

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, NEWBURY TOWN COUNCIL, MARKET PLACE, NEWBURY ON
MONDAY 24th November 2025 AT 7.30PM.**

PRESENT

Councillors Phil Barnett, Jo Day, Sam Dibas, Billy Drummond (sub Roger Hunneman), Nigel Foot, Ian Jee, David Marsh, Vaughan Miller, Andy Moore (Chair), Graham Storey and Tony Vickers.

IN ATTENDANCE

Toby Miles-Mallowan, Chief Executive Officer.

78. APOLOGIES

Councillors David Harman and Roger Hunneman (Substitute Billy Drummond).

79. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Committee Clerk declared that Councillors Phil Barnett, Billy Drummond, David Marsh and Tony Vickers 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.

CLLrs Phil Barnett, Sam Dibas and Billy Drummond are members of other Parish Councils, 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 their Parish Council business.

80. MINUTES

PROPOSED: Cllr Billy Drummond

SECONDED: Cllr Sam Dibas

ABSTENTION: Cllr Jo Day

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning & Highways Committee held on Monday 27th October, be approved, and signed by the Chairperson.

81. QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None received

82. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

Question received from Cllr Tony Vickers:

Will this Council investigate the demand for more regular town bus services and how we might use our Power of General Competence to help meet that demand with minimum impact on the town precept, following the example of other towns, some of which are far smaller than Newbury, such as Totnes in Devon which Cllr Martha Vickers and I know well? And does the Chairman agree that now is the time to do this – before we finalise our annual Strategy review

Thank you for the question. Before proposing interventions, I recommend we first establish exactly what the problem is across Newbury and Thatcham and agree to work in partnership with West Berkshire Council and others. Whether we commit resources to this will be a matter, as you suggest, to be considered during our Strategy deliberations.

Question Received from Cllr Dibas:

When can WBC come to our P&H meeting or Town Council to present their findings (the public feedback and the BID team, surveys) It will be great to see what positive/negative. It has been 6 months, and it will be good to understand what is next. I want this committee to debate and discuss future plans and have a say in what comes next.

Thank you for your question. We fully recognise the need for clarity around the pedestrianisation pilot and the importance of understanding both the positive and negative impacts identified over the past six months. It is entirely appropriate that the Planning & Highways Committee, as well as Full Council, should have the opportunity to review this information and contribute to discussions about future plans.

At present, West Berkshire Council and Newbury BID are jointly undertaking the data collection and consultation work associated with the pedestrianisation pilot. This includes:

- Public feedback gathered through WBC's online consultation channels
- Input from local businesses through BID-led surveys and footfall/spend monitoring
- Engagement activity taking place between WBC's transport/economic development teams and BID representatives

Newbury Town Council is a stakeholder in this process; however, at this stage:

- NTC has not carried out its own consultation,
- Officers have not been asked to undertake analysis, and
- No budget has been allocated for NTC to commission independent evidence or studies.

83. SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Resolved that the observations recorded at Appendix 1 to these minutes be submitted to the planning authority.

84. NOTICE OF APPLICATION MONUMENT CONSENT

Proposed: Cllr Graham Storey

Seconded: Cllr Andy Moore

Resolved Newbury Town Council would prefer that the Monument is not impacted at all, but it is happy for this Garden Office Pod to be installed within the Monument area provided that it does not impact on the integrity of the Round Barrow.

85. APPLICATION FOR A DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER

Proposed: Cllr Tony Vickers

Seconded: Cllr Graham Storey

Resolved to support the application to record Moor Lane, Speen as a Public Footpath

86. PARKING SCHEMES AMENDMENT 37

Area Code AL75: No Comment

Area Code AL77/78: Support as long as residents are informed properly and that the Parking Permit Zone is in place prior to implementation.

Area Code AL79: Support amendment

Area Code AN72: No Objection

Area Code AP75: Not within Town Boundary

87. KPI'S FOR PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

For CEO to present KPIs at the next meeting.

88. BUDGET AND STRATEGY

CEO presented an overview of the budget for Planning and Highways and agreed to present the budget for the Neighbourhood Development Plan to the December meeting given the importance of completing the work.

89. REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

Proposed: Cllr Tony Vickers

Seconded: Cllr Andy Moore

Resolved to **keep** quorum at 7, to **amend** c to: *it comments on transport and highways issues that affect the access in and to the Newbury Town area.*

90. REVIEW OF P&H COMMITTEE WORKING GROUPS TERMS OF REFERENCE

The six subsidiary groups to P&H are invited to suggest any amendments to their ToRs at their next meetings for review by the parent committee.

91. UPDATE FROM WESTERN AREA PLANNING

November's meeting had been cancelled.

92. FORWARD WORK PLAN

Forward Work Plan **received** and **updated**.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRPERSON DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 20.55 HRS

CHAIRPERSON

Signature: _____ Date: _____