

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING  
ON MONDAY 30th March 2026 AT 7.30PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, MARKET  
PLACE, NEWBURY, RG14 5AA.**

**PRESENT**

Councillors: Vera Barnett, Jo Day (sub), Nigel Foot, David Harman (sub), Ian Jee, David Marsh, Vaughan Miller (Chair), Gary Norman (sub), Sarah Slack

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Toby Miles-Mallowan – Chief Executive Officer

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from Cllrs Roger Hunneman, Meg Thomas and Martha Vickers

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

The Services Delivery Manager declared that Councillors Nigel Foot & David Marsh 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.

Councillors Foot and Slack declared that they have an allotment.

**3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Nigel Foot

**SECONDED:** Cllr Ver Barnett

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2025 are approved and signed by the Chairperson.

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

One member of the public asked a question, response given (appendix 1).

**5. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

None Received.

**6. VICTORIA PARK CAFE UPDATE**

Cafe update from the CEO was **received**. In summary, building works have been completed and we are awaiting sign off from Building Regs. The only outstanding work is the fitting of the commercial kitchen. This has been brought forward to 15<sup>th</sup> April.

## 7. HUTTON CLOSE CONSULTATION

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Gary Norman

**SECONDED:** Cllr Vaughan Miller

**Resolved** to approve recommendation from Green Spaces Working Group to approve expenditure and commencement of seating area with trellis, insect hotel and nature trail. With £6,000 assigned from the original Hutton Close EMR.

The committee delegated the Green Spaces Working Group to explore and cost the following options:

- A Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) which includes Football, Basketball and possibly Cricket with a hard standing (similar to that installed in City Park).
- Feasibility of using the current goals or purchasing (with FA grants) small sided goals for small-sided games for children's football. This would also require storage for goal nets and possibly portable goals, as well as ongoing maintenance including pitch marking.

## 9. MEMORIAL COMPLIANCE REPORT

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Gary Norman

**SECONDED:** Cllr Vera Barnett

**Resolved** to endorse enforcement of the existing Shaw Cemetery memorial rules (as outlined in option 4), reaffirming the lawn cemetery principle and to approve the phased, safety led compliance strategy as outlined in the officer's report.

## 10. PLAYGROUNDS REPORT

**Recommended** to Policy and Resources Committee that Newbury Town Council conduct a feasibility report to apply for a public works loan to pay for play parks.

## 11. ALLOTMENT WORKING GROUP

Councillor membership of allotment working group agreed. That Councillors Vaughan Miller and Sarah Slack and Mr Simon Kirby (lay-member) co-opted onto the committee.

## 12. MARKET WORKING GROUP (APPENDIX 6)

Minutes of the working group held on 22 January 2026 were **received**.

## 13. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The following items to be **added**:

Memorial compliance update

Allotment Working Group update

Nightingales Play Park update

Market Day Parking Fees

## 17. NEXT MEETING DATE

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The next meeting is to be held in the Council Chamber, Newbury Town Hall, Market Place, Newbury on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2026 starting at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 21.08 hrs.

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### Appendix 1: Question from Member of the public

"Will Newbury Town Council please support the local residents' petition submitted to West Berks council (on 12 February 2026) that the small plot of disused council-owned land in Newtown Road (adjacent to the Phoenix Centre) be made into a community nature reserve rather than developed into new housing as was once planned?"

Thank you for your correspondence and for sharing the supporting documents relating to the proposed urban nature reserve project and petition to West Berkshire Council.

The Town Council welcomes the opportunity to consider matters that support environmental sustainability, biodiversity, and the wider response to the climate emergency, all of which remain important priorities for the Council and the community.

As this matter relates to land ownership, future land use, and associated planning considerations, it is ultimately a matter for West Berkshire Council as the landowner and decision-making authority. In addition, given the planning and highways implications, it would be appropriate for this matter to be referred to Newbury Town Council's Planning and Highways Committee for consideration in the first instance.

The Committee will then be able to review the proposal, supporting documentation, and the petition in full before determining whether it wishes to formally express a view or support to West Berkshire Council.

Thank you again for bringing this matter forward.

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