



EARLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Earley Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Radstock Lane on Wednesday 8th July 2026 which commenced at 7.00pm.

Present

Chair – The Town Mayor, Councillor A Neal

Councillors R Ahlawat, A Bassett, A Bradley, N Brock, R Cook, M De Jong, J Eastwell, D Hare, T Holton, , S Jordan, P Jorgensen, , G Littler A Long, S Matthews, T Maher, A Newton, S Newton and K Yabsley.

In attendance: J Friend (Town Clerk) and E Carroll (Deputy Town Clerk) and two members of the public.

28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R Browne, M Iyengunmwena and H Sarasan. Cllr D Hare gave apologies on behalf of Cllr I Khayinza.

29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

Cllr S Matthews & Cllr K Yabsley entered the meeting.

30. PUBLIC FORUM

A member of the public, who identified himself as the Chairman of Earley Cricket Club, addressed the Council with questions about the club's recent grant applications to ETC, all of which had been unsuccessful. The club's chairman said the reasons for the refusals were different and some seemed to contradict each other. He added that the club had been asked to provide details of any lease it may hold but they were not advised that the because the club plays in Woodley this would exclude it from an ETC grant. He questioned whether there were any guidelines for potential applicants.

A councillor commented that ETC had awarded grants previously to organisations who were not based in Earley and requested that there be consistency in decisions and in the guidance given about grants. Members who had attended the Policy & Resources Committee meeting at which all the latest grant applications were discussed, confirmed that the club's application had been discussed at length and one of the issues was the number of Earley residents that would benefit from the grant that was being applied for. It was noted that the Policy & Resources Committee meetings were open to the public and to all councillors.

The chair of the meeting, Cllr A Neal, suggested that, as the matter of grants was not on this evening's agenda, it would not be possible to have a full discussion of the issues the club was wishing to raise. He invited the club to submit their questions via email and then council could address their concerns in detail.

31. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Wednesday 6th May 2026 (Minutes 1 – 27) were a true and correct record and could be signed by the Chair.

32. TOWN MAYOR'S REPORTS

Councillors received a written report from the Town Mayor detailing the events he had recently attended. These included Reading Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition, Kidical Mass Bike Ride, Promise Inclusion AGM, Southeast Reserve Forces & Cadet Association briefing and the presentation of an ETC Long Service Award.

The two members of the public left the meeting.

33. COMMITTEE REPORTS

33.1 Amenities & Leisure Committee

Cllr N Brock presented the draft Minutes of the Amenities & Leisure Committee meeting (Minutes 1 - 17) held on 20th May 2026. The Council received the Minutes.

33.2 Planning & Transport Committee

Cllr A Neal presented the Minutes of the Planning & Transport Committee meeting (Minutes 1 – 21) held on 12th May 2026. The Council received the Minutes.

Cllr A Neal presented the draft Minutes of the Planning & Transport Committee meeting (Minutes 22 - 39) held on 9th June 2026. The Council received the Minutes.

33.3 Policy & Resources Committee

Cllr D Hare presented the draft Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting (Minutes 1 - 21) held on 10th June 2026. The Council received the Minutes.

In relation to minute item 10.5 – Earley Cricket Club's grant application, Cllr P Jorgensen referred to her earlier comments made in the Public Forum and asked that they be considered. Cllr A Long informed councillors that there had been a lengthy discussion at the Policy & Resources Committee meeting about the grant applications and that all the documentation submitted was considered. Cllr A Long reminded councillors that they were welcome to attend meetings at which grants were discussed, as can the applicants.

34. REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

34.1 NAG

Members received a written report from Cllr N Brock on her attendance at a meeting of the NAG on 11th May 2026. Cllr J Eastwell noted that NAG meetings would no longer be taking place as interest from residents in attending the meetings had declined. Cllr N Brock agreed that it appeared that the same residents attended the meetings, spoke about the same issues but no one wanted to chair the meetings.

Cllr D Hare suggested that the police could be invited to an ETC meeting once a year, so contact with them could be maintained. Cllr P Jorgensen suggested that ETC could possibly take the lead in putting together a suitable sub-committee or group but appreciated that this would create additional work. Some councillors agreed but suggested any such group should have a broad scope and that, whilst ETC could start it, the aim should be that it would be led by the community.

It was suggested that a discussion about the demise of the NAG meetings should be referred to the Policy & Resources Committee.

34.2 Earley Crescent Community Association

Members received a written report from Cllr N Brock on her attendance at the AGM meeting on 2nd June 2026.

34.3 Earleybus

Cllr R Cook gave a verbal report stating that Earleybus received its new bus on 11th June 2026.

34.4 Wokingham Waterside Centre

Cllr A Neal informed Members that a late, written report had been received from Cllr S Jordan and was available to anyone wishing to see it.

34.5 Readibus

Cllr A Neal informed Members that a late, written report had been received from Cllr M Smith and was available to anyone wishing to see it.

35. **ETC CHAIRS' MEETING**

The notes from the ETC Chairs' Meeting of 11th June 2026 were received.

36. **AGAR 2025/2026 – UPDATE**

Members noted that an amendment has been made to the AGAR 2025/26 prior to submission, the amendment having been previously reported to the Chair and the Leader of Council.

37. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

Councillors received a recommendation from the Policy & Resources Committee that the draft Treasury Management Strategy be adopted.

It was **RESOLVED** that the draft Treasury Management Strategy be adopted.

38. **INTERNAL AUDIT REVIEW**

Councillors received a report from the Town Clerk following Council's request for a review of ETC's internal audit provision. The report contained a recommendation from the Town Clerk that the existing internal auditor be re-appointed.

It was **RESOLVED** that Claire Connell be appointed as ETC's Internal Auditor for 2026/27.

39. **FOOTBRIDGE – MAYS LANE CEMETERY**

Members received a written update regarding Wokingham Borough Council's Station Footbridge project and its possible impacts on land at Mays Lane Cemetery. Cllrs N Brock, A Neal, G Littler and the Town Clerk had met with WBC's project manager and its contractor, VSL to find out more information about their plans. It was confirmed to Members that access to the footbridge will be from the A329, that scaffolding will be erected along the footbridge and contractors will use this to access various parts of the footbridge. There will be no hard standing areas on ETC land and minimal equipment. VSL is conducting various ecological surveys and the impact on vegetation and habitat will be kept to a minimum. ETC's Operations Manager is liaising directly with VSL on access for the ecologists.

40. WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – TOWN & PARISH QUESTIONS

Councillors raised no questions.

41. COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE

Record of Members' Attendance

Councillors noted the details of Councillors' attendance during 2026/27 at meetings of the Council and its Committees.

42. ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

Members noted the details of Orders for Payment since the last Policy & Resources Committee meeting (*Vouchers 8923 – 8939, 8940 - 8969, 8970 – 8990 and Imprest vouchers 58 – 61 and 1180 – 1201*).

43. PUBLICATIONS

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

Office of the PCC	E-newsletter May & June 2026
Friendship Alliance e-newsletter	E – newsletter May 2026
MERA	Minutes of Meeting June 2026

44. PRESS RELEASES, WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

No press releases were requested.

45. 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

46. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

47. CONFIDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

48. CENTREPOINT LEASE - UPDATE

49. LOCAL BUS SERVICES

50. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting was declared closed by the Chair at 7.43pm.

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Town Mayor