

**Minutes of a meeting of the Civic Pride, Arts, & Culture Committee held in the
Council Chamber on Monday 8 September 2025 at 7.30pm**

Present: Councillors Jo Day, Nigel Foot (19:39), Chris Hood, Andy Moore, Sarah Slack (sub) and Graham Storey.

Officer Present: Joanna Aylott (Civic Services Manager)

1. Apologies

Councillors Billy Drummond, David Harman (substitute Sarah Slack), Gary Norman, Phil Barnett and Vera Barnett.

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

It was declared that Councillor Nigel Foot is also Member of West Berkshire Council, which is declared as a general interest on his behalf and a dispensation is in place to allow him to partake in discussions relating to West Berkshire Council business.

3. Minutes

Proposed: Cllr Graham Storey

Seconded: Cllr Chris Hood

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting of the Civic Pride, Arts & Culture Committee held on 30th June were approved as a true and accurate record.

The Committee noted that actions from the previous meeting had been either completed or are ongoing. Outstanding items are scheduled for discussion during this meeting's agenda or have been deferred to a future meeting.

4. Questions and Petitions from Members of the Public

There were none.

5. Members' Questions and Petitions

There were none.

6. Update from VE & VJ Day 80th Anniversary Working Group

Cllr Jo Day gave a summary of the VJ Day 80th anniversary events in Newbury and thanked all those involved in the commemorations and Town Hall exhibit, including Cllr Tony Vickers, Sir Max Hastings, and former Town Marshal Dave Stubbs.

Proposed: Cllr Jo Day

Seconded: Cllr Andy Moore

Resolved: To dissolve the Working Group as its deliverables have been achieved.

7. Update from Local Democracy Working Group

Cllr Jo Day updated the Committee on recent actions from the Local Democracy Working Group. A schedule of sessions for local democracy visits is taking shape from Monday 6th to Friday 17th October, and Cllrs will be sent reminders in the following weeks. Members were encouraged to volunteer for these sessions where possible.

8. Art on the Park

Cllr Jo Day gave a verbal report on the event which took place on Sunday 24th August. It was a well-attended event, with all pitches booked from a variety of artistic mediums. The standard of work on show was excellent. Thanks were relayed from the organising committee to all who helped facilitate this event.

9. Heritage Open Day

The Committee noted that this year's Heritage Open Day will take place on Saturday 13th September at the Town Hall, with the theme "Architecture." Thanks were given to those volunteering.

10. Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service

The Committee received a report on plans for this year's Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service. It was noted that a pre-event briefing will be delivered to all Councillors at Full Council on 20th October 2025. Attendance from all members was encouraged.

11. Mayor's Festive Afternoon Tea

The Committee considered a report reviewing the current age threshold for invited guests, set at over 75, with a view to change this to over 80.

Proposed: Cllr Garaham Storey

Seconded: Cllr Andy Moore

Resolved: The revised age criteria of 80+ to be adopted for the 2025/26 event, with exceptions outlined in the report. Cllrs Jo Day and Sarah Slack abstained.

12. Welcome to Newbury Signage

Proposed: Cllr Jo Day

Seconded: Cllr Nigel Foot

Resolved: To form a Working Group with representation from Civic Pride, Arts and Culture, and Planning and Highways, to progress the Welcome to Newbury signage project. Terms of Reference approved. Cllrs David Harman and Graham Storey volunteered to serve on the Working Group as representatives of Civic Pride, Arts and Culture.

13. LVEP Representative

Proposed: Cllr Sarah Slack

Seconded: Cllr Nigel Foot

Resolved: Cllr Graham Storey was appointed as the Town Council's representative to the Local Visitor Economy Partnership, with Cllr Andy Moore as a reserve. It was noted the next meeting is taking place on Wednesday 24th September, which Cllr Nigel Foot will attend.

14. Flag Flying Requests

A request was considered from UNA Newbury to fly the UN Flag on Friday 24th October.

Proposed: Cllr Jo Day

Seconded: Cllr Andy Moore

Resolved: Request approved for 24th October 2025.

15. Pancake Day Race

The Committee noted that since the last meeting, the Refugee Support Group has come forward with plans to hold a Newbury Pancake Race in February 2026, supported by Newbury BID. The Committee thanked Newbury BID for their support.

16. Discretionary Events Grant Funding Application

The Committee considered a funding request from the Refugee Support Group for the Pancake Race Day.

Proposed: Cllr Graham Storey

Seconded: Cllr Sarah Slack

Resolved: That a grant of £500 be awarded.

17. Civic Services Manager's Reports

The Committee noted the following report: Raising the Profile of the Council in the Community. Letters sent by the Mayor's Office were noted to be highly valued by recipients. Thanks were extended to the Civic Officer for their efforts in this regard.

18. Civic Events

Information regarding VJ Day 80 (15 August), the Mayor's Coffee Morning for Berkshire Youth (23 August), Art on the Park (24 August), and the Annual Bowls Match (3 September) held since the last meeting of this Committee was received and noted. Information relating to future Civic Events was noted including Heritage Open Day (13 September) Local Democracy Events (from 6 October), Remembrance Sunday Parade & Service (9 November), the Mayors Festive Afternoon Tea, and the Civic Carol Service (21 December).

Cllr Sarah Slack noted that Thatcham hosted a KidsFest over the August Bank Holiday and asked if Newbury Town Council could consider an event like this. It was noted that Newbury BID deliver a full schedule of activities, and it was agreed that Newbury BID's forecasted events programme will be reviewed at a future meeting, to identify whether there are any opportunities for additional events.

19. Forward Work Programme 2025/26

The Committee reviewed and discussed items for inclusion in the Forward Work Programme for 2025/26. The following items were proposed:

Updates around the Local Visitor Economy Partnership.

Review of events schedule from Newbury BID.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 20:28pm.

Chairperson:

Date: