



EARLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Earley Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Radstock Lane on Wednesday 26th November 2025 which commenced at 7.00pm.

Present

Chair – The Town Mayor, Councillor N Brock

Councillors: R Ahlawat, A Bassett, A Bradley, R Cook, J Eastwell, D Hare, M Iyengunmwena, P Jorgensen, S Jordan, I Khayinza, G Littler, A Long, T Maher, S Matthews, A Neal, A Newton, C Smith and M Smith.

In Attendance: J Friend (Town Clerk), E Carroll (Deputy Town Clerk) and five members of the public.

81. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Browne, M De Jong, T Holton, S Newton and H Sarasan.

82. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

83. PUBLIC FORUM

A representative from Maiden Erlegh Residents Association (MERA) raised concerns regarding road/traffic safety around Maiden Erlegh Secondary School and Aldryngton Primary School in Silverdale Road.

MERA has approached Wokingham Borough Council with several requests regarding pedestrian priority and parking near the Silverdale shops. MERA has also carried out a traffic count and will be serving WBC with a petition of 74 signatures for better road/traffic safety around both schools.

The representative asked if Earley Town Council would consider opening the car park on Mays Lane around school start/finish time and allow parents with children at both schools to park there, which would reduce the number of vehicles using and parking in Silverdale Road.

The Chair thanked the MERA representative for his comments and asked that he submit MERA's request in writing to the Town Council, along with the information given during the public forum. The request could be considered at the next Amenities & Leisure Committee meeting in January 2026.

84. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

One typo was noted on page 2, minute item 61.1 – the spelling of 'EarlyBus' should be EarleyBus.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Wednesday 24th September 2025 (Minutes 54 - 80) were a true and correct record and could be signed by the Chair.

The members of the public left the meeting.

85. TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATION

Councillors received a written report from the Town Mayor detailing the events she had recently attended. These included Wokingham Volunteer Centre's annual meeting; His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire Awards; the High Sheriff's Judicial Service; an exhibition of photos at St Nicolas Church; Woodley & Earley Lions Club's 45th Charter Night Dinner; Rotary Club of Maiden Erlegh's Arts & Crafts preview and a Remembrance Service at Earley St Peters Church.

The Town Mayor also visited 2nd Lower Earley Brownies where she answered their questions, this was followed by visit to the Council Chamber at the Council Offices.

86. COMMITTEE REPORTS

86.1 Amenities and Leisure Committee

Councillor N Brock presented the draft Minutes of the Amenities and Leisure Committee meeting (Minutes 35 - 53) held on 15th October 2025. The Council received the draft Minutes.

86.2 Planning & Transport Committee

Councillor A Neal presented the Minutes of the Planning & Transport Committee meeting (Minutes 72 - 90) held on 7th October 2025. The Council received the Minutes.

Councillor A Neal presented the draft Minutes of the Planning & Transport Committee meeting (Minutes 91 - 111) held on 4th November 2025. The Council received the draft Minutes.

86.3 Policy and Resources Committee

Councillor D Hare presented the draft Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting (Minutes 43 - 62) held on 12th November 2025. The Council received the draft Minutes.

Councillor Hare referred to minute item 52 of the draft minutes – Radstock Lane Community Centre and suggested that the agreed letter of complaint to Wokingham Borough Council be signed by the Town Clerk and himself, as Leader of the Council, instead of all Councillors. Councillors supported the suggestion.

87. REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

87.1 ARC Management Committee

Members received a written report from Councillor R Cook on her attendance at ARC Management Committee meeting on 29th October 2025.

87.2 Borough Parish Liaison Forum

Members received a written report from Councillor M Smith on his attendance at the Borough Parish Liaison Forum on 27th October 2025.

87.3 WBC Standards Board

Members received a written report from Councillor S Matthews on her attendance at the WBC Standards Board meeting on 28th October 2025.

87.4 Earley Charity

Members had received a written report prior to the meeting from Councillor T Maher on the grants awarded by Earley Charity in 2023 and 2024. Councillor Maher asked Councillors to encourage local organisations and individuals to apply to Earley Charity for grants, as they are one of the largest grant awarding charities in central southern England. Grants are welcomed from the elderly, families on low incomes and those with disabilities and poor health, also from charity, voluntary and community organisations.

87.5 NAG

Members received a verbal report from Council M Smith on his attendance at a NAG meeting on 10th November 2025. Items discussed at the meeting included streetlights in Silverdale Road, football parking and Speedwatch. A Police representative at the meeting also gave an update on burglaries, anti-social behaviour and speeding.

87.6 Vacancies

87.6.1 Members considered the vacancy for a town council representative to the Sonning & District Educational and Welfare Trust. One nomination was received for Councillor J Eastwell and seconded.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor J Eastwell be appointed as ETC's representative to the Sonning & District Educational and Welfare Trust.

87.6.2 Members considered the vacancy for a town council representative to NAG. One nomination was received for Councillor A Newton and seconded.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor A Newton be appointed as an ETC representative to the Earley Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG).

88. BULMERSHE SULV JOINT SUB COMMITTEE

Councillors considered the amendments to the terms of reference as recommended by members of the SULV sub-committee.

It was **RESOLVED** that the amendments to the terms of reference be accepted.

89. FINANCE

Councillors noted that funds from the Dilapidations EMR have been allocated to pay for the new floor at Centrepoint Community Centre, this will be installed in early January. The work has been agreed and commissioned by the Amenities & Leisure Committee.

90. ETC CHAIRS GROUP MEETING

Councillors received the written notes from the ETC Chairs Group which met on 30th October 2025. Matters discussed included an ETC newsletter, Swallows Meadow, ETC's caretaking provision and the car park wall at Maiden Place Community Centre.

91. TOWN PLAN

The Chair thanked the working group for its efforts in producing the draft plan. Councillor M Smith reported that, following a few further comments received from councillors, a couple of small amendments would be made. Councillor Smith thanked the working group and it was agreed that the working group would meet on an annual basis to review the document, as Town Council priorities may change.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Plan, with the reported amendments be adopted.

92. EARLEY REPAIR CAFE

Councillors received a written report from the Management Committee of the Earley Repair Café on its meeting held on 6th November 2025. It was agreed that the Management Committee would continue to oversee the project whilst encouraging volunteers to take on particular tasks.

93. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - UPDATE

Members noted that Earley Town Council's further comments to the Community Governance Review consultation had been submitted. A copy of the submission has been published on the town council website.

94. WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – TOWN & PARISH QUESTIONS

94.1 Members noted the guidelines document as approved by the Policy & Resources Committee for submitting questions to WBC meetings.

94.2 Members raised no questions to be submitted to any WBC meetings.

95. COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE

Record of Members' Attendance

Councillors noted the details of councillors' attendance during 2025/26 at meetings of the Council and its Committees.

96. ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

Members noted the details of Orders for Payment since the last meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee (Vouchers 8303 - 8333) and Imprest vouchers (1117 - 1121) and Current Account (one off payment 55).

97. PUBLICATIONS

Councillors noted that the following publications had been received and were available for perusal from the Council Offices:

Office of the PCC	E-newsletters October 2025
Involve Community Services	E-newsletters October and November 2025
Friendship Alliance e-newsletter	October 2025
Earley NAG	Agenda for meeting of 10 th November 2025
MERA	Minutes of meeting 9 th October 2025

98. PRESS RELEASES, WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

The following press release was requested:-

- Publication of ETC's adopted Town Plan

99. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

There were no members of the public or press present. It was agreed that the remaining items on the Agenda be taken under Part II.

PART II

100. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

101. SERVICE TO EARLEY AWARDS

102. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting was declared closed by the Chair at 7.49pm

.....
Town Mayor