



NEWARK TOWN COUNCIL

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FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 14th June 2023 in the Council Chamber, at the Town Hall.

Membership Present:	Councillor	B Corrigan (Chairman)
	Councillors	P Ball I Brown D Campbell T Collier E Cropper S Crosby S Dickinson L Geary J Kellas D Ledger D Moore (Vice-Chairman) G Rix N Ross L Roulstone M Skinner M Spoor P Taylor
Apologies for Absence:	Councillors	
Officers Present:	Town Clerk	Matthew Gleadell
Taking Notes:	PA to the Town Clerk	Helen Crossland
	There were two members of the public present.	
Venue:	Council Chamber, Newark Town Hall	

The Chairman welcomed those present.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting Cllr N Ross asked that Members stand for one minutes' silence for the victims of the tragic events that had happened in Nottingham earlier in the week.

He wanted everyone that was involved, the injured, their families and friends to know that our thoughts were with them during this sad time.

FGP01/23/24 Minutes of the last meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 19th April 2023

Cllr D Ledger raised a question with regard to **FGP101/22/23 – Recommendation from Climate Change Working Group** – and asked why this was not on the Agenda for this meeting.

The Town Clerk responded that there would be a 'Special Meeting' of the Finance and General Purposes Committee on Wednesday 5th July where that item would be dealt with.

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 19th April 2023 were proposed by Cllr Ledger, seconded by Cllr Geary. A vote was held and they were **AGREED**.

Declarations of Interest

It was **AGREED** to accept any Declarations of Interest as and when they arose during the meeting.

FGP03/23/24 Appointment of Members to Personnel Sub-Committee and Climate Change Working Group

- a. Cllr P Taylor proposed, Cllr D Ledger seconded the establishment of a Personnel Sub-Committee (PSC) and Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) for the 23/24 civic year.

Cllr M Skinner questioned whether the CCWG should continue, or whether the subjects discussed at that group should be brought to this committee where all 18 Councillors are Members.

A vote was held and the establishment of the committees was **AGREED**.

- b. Cllr D Moore proposed, Cllr G Rix seconded, the remit of the PSC and CCWG with no changes to the existing remit.

A vote was held and this was **AGREED**.

- c. Membership of the PSC was confirmed as:

1. Cllr M Skinner
2. Cllr P Taylor
3. Cllr D Ledger
4. Cllr G Rix
5. Cllr S Crosby

Membership of the CCWG was confirmed as:

1. Cllr M Skinner

2. Cllr D Campbell
3. Cllr G Rix
4. Cllr L Roulstone

The Unaligned-Independents had no one available so the 5th position was allocated to Cllr E Cropper.

A vote was held and this was **AGREED**.

- d. Cllr M Skinner proposed, Cllr E Cropper seconded, the following:
Cllr P Taylor for Chairman of the PSC.
Cllr D Ledger for Vice-Chairman of the PSC.

Cllr D Campbell for Chairman of the CCWG.

Cllr E Cropper for Vice Chairman of the CCWG.

A vote was held and the above positions were **AGREED**.

- e. The proposed meeting dates for the PSC were discussed. Cllr M Skinner pointed out that there are not usually any meetings during the month of August.

Cllr M Skinner and Cllr D Ledger then confirmed they would not be available for the meeting planned on 9th August.

The Town Clerk agreed to look at this and consult with the chairman of this committee with another date.

The meeting dates proposed in the Agenda were:

9th August 2023.

8th November 2023.

20th March 2023.

With the proviso above (August meeting) the other dates were **AGREED**.

FGP04/23/24 Representation on Outside Bodies

A discussion was held on the appointment of Town Council representative on Outside Bodies.

Cllr I Brown began the discussion and talked about whether or not Town Hall rooms would still be available, free of charge, with tea and coffee.

The Town Clerk responded that there might be a review of these arrangements.

Cllr I Brown asked if that meant they would have to pay.

Cllr L Geary pointed out that there are other rooms available in Newark – N&SDC might be able to accommodate this meeting. There are also a number of community halls available to hire.

Cllr I Brown asked if there could be a vote on this; a response was made that at this meeting it would just be a matter of appointing representatives on the various outside bodies.

The Chairman mentioned the grant system for free use of rooms.

Cllr I Brown pointed out that an officer is sent from N&SDC to take the notes from the meeting; the Chairman reiterated that the policy needed to be look at.

It was reported that Newark MIND was no longer in existence; it had been disbanded. Cllr L Geary then proposed that Newark MIND be removed from the list.

This was seconded by Cllr D Ledger.

Cllr M Spoors asked if the Town Council was in a position to appoint anyone onto this organisation (on a point of order).

The Chairman wondered if these organisations had anything for the Town Council to do. She suggested that contact should be make with any organisation that may have replaced Newark MIND and did they want anyone.

Cllr P Taylor asked if the Town Council was soliciting positions on these groups.

Cllr M Spoors proposed a report from the Town Clerk.

Cllr P Ball proposed that a Council representative investigate what organisations are representing Mental Health. This was seconded by Cllr E Cropper. Cllr D Moore was the appointed to this position.

Brief discussion followed about the W E Knight Education Trust; their website did not reflect the appointments from the Town Council.

Members then **CONFIRMED** the appointment of Town Council representatives on Outside Bodies for the 2323/24 Civic Year.

