

**Minutes of the  
Ordinary Meeting of Heanor and Loscoe Town Council  
held at the Town Hall, Heanor on 4 December 2025**

**PRESENT:** Councillors A Abernethy, S Bower, L Brunelleschi, C Cox, L Cox, M Cresswell, T Crowley, J Edge, C Emmas-Williams, J Gent, E Hamilton, M Hibbard, S Hind, M Howard, A Jones, P Jones, C Neale, A Stevenson and J Ward.

**Also present:** A Sharpe (Town Clerk) and 14 members of the public.  
2 representatives of Derbyshire Police.

**071 Apologies**

Councillors Burrell (Work) and Goodrum (Work).

**072 Declaration of Members Interests/Update of Register**

Councillors C Emmas-Williams, E Hamilton and J Ward – Agenda item 10 (Minute no 080 -Planning applications) – Personal – Members of Amber Valley Borough Council Planning Board. They would remain in the meeting but take no part in the discussion or vote thereon.

**073 Requests for Dispensation**

None.

**074 Public Speaking**

- (a) A member of the public asked a question relating to who enforces restrictions on parking of cars on pavements. The Police agreed to take the details and look into this. The member of the public also again asked what the Town Council were going to do to improve Heanor. This was answered at the meeting by pointing out the limited powers the Town Council had to meet her expectations as most of what she raised was the responsibility of other authorities such as AVBC, DCC or the Police.
- (b) A member of the public asked who was currently paying for the upkeep of the empty Grammar and whether the Town Council meets regularly with the Safer Neighbourhood Team. The response was that the Town Council do not meet with the Safer Neighbourhood Team and Amber Valley Borough Council currently maintain the Grammar.
- (c) A member of the public raised concerns that the Town Council had made several procedural errors at meetings, including the failure to provide supporting documents for agenda items, excluding the public without clear resolution, consideration of items not listed on the agenda, and the introduction of motions by officers. He stated that, in his view, these issues undermined the Council's transparency and affected public trust. The Town Council noted the concerns but did not accept them to be fact.

- (d) A member of the public (who was also a Borough Councillor) asked that the next question be recorded verbatim. This was refused as public speaking should **not** typically be recorded verbatim (word-for-word) in Council minutes. The minutes are intended to be a concise, accurate and impartial record of the *decisions made* and key points, not a transcript of the entire discussion or debate. The primary purpose of minutes is to document what the council "did," not what individual members of the public or councillors "said". Therefore, the following is a summary.

The Borough Councillor asked whether Heanor and Loscoe Town Council had requested a meeting with Amber Valley Borough Council or its lead councillors to seek control of the Grammar building as the democratically elected body representing Heanor. They questioned whether the Town Council has produced a business plan, through a representative sub-committee, to manage the Grammar in the interests of the wider community rather than allowing control to pass to a small number of unelected individuals within a Community Interest Company.

The response was that the Town Council did request discussions with Amber Valley Borough Council but as previously reported to this Council the Chief Executive of Amber Valley Borough Council had responded that the Authority would not enter into discussions with the Town Council over the transfer of assets including the Grammar prior to Local Government Reorganisation. The Borough Councillor would be aware of this position.

- (e) A Town Councillor indicated that he would submit a motion to the next meeting on the cuts being made to adult social care by Derbyshire County Council.
- (f) It was agreed following a public comment that Anti-Social Behaviour at Lockton Avenue Recreation Ground (under the control of Amber Valley Borough Council) and how the Town Council can assist may also be discussed at a future meeting or outside of a meeting through discussions with the Police and Amber Valley Borough Council.
- (g) Representatives from the Police reported on recent activity mainly on Anti-Social Behaviour and damage to grass verges at the Grammar by E Bikes.

#### **075 Minutes**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Town Council meeting held on 13 November 2025 were approved as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

#### **076 Town Mayor's announcements**

The Mayor addressed the Council on engagements he had attended including Remembrance Day, the Christmas Lights Switch On and a WI event on domestic violence.

