

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
NEWBURY TOWN COUNCIL, MARKET PLACE, NEWBURY ON
Monday 29th SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 7:00 PM.**

PRESENT

Councillors Phil Barnett, Vera Barnett, Jo Day, Billy Drummond, David Harman (Town Mayor), Roger Hunneman, Ian Jee, Pam Lusby-Taylor, David Marsh, Elizabeth O'Keeffe, Graham Storey, Meg Thomas.

In Attendance

Toby Miles-Mallowan, Chief Executive Officer

51. APOLOGIES

Councillors Sam Dibas, Chris Hood, Steve Masters, Vaughan Miller, Andy Moore, Gary Norman, Martha Vickers and Tony Vickers.

52. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chief Executive Officer declared that Councillors, Phil Barnett Billy Drummond 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.

53. COUNCIL MINUTES

Proposed: Councillor Billy Drummond

Seconded: Councillor Ian Jee

Resolved: The minutes of Monday 29th September 2025 were resolved as an accurate record.

54. QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There was one question from a member of the public, see appendix 1 for full details of the question and response.

55. MEMBERS QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

There were two questions **received** from Councillor Billy Drummond:

- *Why have the photos of the Councillors been removed from the NTC notice board?*
The CEO responded that he would look into the reasons and respond to all Councillors
- *There is a lot of pigeon waste around the Civic Steps of the Town Hall.*
CEO responded that he was aware of the issues of pigeon's roosting on the balcony and that officers have employed all resources available to address this matter. Prevention efforts are complicated due to the positioning of the flag pole which requires staff access to the balcony area. The CEO said that he would liaise with West Berkshire District Council to get the waste cleaned up.

56. NEWBURY TOWN COUNCIL WATER SUPPLY

Proposed: Councillor Roger Hunneman

Seconded: Councillor Jo Day

Resolved to go with option 3 of the paper and direct award the contract with provider B.

57. Victoria Park Football

Proposed: Councillor Roger Hunneman

Seconded: Councillor Graham Storey

Resolved to amend EMR 437 to purchase Football infrastructure for Victoria Park

Proposed: Councillor Roger Hunneman

Seconded: Councillor Graham Storey

Resolved to transfer £565 from EMR 456 to EMR 437

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRPERSON DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 19.17 HRS

Signature:_____ Date:_____

Appendix 1

A member of the public asked: I now request the RBL, Military and Clergy are no longer involved with the Remembrance Sunday and Armistices Day (11th November - war memorial) Commemorations in Newbury.

Response:

Thank you for your request regarding the involvement of the Royal British Legion, military, and clergy in Newbury's Remembrance events.

History and Purpose

Armistice Day began in 1919 to mark the end of WWI and to honour those who gave their lives. Remembrance has always been closely linked with the military, since it is their sacrifice being commemorated, and with religious elements, as many found spiritual comfort in prayers and hymns. The national Cenotaph itself was originally designed as a secular monument, and over time many ceremonies have developed both religious and non-religious aspects.

Faith and Society Today

The UK remains constitutionally a Christian country, though faith demographics are shifting. In the 2021 Census, 46.2% identified as Christian, 37.2% as having no religion, and the remainder with other faiths. It is important, therefore, to ensure remembrance is inclusive of all traditions.

Participation

While the armed forces and clergy remain part of the ceremony, the parade also involves many non-military organisations such as Scouts and Guides. These youth groups make up a large proportion of participants and are encouraged to learn about the importance of remembrance.

Future Consideration

We understand your concerns and recognise the need to balance tradition, inclusivity, and community expectations. It is too late to make changes for this year's commemorations, but your request and recommendations will be taken seriously and considered as part of next year's planning process.