

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NEWBURY TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, MARKET PLACE, NEWBURY  
ON MONDAY 29 JANUARY 2018 AT 7.30PM.**

**PRESENT**

Councillors Howard Bairstow; Jeff Beck; Jeanette Clifford; Jo Day; Lynne Doherty; Adrian Edwards; David Fenn (Town Mayor); David Fish; James Frederickson; John Gardner; Dave Goff; Sarah Greenall; Arthur Johnson; Mike Johnston; Elizabeth O'Keeffe; Margo Payne; Anthony Pick; Kuldip Singh Kang; Andrew Steel; Tony Stretton; Julian Swift-Hook and Martha Vickers.

**OFFICERS PRESENT**

Hugh Peacocke – CEO  
Gillian Durrant – Finance and Corporate Services Officer

**40. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor Miles Evans

**41. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chief Executive Officer declared that Councillors Howard Bairstow, Jeff Beck, Jeanette Clifford, Lynne Doherty, Adrian Edwards, James Frederickson, Dave Goff, Mike Johnston and Anthony Pick 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.

The Chief Executive Officer also declared a dispensation for those Town Councillors who live in the Newbury Town Council area with respect to their discussion relating to the budget and setting the precept for 2018/19.

Councillors Jeff Beck, Margo Payne, Jo Day and Arthur Johnson declared they were members of the Newbury Twin Town Association.

**42. MINUTES**

**PROPOSED:** Councillor Anthony Pick

**SECONDED:** Councillor Elizabeth O'Keeffe

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of a meeting of Newbury Town Council held on Monday 30 October 2017, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

**43. QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no questions or petitions from members of the public

**44. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

Councillor Elizabeth O'Keeffe asked the following question:

'Mr Mayor will both you and this council offer its support to the Newbury Weekly News wishing it to continue publication for many years to come?'

The Town Mayor made the following response:

I have already written as Mayor of Newbury to the Chairman of the Newbury Weekly News, Mr. Jeremy Willis, expressing my sadness at the demise of the printing press and also how pleased I was to hear that the Newbury Weekly News will continue to be published.

I am sure that we all offer our support to the Newbury Weekly News wishing it to continue publication for many years to come.

There was no supplementary question.

**45. TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Town Mayor gave his periodic report, a copy of which was published with the agenda.

**46. LEADER'S REPORT**

The Leader gave his periodic report, a copy of which was published with the agenda.

**47. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

The Chief Executive Officer presented his report, a copy of which was published with the agenda.

**48. TWINNING WITH CARCAIXENT, SPAIN**

Mary Rye from the Newbury Twin Town Association gave a presentation to Council about the Newbury Twin Town Association, its history and activities, and in particular about the town of Carcaixent and its 20 year long association with Newbury and the other Twin Towns. The Mayor thanked Mary Rye and the other Newbury Twin Town Association members for the presentation.

**PROPOSED:** Councillor Adrian Edwards

**SECONDED:** Councillor Martha Vickers

**RESOLVED:** That Newbury Town Council formally twins with Carcaixent Town Council, in recognition of the long association between the two towns.

**49. LIBRARY SERVICES**

West Berkshire Council's Culture and Libraries Manager Paul James, and West Berkshire Council's Libraries Operations Manager Felicity Harrison, gave a presentation to Council

regarding Newbury Library, and the progress made following the large cuts to the service provision last March. He also thanked the Town Council for their contribution to Newbury Library. In particular they spoke of the new volunteers working in the library, the plans to widen provision and encourage new users and making their facilities available to support Visitor Information services. Members were invited to tour the library and Paul James said there would be closer working with the Town Council through the Library Working Group.

The Mayor thanked Paul James and Felicity Harrison for their presentation.

**50. NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR MARTHA VICKERS:**

Councillor Martha Vickers proposed that the Council considered providing funding to support and develop a Detached Youth Project in Newbury, as set out in the report from Berkshire Youth which had been published with the Council agenda. Following discussion, Councillor Julian Swift-Hook suggested an amendment to the proposal, and this was voted on.

**PROPOSED:** Councillor Martha Vickers

**SECONDED:** Councillor Elizabeth O’Keeffe

**RESOLVED:** that the detached youth worker project for Newbury, as proposed by Berkshire Youth, be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration of detailed implementation.

**51. 2018/2019 BUDGET AND PRECEPT**

The Policy & Resources Committee resolved on 15 January 2018 to adopt a budget for 2018/19, recommending that the Council sets an overall funding demand of £1,043,032. This was received and noted by the Committee.

Councillor Adrian Edwards proposed that the £2,000 for Visitor Information be retained in the budget to be used, along with £8,000 in reserves and unspent, to provide equipment for visitor information at the Town Hall, library and museum. The salary budget is to be reallocated to other services. He also proposed that the Council made provision for the full £31,275 contribution to Newbury library, to be paid in quarterly instalments, on receipt of progress reports from the Library Service and subject to their support for Visitor Information services. Councillor Tony Stretton congratulated the Leader of the Council for the budget.

**PROPOSED:** Councillor Adrian Edwards

**SECONDED:** Councillor James Frederickson

**RESOLVED:** To declare that the Precept for the Financial Year 2018/19 be set at £1,043,032.

Councillors Jo Day, John Gardner, Arthur Johnson, Elizabeth O’Keeffe, Julian Swift-Hook and Martha Vickers voted against the proposal.

**PROPOSED:** Councillor Adrian Edwards

**SECONDED:** Councillor Anthony Pick

**RESOLVED:** That a leaflet explaining to the public how the precept is to be used during 2018/19 is produced, with that leaflet to be distributed to each household in Newbury, along with an Annual report from the Council and published on the Council's website.

**52. COMMITTEES**

The Minutes of the following meetings were received:

Planning & Highways	23 October 2017
Planning & Highways	03 November 2017
Civic Pride, Arts & Leisure	20 November 2017
Planning & Highways	04 December 2017
Planning & Highways	03 January 2018
Policy & Resources	15 January 2018

**53. ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

It was noted that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Monday 19 March 2018

**54. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2018-19**

The schedule of meetings for the 2018-19 municipal year was noted.

(Councillor Jeanette Clifford left the meeting at this point)

**55. PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT NEWBURY TOWN PLAN 2019-2036**

Councillor Anthony Pick presented a summary of the draft Newbury Town Plan. He thanked the Steering Group members, in particular councillors from neighbouring parishes, for their contributions, and the CEO for his support in the production of the draft Town Plan.

**PROPOSED:** Councillor Adrian Edwards

**SECONDED:** Councillor Elizabeth O'Keeffe

**RESOLVED:** That the draft Town Plan 2019-2036 is approved for public consultation.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE TOWN MAYOR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.47 PM**

**TOWN MAYOR**