

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
NEWBURY TOWN COUNCIL, MARKET PLACE, NEWBURY ON
MONDAY 27th JANUARY 2025 AT 7.30PM.**

PRESENT

Councillors, Alistair Bounds, Jo Day, Sam Dibas (19:33), Billy Drummond, Nigel Foot (19:35), David Harman, Roger Hunneman, Ian Jee, Pam Lusby-Taylor, David Marsh, Stephen Masters, Vaughan Miller, Andy Moore (Town Mayor), Gary Norman, Elizabeth O’Keeffe, Graham Storey, Meg Thomas, and Tony Vickers.

In Attendance

Toby Miles-Mallowan, Chief Executive Officer
Liz Manship, Responsible Finance Officer
Kym Heasman, Committee Clerk

142. APOLOGIES

Councillors Phil Barnett, Vera Barnett, Chris Hood, Sarah Slack, Martha Vickers and Tony Vickers.

143. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Town Clerk declared that Councillors, Billy Drummond, Nigel Foot and David Marsh who 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 Council business.

It is also Declared All members have a dispensation to discuss the budget and Town Council precept.

Councillor Nigel Foot declared a Conflict of interest as portfolio Holder for West Berkshire Council for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Culture in relation to Item 17 of the agenda and abstain in any vote.

144. MINUTES

PROPOSED: Councillor Andy Moore

SECONDED: Councillor Vaughan Miller

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Full Council Committee held on Monday 21st October 2024., be approved, and signed by the Town Mayor.

PROPOSED: Councillor Elizabeth O’Keeffe

SECONDED: Councillor Billy Drummond

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Full Council Committee held on Tuesday 5th November 2024 be approved and signed by the Town Mayor.

145. Berkshire Youth

Members received a Presentation from Berkshire Youth on the operation of services in line with the Grant Award.

Members thanked Kelly Leach and Kerrie Hiscock for attending to give their presentation and all they are doing in the community.

146. QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Question Received from Member of the Public:

"My understanding is West Berkshire Council is planning to develop the Faraday Road Football Ground with a new pitch including an enhanced stadium and to bring key sites forward on the adjoining London Road Industrial Estate (LRIE) on a plot-by-plot basis. Currently there is no policy, master plan, or development plan document to provide a detailed regeneration strategy for the LRIE or the adjoining Football Ground. Please would the Council formerly write to West Berkshire Council requesting they commission a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) that incorporates a place-making strategy for the LRIE and adjoining Football Ground? This is to identify any missing drainage infrastructure in the area that has been delaying the regeneration of both the LRIE and Football ground, and to provide a mechanism to bring forward any necessary missing infrastructure."

Chairperson Responded with the following Response:

"Yes, we as Newbury Town Council will forward your question to WBC."

Supplementary question was received from Member of the Public:

"Please would the Council formerly write to West Berkshire Council asking them why on the 23rd of May 2024 (Ref EX4494 2.1 a. Attached) it was necessary to cancel the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), and the Hemingway Place making Strategy and Delivery Plan that was due to be adopted by the end of 2024 (Ref EX4219 6.11 Attached) Due to the fact that hundreds of thousands of pounds had already been spent on consultants to produce the work and the SPD could have been expanded to cover the Newbury Town Center Master Plan Programme instead?"

Chairperson Responded with the Following response:

"As your question is not a question that Newbury Town Council can answer and should be directed at West Berkshire Council, we will add it to you previous question when we write to West Berkshire Council for a response."

147. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

There were no questions or petitions received from Members.

148 TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

Members received and noted a report from the Town Mayor, Councillor Andy Moore.

149. LEADER'S REPORT

Members received a verbal report from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Gary Norman.

150. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Members received a report from the Chief Executive Officer. Councillors will be notified of time line once work as been arranged by Officers.

151. COMMITTEES

Councillors noted the minutes of meetings of the Town Council's Committees as listed on the agenda.

152. LOCAL DEMOCRACY WORKING GROUP

Members received a verbal update on Local Democracy activities from the Chair of the Local Democracy Working Group, Councillor Jo Day.

153. NEWBURY TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET 2025/26

PROPOSED: Councillor Gary Norman

SECONDED: Councillor Jo Day

RESOLVED: Council agreed to adopt the budget for 2025/26. As recommended from the Policy and Resources Committee.

154. PRECEPT 2025/26

Annual Income and Expenditure excluding Ear-Marked Reserves is budgeted at £2,145,107. With Council Income £327,466 and the recommended Precept £1,817,641. In consideration of the 2025/26 tax base this equates to a Band D equivalent of £134.72 per annum, or £2.59 per week.

PROPOSED: Councillor Gary Norman

SECONDED: Councillor Billy Drummond

RESOLVED: Council agreed and approved the precept for 2025/26

155. EAR MARKED RESERVES – 2025/26

PROPOSED: Councillor Gary Norman

SECONDED: Councillor Vaughan Miller

RESOLVED: Council agreed the EMR's for 2025/26

156. SECOND INTERIM AUDIT

Councillors noted the findings of the second interim report.

157. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2025/26

PROPOSED: Councillor Andy Moore

SECONDED: Councillor David Harman

RESOLVED: Council Agreed the schedule of meetings for 2025/26.

158. DEVOLUTION OF WEST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL SERVICES

PROPOSED: Councillor Andy Moore

SECONDED: Councillor Steve masters

RESOLVED: Members agreed that the document attached as appendix 8 to the agenda, is to this be passed to the Community Services Committee for response.

Commented [TMM1]: I would attach this to these minutes (for reference if we are referring to a document in the minutes then we need to include them with the minutes)

It is recorded that Councillors, Nigel Foor and Sam Dibas abstained in the vote.

159. LEASE OF TOWN HALL SUITE 7

PROPOSED: Councillor Nigel Foot

SECONDED: Councillor Sam Dibas

RESOLVED: That the Town Mayor Council Andy Moore and the Leader of the Council, Councillor Gary Norman would sign the lease for suite 7, with the Chief Executive Officer to sign as a witness.

160. ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION (REA) FREEDOM PARADE

NOTED: that the Royal Engineers Association will exercise their Freedom of the Town for a Freedom Parade on Saturday 28th June 2025, which falls on Armed Forces Day. This is to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the formation of its three Regular sub-unit squadrons, 13 Geographic Squadron, 14 Geographic Squadron and 16 Geographic Support Squadron. This will be a recreation of the Parade in 1997, when the Freedom of the Town was granted. All Councillors are encouraged to attend.

161. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME FOR FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS 2025/26

Members noted the forward work programme and that the Review of the Strategy would be moved to the next meeting of Full Council.

162. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

PROPOSED: Councillor Andy Moore

SECONDED: Councillor Gary Norman

RESOLVED: That under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential financial business to be transacted.

163. JOHN O'CONNER CONTRACT VARIATION

PROPOSED: Councillor Gary Norman

SECONDED: Councillor Steve Masters

RESOLVED: Council agreed to the request made by John O'Conner and that the adjustment to the Contract be made from April 2025.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRPERSON DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 20:52 HRS

CHAIRPERSON

Signature: _____ Date: _____

DRAFT