#### **077 To Determine which items (if any) of the agenda should be taken with the public excluded.**

**RESOLVED** that Council would pass the following resolution in relation to agenda item 12 (Legal Advice) at the appropriate time in the meeting (at agenda item 11 (Minute 81 below) -

“that pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item (Legal Advice) due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted (information that could reveal the identity of particular individuals)”

Note - Due to a recent challenge from a member of the public relating to the transparency and legality of resolutions to exclude the press and public, The Town Clerk advised the Council that the wording of the resolution had been legally checked to ensure it fully met the requirements of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

**This resolution was passed following a recorded vote as follows –**

For the motion	Against the motion	Abstain
Councillors Abernethy, Bower, Brunelleschi, C Cox, L Cox, Crowley, Edge, C Emma-Williams, Hamilton, Hibbard, Howard, A Jones, P Jones, Neale, Stevenson and Ward (16)	Councillor M Cresswell (1)	Councillors Gent and Hind (2)

**078 Town Council - Items for Decision/Action**

- (a) Christmas Lights Switch on 2026  
**RESOLVED** that the date for the switch on be set as 21 November 2026.
- (b) Future Meeting Venues  
**RESOLVED** that the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Heanor and Charles Hill Community Centre be used for Council meetings split equally throughout the remainder of the Civic Year.  
  
Prior to discussion and resolution, it was suggested by a Member that there was insufficient information to consider this matter as it was missing such documents as risk assessments, fire capacity reports and other relevant information. However, Members voted for the above resolution.
- (c) Action Plan  
**RESOLVED** that the Town Council Action Plan be reinstated (although noting it would need a review in the future).
- (d) Pantomimes 2026  
**RESOLVED** that two pantomimes be held in 2026 (November/December) at a cost of £2,700 to be included in the budget for 2026/27.

(e) Complaints Procedure

**RESOLVED** that the complaints procedure be as now amended be approved and a Complaints Committee comprising Councillors Gent, Brunelleschi and Howard be appointed for 2025/26.

(f) Town Hall Roof Repairs

**RESOLVED** that Contract Standing Orders be suspended to allow the acceptance of a quotation from P J Lilley to complete urgent roof and guttering repairs at the Town Hall at a cost of £11,697.00 to be met from balances.

**079 Finance**

**RESOLVED** to approve the adoption of the reserves policy previously circulated to Members.

**080 Planning Matters**

<a href="#"><u>AVA-2025-0754</u></a>	<b>Amber Valley Borough Council Whysall Street West Car Park Whysall Street Heanor Derbyshire</b> Clearance of existing vegetation, trees and retaining wall to allow installation of new retaining wall structure along with regrading of existing sloped banks.
<a href="#"><u>AVA-2025-0789</u></a>	<b>Land Between 22 And 34 Brook Street Brook Street Loscoe Heanor Derbyshire</b> Construction of 3 no. detached dwellings
<a href="#"><u>AVA-2025-0800</u></a>	<b>Taylor House Taylor Lane Loscoe Heanor Derbyshire DE75 7TA</b> Non material amendment of AVA/2024/0821 for the introduction of a second roller shutter door to the approved self-storage unit and installation of new fenestration. Creation of ramped access with retaining wall, and amendment to parking arrangement
<a href="#"><u>AVA-2025-0779</u></a>	<b>Newlands Loscoe Fields Land North Of Fall Road Heanor Derbyshire</b> Non material amendment to AVA/2014/0999 for minor amendment to the wording of outline condition 27 that will maintain equivalent noise mitigation amenity protection for future scheme residents in line with the originally drafted condition, yet does not adversely prejudice the operation of surrounding industrial premises including the STOR facility on Rensons Way on the Loscoe Industrial Estate.

**Noted.**

Councillors Hamilton, Emmas-Williams and Ward, having earlier declared an interest, took no part in the discussion or voting in the item.

**081 Exclusion of Press and Public**

**RESOLVED** that pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the

following item (Legal Advice) due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted (information that could reveal the identity of particular individuals).

Note – At this point in the meeting several Members of the Public refused to leave the meeting despite the legally binding resolution of the Town Council and did not do so until Security intervened and the Police were called. Eventually the public left.

## **082 Legal Advice**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk be now authorised to seek legal advice, take subsequent action and authorise any other actions on behalf of the Town Council (in consultation with the Mayor and Councillor P Jones) to address the disruption by individual members of the public of Council Services, Council meetings and harassment of both officers and members on social media and by email/letter where it is considered by the Town Clerk to be in the interest of the Town Council (in consultation with the Mayor and Councillor P Jones) with an initial budget of £5000 (met from balances).

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