

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024**  
AT **7:00 P.M.** AT NEWTON'S PLACE, WOLBOROUGH STREET, NEWTON ABBOT

Present: Councillors A Hall (Mayor) Presiding  
C Parker (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors: P Bullivant                      A Gibbs  
                  J Bradford                      A Ineson  
                  R Buscombe                      G Jennings  
                  D Corney-Walker                      M Joyce  
                  L Cooke                              M Ryan  
                  C Davieson                              L Wood

Officers in attendance: Phil Rowe                      Town Clerk  
                                  Sam Scott                      Deputy Town Clerk  
                                  Linda McGuirk                      Principal Administrator  
                                  Sally Henley                      Town Development Officer  
                                  Nigel Canham                      Communications Advisor

By invitation                      Two representatives of Wellbeing In Action

Also, present                      Lay Minister, Graham Whittle  
                                  Three members of the public

**123. WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Lay Minister Graham Whittle to open the meeting with prayers.

**124. APOLOGIES**

Valid reasons for absence were received on behalf of Councillors B Bailey, T Corney-Walker and N Yabsley. Members **agreed** to approve the reasons for absence.

Councillor J Cook did not attend.

**125. INTERESTS**

None declared.

**126. MINUTES**

The minutes of the Council Meetings held on:

- a) Wednesday 5th June 2024 were received and signed as a correct record.

A Councillor asked for an update on minute number 30. The Town Clerk advised that a response had not been received.

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

The Mayor reported that in accordance with minute number 40 of the above minutes, a banner is now displayed on the Signal Gantry.

b) Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024 (Special Meeting) were received and signed as a correct record.

*Cllr G Jennings abstained from voting.*

## 127. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

## 128. PRESENTATION

The Mayor welcomed a representative of Wellbeing In Action to the meeting and invited her to give a presentation to members.

The presentation covered:

- Introduction to the charity, who exist to prevent and remove the causes of harm to peoples physical, emotional, financial, social and community health and wellbeing.
- What the charity does including aid distribution, support services and social action.
- The Good Karma Store provides 6 departments under one roof including a charity shop and health intervention services.
- Growing and Thriving.
- Social Action.
- Funding impact.
- How to get involved and support the charity.

The Mayor thanked the representative for her informative presentation and invited members to ask questions.

Councillors expressed their gratitude to the charity for the presentation and asked the following questions:

- Have things got worse since Covid?
- What is the partnership relationship for referrals and social prescribing?
- How can the Council support the charity?

## 129. REPORTS OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

The Mayor invited County and District Councillors to provide a report on their recent activity in Newton Abbot.

District and County Councillor P Bullivant reported on issues in which he has had direct involvement:

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

- Car parking issue near Library.

District Councillor J Bradford reported on issues in which she has had direct involvement:

- Attended the Children’s Overview & Scrutiny meeting for fostering.
- Attended the Public Rights of Way (PROW) meeting, expressed concern for paths affected by proposed planning development.
- Bus improvement plan approved in Newton Abbot.
- Residents’ complaints regarding road closures and works associated with Wales & West Utilities.
- Residents’ complaints regarding Queen St. trip hazards.

District Councillor M Ryan reported on issues in which he has had direct involvement:

- Buckland residents’ issues.
- Attended an Overview & Scrutiny meeting with South West Water looking at the impact of proposed development on the existing sewer capacity.

The Mayor thanked the District and County Councillors for their reports as they provided a valuable insight into the issues within Newton Abbot.

### 130. **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported on engagements which he had attended since the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and highlighted his pleasure in competing in the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Barham Cup, alongside the Town Clerk.

### 131. **FINAL INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2023/24**

The RFO introduced the Final Internal Auditor’s for 2023/24, as circulated prior to the meeting, and invited members to ask any questions. Members commended the Deputy Town Clerk & RFO for her work.

Accordingly, it was:

**RESOLVED** that the Final Internal Auditor’s Report for the year 2023/24 be hereby approved and adopted.

### 132. **FAIRTRADE**

The Mayor invited the Communications Advisor to report on Fairtrade Fortnight. Members considered the report as circulated prior to the meeting. Arising from the discussion, it was:

**RESOLVED** that in principle the Town Council supports Fairtrade fortnight, subject to gauging public interest in the formation of a Fairtrade steering group to lead the project.

*Cllr J Bradford abstained from voting.*

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

133. **PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES**

- a) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor M Joyce, were received and approved.
- b) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Community & Heritage Committee** held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor L Cooke were received and approved.
- c) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Policy & Resources Committee** held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor D Corney-Walker were received and approved.
- d) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee**, held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor M Joyce were received and approved.
- e) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Finance & Audit Committee**, held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor C Parker were received and approved.

134. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

135. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7:00pm.

136. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it was:

**RESOLVED** That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Cllrs J Bradford and G Jennings abstained from voting.

137. **MOTION TO COUNCIL**

In accordance with Standing Order number 37, members considered a motion submitted to the Clerk, as circulated prior to the meeting, requesting the Council considers bestowing the title of Honorary Freeman and Freewomen of the Town.

Arising from the discussion, it was:

**RESOLVED** that a meeting of the Full Council be specially convened for the purpose of voting nominees as Freeman and Freewomen of Newton Abbot.

*Cllr Bradford abstained from voting.*

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

Meeting closed at 20:20 hours.

Chairperson (Mayor).....Date.....

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....