

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
NEWBURY TOWN COUNCIL, MARKET PLACE, NEWBURY ON
MONDAY 27th JULY 2026 AT 7:30 PM.**

PRESENT

Councillors Phil Barnett, Vera Barnett, Alistair Bounds, Jo Day (Town Mayor, Chair), Billy Drummond, Nigel Foot, David Harman, Roger Hunneman, Ian Jee, Pam Lusby Taylor, David Marsh, Stephen Masters, Vaughan Miller, Elizabeth O’Keeffe, Sarah Slack, Graham Storey, Meg Thomas.

In Attendance

Toby Miles-Mallowan, Chief Executive Officer

41. APOLOGIES

Councillors Sam Dibas, Chris Hood, Roger Hunneman, Andy Moore, Gary Norman, Martha Vickers and Tony Vickers

42. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was declared that Councillors Phil Barnett, 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.

43. MINUTES

Proposed: Cllr O’Keeffe

Seconded: Cllr Miller

Resolved: to approve the minutes from Monday 22 June 2026.

44. QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Question **Received** from member of the public (appendix 1)

45. MEMBERS’S QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

Questions were **Received** from Councillors Phil Barnett and Meg Thomas (appendix 2)

46. MAYORS REPORT

The Mayor’s report was **received**.

47. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

The Chief Executive Report was **received**.

48. COMMITTEES

The draft minutes from the meetings of the Town Council’s Committees were **received**.

49. CLIMATE EMERGENCY GRANT APPLICATIONS

Declarations of interest were **received** from Councillors Phil Barnett and Billy Drummond who are members of Greenham Parish Council.

Declaration of interest was received from Councillor Meg Thomas who is a member of Newbury Friends of the Earth.

Newbury Friends of the Earth

Proposed: Cllr Harman

Seconded: Cllr Slack

Resolved to award £1000 to Newbury Friends of the Earth from the Climate Emergency Grant

Greener Greenham

Proposed: Cllr Harman

Seconded: Cllr Miller

Resolved to award £500 to Greener Greenham from the Climate Emergency Grant

50. LOCAL GOVERNANCE REVIEW

A report on the Local Governance Review for West Berks was **received**.

51. ANNUAL COMMERCIAL FITNESS AND SMALL SIDED PITCH HIRE

The report was **received**, the council **reviewed** the report on commercialisation of Council Parks.

Proposed: Cllr Masters

Seconded: Cllr O'Keeffe

Resolved to conduct further consultation with Park Stakeholders and to feedback to the Civic Pride Arts and Culture Committee to review and implement the findings.

52. BERKSHIRE YOUTH AGREEMENT

CEO's report was **received**.

The report was **reviewed** by council.

Proposed: Cllr O'Keeffe

Seconded: Cllr Masters

Resolved to approve the recommendations in the report to implement a 5 year agreement with Berkshire Youth and for funding to be increased annually in line with inflation (if funding permits).

53. WORKING IN PLACE NIGHTINGALES

Cllr Nigel Foot Declared that as a West Berkshire Councillor he is the lead Councillor for this project.

Report on the Working in Place scheme for Nightingales was **received**.

Proposed: Cllr Miller

Seconded: Cllr O'Keeffe

Resolved to approve the recommendations in the report and to appoint Cllr Billy Drummond as the lead Councillor for Newbury Town Council.

54. NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

An update on the NDP was **received**.

55. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Proposed: Cllr Masters

Seconded: Cllr Miller

Resolved to amend the dates of the Civic Pride Arts and Culture Committee and the Community Services Committee in September 2026.

56. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Forward Work Programme was noted.

57. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Proposed: Cllr Masters

Seconded: Cllr Drummond

Resolved that under section 1, paragraph 2 of the public bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meetings for the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

58. PARKS AND OPEN SPACES ASSISTANT PROPOSAL

Proposed: Cllr Masters

Seconded: Cllr Slack

Resolved to implement the proposal.

59. CONFIDENTIAL AND LEGAL PRIVILEGED REPORT

Proposed: Cllr Harman

Seconded: Cllr O'Keeffe

For: 11

Against: 3

Abstained: 2

Resolved to implement recommendation.

