Councillor Erik Pattenden

Seconded: Councillor Martha Vickers

Resolved: that the Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to agree KPI's and reporting arrangements with Berkshire Youth for the provision of this service

9. Council Strategy 2019-2024

The meeting heard that Avison Young, the consultants appointed by West Berkshire District Council to prepare the development brief for the London Road Regeneration project, had attended the meeting of the planning and Highways Committee on Monday 11 May. The Committee advised the consultants of the relevant objectives in the Council Strategy 2019-2024, to which they should have regard. The Committee felt that the objective in the Strategy regarding the Football Club needed to be reviewed and recommended the following wording to Full Council:

approve the recommendation from the Planning and Highways Committee to amend the Strategy objective regarding the future provision of football facilities in Newbury.

1. Help make Newbury a unique, welcoming, safe and well cared for town

G. Provide a strong voice for Newbury to push the following with WBC, Newbury BID, etc:

4. Lobby WBC to:

“Provide a suitable football facility for Newbury’s Men’s, Ladies and Youth teams to play football at an equivalent or better standard than the old ground provided. This should be within the Newbury settlement area, with good walking and cycling access to the town centre, good public transport links and adequate parking. Inability to provision a suitable alternative site should result in the ground on Faraday Road being returned to its former standard or being redeveloped to an even better standard, with 3/4G pitches providing higher availability for matches and training”

Proposed: Councillor Vaughan Miller

Seconded: Councillor Nigel Foot

Resolved: that the Council approves the recommendation from the Planning and Highways Committee and amends the Strategy objective regarding the future provision of football facilities in Newbury as recommended by the Committee.

10. Notice of Motion:

Councillor Olivia Lewis proposed a notice of motion

This Council resolves to support proposed plans to pedestrianise areas of Newbury Town Centre in order to facilitate social distancing and help businesses in the town reopen.

Proposed: Councillor Olivia Lewis

Seconded: Councillor Chris Foster

Resolved: That the Council:

- supports West Berkshire Council in a proposed plan to pedestrianise areas within the town centre until September. This would allow for the main body of Market Square to be used both to assist social distancing at the weekly and monthly markets, but also to offer local pubs, cafes and restaurants space for outdoor seating as they begin to reopen on a take-away basis requiring social distancing. Temporary covers could be erected if useful to protect visitors from the elements. In addition, this plan would allow more space for cyclists and pedestrians to safely make short journeys without using the car.
- encourages WBC to make permanent the pedestrianisation of the Market Place (excluding Wharf Street) in line with NTC strategy; and to consider extending permanent pedestrianisation to other areas as well.
- will consult local interest groups such as Spokes for their recommendations in response to COVID-19.

The Town Council requests that the District Council:

- takes urgent steps to ensure social distancing for cyclists and pedestrians, especially in Newbury as the District’s main employment, retail and commercial centre.
- trial prioritising these groups on certain roads, by, for example, ensuring they are prioritised for pedestrians (and cyclists) and introducing temporary traffic calming/access measures on residential streets. Ward councillors should be consulted on how to do this sympathetically.

- produce and share an action plan detailing how safe travel to schools will be facilitated if the government decides to close streets around schools during drop-off and pick-up times.
- provide additional secure cycle parking in the town centre, for example in the Kennet Centre car park.

11. Committees

The Council received the minutes of meetings of the Town Council's Committees:

Planning & Highways	20 April 2020	(already circulated)
Planning & Highways	11 May 2020 (Draft)	(already circulated)

12. Mayor and Deputy Mayor 2020/2021

The Council noted that in accordance with the Coronavirus Regulations 2020 the Council would not be holding an Annual Meeting this year and that Councillor Elizabeth O'Keeffe would remain the Town Mayor and Councillor Billy Drummond the Deputy Mayor until the next Annual Meeting.

The Mayor thanked the Deputy Mayor for all his support over the past year and told the meeting that she would be supporting another charity this year, Berkshire Women's Aid, Respect. The Deputy Mayor said that although it had been a difficult year, it was a great honour to serve in these positions.

13. Election of Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council for the 2020/2021 municipal year

The Mayor invited nominations for the appointment of Leader of the Council for the 2020/2021 municipal year. There were no other nominations.

Proposed: Councillor Olivia Lewis

Seconded: Councillor Erik Pattenden

Resolved: That Councillor Martin Colston be elected Leader of the Council for 2020/21. and Cllr. Colston was duly elected.

The Mayor invited nominations for the appointment of Deputy Leader of the Council for the 2020/2021 municipal year. There were no other nominations.

Proposed: Councillor Jo Day

Seconded: Councillor Andy Moore

Resolved: That Councillor Olivia Lewis be elected Deputy Leader of the Council for 2020/21.

14. Committees / Sub-Committees for 2020/2021 municipal year (Appendix 8).

Councillor Martin Colston proposed the following amendments to the memberships as circulated to the Council:

- That Councillor Gary Norman, as Chair of the Planning and Highways Committee, be appointed to the Policy and Resources Committee and Councillor Tony Vickers a substitute for that Committee

- That Councillor Elizabeth O’Keeffe be appointed to the Civic Pride, Arts and Leisure Committee and Councillor Nigel Foot a substitute for that Committee
- That Councillor David Marsh is appointed to the Civic Pride, Arts and Leisure Committee.

The Council confirmed the number of seats to be allocated to each political party on each Committee and Sub-Committee, in line with Standing Orders.

Proposed: Councillor Olivia Lewis

Seconded: Councillor Chris Foster

Resolved: That the Council agrees the membership of each Committee / Sub-Committee for the 2020/2021 municipal year, as amended above. (The agreed membership is attached at Appendix 1)

15. School Link Councillors for 2020/2021

The Council received the reports from the School Link Councillors 2019/20

Proposed: Councillor Martin Colston

Seconded: Councillor Roger Hunneman

Resolved: That the Council agrees the Council’s School Link Councillors for 2020/21 as shown on appendix 2.

16. Representation on Outside Bodies for 2020/2021

The Council received the reports from the Council’s representatives on outside bodies for 2019/20

Proposed: Councillor Nigel Foot

Seconded: Councillor Jon Gage

Resolved: That the Council agrees the Council’s Representation on Outside Bodies for 2020/2021 as shown on appendix 3.

17. Forward Work Programme for Full Council meetings 2020/21

The Council noted and agreed the Forward Work Programme.

There being no further business, the Town Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Town Mayor

Date: _____