

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NEWBURY TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, MARKET PLACE, NEWBURY
ON MONDAY 10 JUNE 2019 AT 7.30 PM.**

PRESENT

Councillors Phil Barnett; Jeff Beck; Martin Colston; Jo Day; Billy Drummond, Sue Farrant; Nigel Foot; Chris Foster; Roger Hunneman; Olivia Lewis; Pam Lusby Taylor; David Marsh; Stephen Masters; Vaughan Miller; Gary Norman; Elizabeth O'Keeffe (Town Mayor); Erik Pattenden; Sarah Slack; Martha Vickers and Tony Vickers.

OFFICERS PRESENT

Hugh Peacocke – CEO

Gillian Durrant- Finance and Corporate Services Manager and RFO

8. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Jeff Cant, Jon Gage and Andy Moore

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chief Executive Officer declared that Councillors Phil Barnett, Jeff Beck, Billy Drummond, David Marsh, Stephen Masters, Erik Pattenden, Martha Vickers and Tony Vickers 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.

10. MINUTES

10.1 PROPOSED: Councillor Jeff Beck
SECONDED: Councillor Roger Hunneman

RESOLVED: That the minutes of a meeting of Newbury Town Council held on Monday 13 May 2019, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

10.2 PROPOSED: Councillor Sue Farrant
SECONDED: Councillor Martha Vickers

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Annual meeting of Newbury Town Council held on Sunday 19 May 2019, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

11. QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions or petitions from members of the public.

12. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

Question asked by Councillor Phil Barnett:

"Madam Mayor, the Annual Mayors Drive is the one day in the year that many elderly persons in Newbury Town can experience the delights of the West Berkshire countryside (and in some circumstances the only day they leave their own home). Therefore Can I have an assurance the new members have or will be briefed about this important day in the calendar of Newbury Town Council?"

The Mayor replied as follows:

"I would like to thank Councillor Barnett for giving me the opportunity to bring this wonderful event to the attention of all of our new members and to the attention of the press representatives present.

The Mayor's Drive & Tea Party involves the Mayor of Newbury's guests being collected from their home by a volunteer driver and then taken for an afternoon drive through the countryside ending in the grounds of a large Country house where they are provided with afternoon tea and entertainment. The Mayor's guests are people aged 75 years and over and living within the Newbury Town Council boundary and there can be from 200 to 300 guests attending. At the end of the afternoon, the same volunteer driver then returns them to their home.

This event has been in existence for 72 years, it takes place on the first Wednesday in July annually and involves a huge number of volunteers to carry out various tasks. It is funded by the Mayor's Benevolent Fund and Newbury Town Council generously supports the event by allowing the use of Officer time where needed. Mrs Angela Spellman MBE is the main organiser of the event, who rallies an army of volunteers who annually give generously of their time to ensure that the event continues however, new volunteers are always needed.

Elderly people living in their own home and having mobility issues often remark that they rely on the Mayor's Drive to see friends that they cannot see the rest of the year. Others say that the only time they go out in a car is to this event as they rely on the handy bus, etc. The atmosphere at the Mayor's Drive is always lovely, everyone is there to enjoy the very simple pleasures of meeting up with people and strolling around chatting and just enjoying the occasion. The event fills a need and it is hoped that it will continue for many more years.

We will shortly remind all council members about the event. Volunteer drivers are always welcome. Members are also welcome to tell any eligible guests about the event and encourage them to attend."

Supplementary question from Councillor Phil Barnett:

"Thank you for that answer Madam Mayor. I have been driving various local elderly residents to their afternoon tea in the countryside for the last 29 years and will be eligible in my own right in three years' time – councillor Beck has been in that position for several years now.

I have seen a reduction in the over 75s attending this event in recent years, along with a reducing car pool. Can the Mayor identify what action is being taken to encourage more people to attend this event at a time when many more people are living longer? I suggest this is an item for the agenda of the next Civic Pride, Arts and Leisure Committee."

The Mayor replied as follows:

“As I said, the Town Council will be informing councillors and asking them to encourage over 75s to attend.”

13. NOTICE OF MOTION

Members discussed the motion in response to the ‘Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C’, published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018. The motion requested that the council commit to the following, to:

1. Declare a ‘Climate Emergency’ that requires urgent action
2. Make the activities of Newbury Town Council carbon neutral by 2030, and ensure that the Council’s strategic plan supports this objective
3. Set up a Climate Emergency Working Group of Members and Officers at this Full Council meeting. This new Working Group will answer to the Full Council, and should:
 - i) Recommend the steps the Council should take to develop a clear evidence-based and fully costed strategy to ensure the Council’s activities are carbon neutral by 2030
 - ii) Recommend how best to engage, consult and work with relevant experts, potential partner organisations, outside bodies and community groups in the development of the strategy
 - iii) Recommend the processes and structures the Council should employ to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the strategy
 - iv) Explore how NTC can support and promote a wider program of activities to help Newbury as a whole become more sustainable
 - v) Report back to the Policy & Resources Committee on 14th October 2019 to give a status update and likely timescales for the completion of the strategy development, together with outline budget implications. This report and any recommendations would then come before the Full Council on 21st October 2019.

