

Axminster Town Council

Office Hours
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
10am – 12 noon

Mayor: Cllr Jill Farrow
Town Clerk: Paul Hayward

www.axminstertowncouncil.gov.uk



THE GUILDHALL
WEST STREET
AXMINSTER
DEVON
EX13 5NX

Tel. 01297 32088

Email: Clerk@axminstertowncouncil.gov.uk

Axminster Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee 3rd March 2025

MINUTES APPROVED 26th June 2025

Held in person at the Guildhall on Monday 3rd March 2025 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. Leat (SL) (Chair), Burrough (KB), Dowdeswell (MD), Paice (EP) and Walden (JW) (Acting Chair for this meeting).

Meeting was declared quorate as per Standing Orders.

Also, Cllrs. Bridge, Farrow, Price & Willey (non-committee members).

Town Clerk, Paul Hayward. Deputy Clerk, Sarah Jackson. Admin. Assistant, Katie Edgell.

Twenty-three members of the public were in attendance.

Meeting was audio recorded as per Council policy.

Public Forum session.

Committee received representations from 5 speakers, all in opposition to the application to be considered under agenda item PLAN25/009 i)

The Acting Chair thanked all speakers for their contribution to the meeting and subsequently closed the Public Forum session at 7.20pm

PLAN25/001

To elect a Chair of the Planning Committee.

Having received notification that Cllr. Leat was willing to remain as Chair of the committee, it was proposed by JW, seconded by EP, that Cllr. Leat be re-elected to that position in absentia. No other nominations put forward. Resolved unanimously.

In the absence of Cllr. Leat, Cllr. Walden took the Chair with the agreement of all members present.

PLAN25/002

To elect a Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee.

The Acting Chair proposed that no Vice-Chair be elected at this time. Resolved unanimously.

Continued overleaf.

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PLAN25/003

To note members of committee present for all or part of the meeting:

Attendance at meeting shown above. Meeting was declared quorate.

PLAN25/004

To note and, if thought fit, to approve apologies for absence:

No apologies received as all committee members were now present; Cllr. Leat having arrived shortly after the meeting started and having indicated that she was happy for Cllr. Walden to remain as Acting Chair for the remainder of the meeting for reasons as explained at the point of her arrival. Agreed by all those present.

PLAN25/005

To note members of committee not otherwise present and to receive any other apologies for absence:

None.

PLAN25/006

To receive any declarations of interest from members of the committee in relation to items of business on this agenda and to note any dispensations previously afforded:

This does not preclude the need for members to declare any additional interests that may arise during this meeting.

None declared.

PLAN25/007

To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held in consultative session on 25th March 2024 and to consider any matters arising from those minutes:

Approval of the minutes proposed by EP, seconded by Acting Chair. Resolved unanimously.

No matters arising. *Signing of the approved minutes as a true record of the meeting was deferred until Clerk could arrange with Cllr. Leat.*

PLAN25/008

To consider any matters listed on this agenda that Councillors consider should be dealt with as confidential business as per the provisions of The Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960: None raised by committee members.

Continued overleaf.

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PLAN25/009

To consider planning applications (as shown below) advised by the Local Planning Authority (East Devon District Council) prior to the agenda publication:

i) 24/2650/FUL

Land at Newlands Farm, Crewkerne Road, Axminster, EX13 5SF

Construction and operation of a BESS (80MW) comprising battery units, inverter, transformer, substation buildings, compound, access roads, storage tanks, CCTV, landscaping and all ancillary and associated works.

Representations heard from non-members of the committee present.

Acting Chair thanked Hawkchurch Action Group for their written representations and reports which all members of the committee had received and read.

Consequently, **the Acting Chair proposed that the Town Council should submit a comment of OBJECTION to the application as considered on the following grounds:**

Insufficient information available to provide assurance of environmental protection, fire safety, habitat protection, water security, resident amenity, highway nuisance and noting that only 12 of the 44 NFCC guidelines/recommendations had been met at the time of the application review.

Clerk answered some procedural questions put by members on the consultation and review process and the involvement of other statutory authorities and stakeholder bodies.

The proposal for OBJECTION was seconded by EP. Resolved 4 votes for, with 1 abstention (SL on the basis that they had not been present to hear all public representations and therefore were not in possession of all evidence at the time of the decision).

Acting Chair thanked all committee members, non-committee members and all those sitting in the public gallery for their attendance and participation. At this point, twenty-two of the public present left the meeting.

Continued overleaf.

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PLAN25/010

To consider planning applications advised by the Local Planning Authority (East Devon District Council) after the agenda publication and as shown on the supplementary agenda published (if applicable):

None to be considered.

PLAN25/011

To consider planning applications advised by the Local Planning Authority (East Devon District Council) that relate to adjacent parishes where the Town Council's views are being sought (if applicable):

None to be considered.

PLAN25/012

To ratify decisions made under delegated authority afforded to the Chair of Planning Committee and the Proper Officer by the Town Council in matters pertaining to minor planning applications.

None to be considered.

PLAN25/013

To consider planning applications advised by the Local Planning Authority (East Devon District Council) that relate to tree matters (TPO/TRE):

None to be considered.

PLAN25/014

To consider any planning correspondence:

An application for determination of a Certificate of Lawfulness had been received from EDDC that required committee's attention. Acting Chair recommended that this matter be considered within the forthcoming FULL Council meeting (Planning Session) on 10th February. Agreed to by all.

Clerk: Please add to next FULL agenda accordingly.

PLAN25/015

To consider any matters considered as urgent by the presiding Chair:

None raised by Chair, members or Clerk.

Continued overleaf.

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PLAN25/016

To note date of next scheduled meeting of the Planning Committee:

Meeting to be arranged if necessary – check website/noticeboard for details.

With no further business to attend to, the Chair closed the meeting at 7.30pm.

Signed Date: 26th June 2025

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