East Midlands Museum Service	Town Clerk
Hospital of St Leonard of Newark	Cllr B Corrigan Cllr N Ross
Lilley & Stone Charities	Cllr P Taylor Cllr N Ross
Magnus Educational Foundation	Cllr D Moore Cllr E Cropper
Newark Allotments & Gardens Assn	Cllr D Campbell
Newark in Bloom	Cllr M Skinner
Newark Civic Trust Awards	Town Mayor
Newark Healthcare Consultative Group	Cllr I Brown Cllr L Roulstone
Newark Heritage Forum	Cllr D Moore
Newark Mind/Newark Mental Health Organisations	Cllr D Moore
Newark Municipal Charities	Cllr G Rix Cllr S Crosby

Friends of Newark Cemetery	Cllr S Crosby
Newark & Sherwood CVS	Cllr D Moore
W E Knight Education Trust	Cllr L Geary (still a trustee until 2024)
	Cllr B Corrigan
	Cllr T Collier

FGP05/23/24 Voluntary Body/Community Events Grant Applications

Cllr D Ledger began discussion on this item. She asked about the use of the Ballroom on Sunday 18th June – was it being paid for.

The Town Clerk responded that it was a historic resolution that allows this weekend's activities to be held.

The Chairman noted that the first applicant had already had free use of the Ballroom once, and in the guidelines it stated that only one application could be submitted per annum.

The Town Clerk pointed out that within those guidelines there was some leeway should the Councillors wish.

Cllr L Geary was in favour of the application. They were providing a free concert for members of the public to enter.

Cllr P Taylor proposed, Cllr D Moore seconded, the application. A vote was held and:

- a. Members **AGREED** to grant free use of the Ballroom for a concert on 19th December 2023 at a cost of £335.42 net.

There was some debate as to whether the second application was within the remit of the grant application rules. The contact address was given as Sutton on Trent.

The Chairman said she would like to see some more information about the organisation. There were also no accounts, just a bank statement.

After further discussion Cllr M Skinner proposed, Cllr J Kellas seconded that the item be deferred to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee to make a decision when further information had been obtained.

- b. Members **DEFERRED** the application for free use of the Ballroom for a Ceilidh/Barn dance on 22nd July 2023 at a cost of £383.33 net.

FGP06/23/24 Newark Half Marathon Funding Request

Members **CONSIDERED** the request from Newark Half Marathon for funding towards their 2023 event.

Although there was no opposition with regard to the health and wellbeing aspects of the Newark Half Marathon, after discussion it was decided not to support this request.

It was also felt that it was not appropriate to assist with funding bearing in mind the charitable donations that this event makes as outlined in the Agenda Report.

Cllr L Geary proposed, Cllr M Spoors seconded that the request for funding be **DECLINED**.

A vote was held, and this was agreed.

FGP07/23/24 Barnby Road Academy Community Food and Wellbeing Funding Request

Cllr D Ledger began discussion of this item; the report stated that she had encouraged this application. She informed Members that she had no idea of how much money would be asked for.

A suggestion was made that they could perhaps apply for funding from the National Lottery Fund; it was also noted that N&SDC may have funding available.

Mention was also made that if this application were to be granted, it was almost certain that every single school in the area may request funding also.

Cllr P Taylor proposed, Cllr M Spoors seconded, that this request be declined but the Academy should be advised of alternative funding sources.

A vote was held, and the request was **DECLINED**.

FGP08/23/24 Councillor Email Addresses

There was a long discussion about this item with many Councillors both for and against providing dedicated e-mail addresses.

Cllr B Corrigan proposed, Cllr D Moore seconded, that this item be deferred so that more advice could be sought.

A vote was held and it was agreed to **DEFER** this item to a future meeting of this Committee.

FGP09/23/24 Notice of Motion (Hearing Loop)

After lengthy debate in relation to this item Cllr. Geary proposed an amendment to her motion to add a clause 1.3 which would state that:

‘3 quotes will be obtained to assess the financial impact of a hearing loop and that a wider assessment of the building will be sought to ensure that the Town Hall meets all necessary legislative requirements to ensure Disability and Equality requirements are being met with final decisions on all further actions to be brought back to the committee.

This was seconded by Cllr M Spoors.

A vote was held and this was **AGREED**.

FGP10/23/24 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Cllr B Corrigan proposed, Cllr D Ledger seconded that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972) the press and public be excluded from the next Agenda Item debate on the grounds that the Committee’s remaining business involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, and the public interest in disclosing the information.

The members of the public left the meeting.

FGP11/23/24 Exempt Minute

Members **NOTED** the Exempt Minute as in the Agenda Report.

FGP12/23/24 Allotment Gates

Members **CONSIDERED** the Agenda Report and the recommendations contained therein.

Cllr N Ross proposed, seconded by Cllr P Taylor, to accept all those recommendations. A vote was held and:

It was **AGREED** to move away from automated gates, and instead use a reliable lock and key system.

It was also **AGREED** that this proposition should be put to the next meeting of the Allotment Society for their consideration as to the future arrangements, and possible use of savings.

It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk and Cllr D Campbell (as the newly appointed Town Council representative on the Newark Allotments and Garden Association outside body) should ask to attend the next meeting for this purpose.

Meeting Closed:	22:30	Next Meeting:	5 th July 2023
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