PROPOSED: Councillor Martin Colston

SECONDED: Councillor Stephen Masters

RESOLVED: The submitted motion was approved, and the Council committed to the above actions.

Councillor Jeff Beck abstained.

The following councillors were elected to the Climate Emergency Working Group: Councillors Martha Vickers, David Marsh, Stephen Masters, Sarah Slack, Chris Foster, Olivia Lewis, Martin Colston, Vaughan Miller and Roger Hunneman. (The Conservative members of the council would be invited to attend)

14. TOWN MAYOR’S REPORT

The Town Mayor’s report was received and noted by the Committee.

15. LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader's report was received and noted by the Committee.

16. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Chief Executive Officer's report was received and noted by the Council.

17. NEWBURY YOUTH COUNCIL

The Town Mayor invited the Junior Mayor, Daniel Parnell, the Deputy Junior Mayor, Charlotte Beaven to make a presentation to the meeting.

They reported that When the NYC started in October 2017 there was a problem for teenagers getting their first job because they have no work experience, this led to the 'Say YES' scheme

- Work experience for under 16's
- Fundraising for the NYC charity, through a coffee morning at the Town Hall – Friends of West Berkshire Young Carers
- Future projects include campaigning for environmental issues, to get more recycling bins in the Town Centre, like those in Park Way. Maybe NYC can fund raise for this. Daniel suggested that people hand in plastic bottles in exchange for paying for parking, or like in Scotland with deposits for plastic bottles deposits from vending machines.
- Would like help with recruitment of new members 13 to 18. There will not be many left after they both leave this summer, so a plea to councillors to encourage more young people to come along.

The Council expressed their appreciation and support for the work of the Youth Council and thanked them for their presentation.

18. ARRANGEMENTS FOR COUNCILLOR EMAIL ADDRESSES

PROPOSED: Councillor Gary Norman

SECONDED: Councillor Sue Farrant

RESOLVED: That the council accepts recommendation 2 from the report; to acquire Newbury.gov.uk email addresses for each councillor.

19. END OF YEAR STATUTORY ACCOUNTS 2018/19

19.1 The Annual Return (subject to external audit) for the financial year 2018/2019 as attached to the agenda was received and noted by the Council. .

19.2 PROPOSED: Councillor Martin Colston

SECONDED: Councillor Martha Vickers

RESOLVED: That each individual paragraph (1-9) of the Annual Governance Statement as defined at Section 1 of the Annual Return be approved.

19.3 PROPOSED: Councillor Martin Colston
SECONDED: Councillor Vaughan Miller

RESOLVED: To authorise the signing of the Annual Return (subject to external audit) by The Town Mayor in line with the regulatory requirement to sign the accounts by 30 June 2019.

19.4 The information regarding the external audit was received and noted by the Council.

20. COMMITTEES

The minutes of the following meetings were received:

Planning & Highways	15 May 2019
Planning & Highways (Draft)	03 June 2019

21. LOCAL DEMOCRACY WORKING GROUP

Members received a verbal update on progress of the Local Democracy Working Group from the CEO.

The terms of reference of the Local Democracy Working Group were reviewed and accepted. The following Councillors were appointed to the Working group: Jeff Beck, Jo Day, Billy Drummond, Sue Farrant, Nigel Foot, David Marsh, Gary Norman, Elizabeth O’Keeffe, Martha Vickers, and Tony Vickers. It was suggested that Link Councillors could be utilised to promote the Local Democracy Working Group within their link schools.

22. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME FOR FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS 2019/20

The Council noted the Forward Work Programme. The report from the Climate Emergency Working Group was added to the October meeting of Full Council.

23. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

PROPOSED: Councillor Jeff Beck
SECONDED: Councillor Jo Day

RESOLVED: That under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential financial business to be transacted.

24. COMMUNITY CAFÉ AND NEW SPORTS CHANGING ROOMS FOR VICTORIA PARK

Members received an update from the CEO on the present position and proposed construction of the Community Café and changing rooms for Victoria Park.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE TOWN MAYOR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 21:39 PM
TOWN MAYOR