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRPERSON DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT
21:41 HRS**

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Appendix 1: Members Questions.

Question from Cllr Meg Thomas:

Please could the Council authorise the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery to develop proposals and seek external funding for improvements to Newtown Road Cemetery, in consultation with the Council as landowner. Any works affecting Council-owned land or assets would remain subject to the Council's approval.

The Council values the work of the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery, but cannot give an outside organisation general permission to carry out works or apply for funding relating to the site.

The cemetery is a closed and protected heritage site. Newbury Town Council remains responsible for its safety, maintenance and any damage caused. Any proposed work would

therefore need to be properly assessed, approved and supervised by the Council, with the necessary permissions, insurance and safety measures in place.

Even a water tap would create ongoing responsibilities. The Council would need to decide who pays for installation and water use, and who is responsible for testing, maintenance, repairs and preventing contamination or vandalism.

The Council also has several heritage assets requiring investment, including the Town Hall. It does not currently wish to pursue Heritage Lottery funding for the cemetery where this could affect its wider funding priorities and officer capacity.

The cemetery should instead be included in a wider plan covering the condition, repair and funding of all Council heritage assets. The Friends can continue to develop ideas with officers, but no works or funding applications should proceed without formal Council approval.

Supplemental question from Cllr Thomas:

I welcome your statement that the Friends may help develop ideas and evidence. Could you clarify whether that includes preparing project proposals, obtaining outline costings and identifying external funding opportunities for the Council's consideration, while the Council remains the client, decision-maker and accountable body throughout?

Yes. The Friends may help develop ideas, gather evidence, prepare outline proposals, obtain indicative costs and identify possible funding sources for the Council to consider. However, this would not authorise the Friends to commission works, make funding applications or commit the Council. Newbury Town Council would remain responsible for approving, managing and supervising any project and would remain the client, decision-maker and accountable body throughout.

1st Question from Cllr Phil Barnett:

Besides irregular parking especially on pavements

Some Newbury Town members are now being told by residents that certain cars and vans are being parked near their houses for long periods , sometimes months. This has happened to East fields members while out canvassing on several occasions recently. This is obviously happening along roads where there is no parking restrictions close to the town. Although not obstructing residents driveways.

They obviously have been abandoned. Presumably when owners have no where else to park them or perhaps stolen.

"Therefore can this Town council urge the Thames Valley Constabulary to patrol these town side roads on a regular basis to establish whether these vehicles are licenced or have been stolen and abandoned. This would go a long way to help effected residents who have to look out of their windows at the same vehicles , in some cases for months on end ?

Thank you for the question. Newbury Town Council does not have responsibility for parking enforcement, checking vehicle licences or investigating and removing abandoned vehicles.

A vehicle parked legally on an unrestricted road is not necessarily abandoned merely because it has remained there for a long period. Suspected abandoned or untaxed vehicles should be reported directly to [West Berkshire Council](#), which can investigate and take appropriate action.

Where there is reason to believe that a vehicle is stolen, dangerous or causing an obstruction, it should be reported to [Thames Valley Police](#) through its online service or by calling 101.

Decisions about police patrols and operational priorities are matters for Thames Valley Police. The Town Council will continue to raise evidenced local concerns through its established liaison arrangements, but residents and councillors should report individual vehicles directly to the appropriate authority.

2nd Question from Cllr Phil Barnett:

With the possibility of Berkshire Associations of Local Councils (BALC) losing over 50 % of their membership due to the setting up of Ridgeway Council

Can this Town Council explore all possibilities and benefits before taking any decisions on changing its membership of Local Councils Associations?

Newbury Town Council values the advice, training and support it receives as a member of BALC and has no current plans to change its membership.

The future arrangements following the creation of Ridgeway Council should be considered nationally by NALC, working with BALC, the Oxfordshire association and all affected councils. NTC will contribute to any consultation, but it is not for the Council alone to determine how the associations should be reorganised.

Any future proposal affecting NTC's membership would be brought to Council for a formal decision.