



NEWARK TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Wednesday 13th September 2023 at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall.

Membership Present:	Town Mayor	Cllr P Ball (in the Chair) (Ap)
	Councillors	I Brown D Campbell T Collier B Corrigan E Cropper S Crosby S Dickinson L Geary J Kellas D Ledger (Deputy Mayor – Chair) D Moore G Rix N Ross L Roulstone M Skinner M Spoors P Taylor
Apologies received from:	Councillors	P Ball
Town Council Staff:	Town Clerk Executive Assistant Mayor's Officer	Matthew Gleadell Helen Crossland Ian Watters
Public:	There were 2 members of the public and one member of the press present.	
Venue:	Council Chamber	Town Hall

Prior to the meeting Rev Chris Lion said prayers.

The meeting was then opened by the Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr D Ledger.

TC14/23/24 Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Wednesday 21st June 2023

TC09/23/24 – Notice of Motion

It was **NOTED** that there was an amendment required to the last line of the first paragraph as follows:

‘..... He than gave some more examples of ASB and said that the situation on Yorke Drive was ~~not~~ now getting close to the situation in the Town Centre’

With the above amendment the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Wednesday 21st June 2023 were proposed by Cllr N Ross, seconded by Cllr G Rix, and **AGREED** as a true and accurate record.

Cllr P Taylor also gave an update on this; he said that there had been real progress on this issue – the partnership is working.

The amended Minutes will be signed by the Mayor in due course.

TC15/23/24 Declarations of Interest from Members and Officers

It was **AGREED** to accept any Members Declarations, if any arose, during the meeting.

Before the next Agenda Item, the Town Clerk informed Members of a slight change to the proceedings. In future, only adopted Minutes of previous meetings would be put on this Agenda (after they had been ratified by the relevant Committee).

TC16/23/24 Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday 28th June 2023

The Vice-Chairman, Cllr E Cropper, presented the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday 28th June 2023.

TC17/23/24 Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 26th July 2023

The Chairman, Cllr B Corrigan, presented the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 26th July 2023. These had been circulated prior to the meeting as the Minutes in the Agenda had been amended.

TC18/23/24 Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday 2nd August 2023

The Chairman, Cllr L Geary, presented the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday 2nd August 2023.

TC19/23/24 Town Mayor’s Announcements

The Town Mayor had given her Apologies as she was in Sicily on a long distance trek.

The Deputy Town Mayor gave Members an update of what had been going on since the last meeting of the Full Town Council. She said there were too many engagements to list individually but informed Members of the following:

‘Visits to RAF Cranwell and Waddington, along with attendance at the Mercian Regimental Pilgrimage in Crich.

The Mayor had give medals to the children at the ½ Marathon, hosted a Women’s History Walk and attended the unveiling of the Sikorski Statue.

Numerous local establishments had requested the Mayor’s presence, including the Troc care home (to open their Fete) and the Mount School for the John Carr competition which I (the Deputy) will be giving out the prizes on Saturday of this week.

The Mayor opened Newark on Sea Beach and Newark Book Festival; Newark Festival and the Brass Explosion were also part of the Mayor’s duties.

During August I accompanied the Mayor to Mencap's Summer Performance which was an uplifting experience, and I am thankful I was able to go.

Those of us who joined the Mayor on the Newark Crusader will agree that we had a wonderful time.

Now, on to me! I welcomed Newark Traditions Festival, attended Merchant Navy Day in Kirkby-in-Ashfield, which was an educational experience, so I am grateful that I attended.

I laid a wreath at the Polish RAF Remembrance Service and was treated to a lovely 3 course meal in the Officers Mess at RAF Northolt, before enjoying traditional Polish dancing from Polish dancers.

The Battle of Britain service was on Sunday where I laid a wreath, read a speech and melted in the heat!

Coming up, I will be attending the Newark Golf Club on 19th September, the Annual Airbridge Service on 24th September and 'closing' the umbrella display on 27th September.

I am thoroughly enjoying carrying out civic duties and representing Newark at events, so thank you for allowing me the opportunity to do so.

Finally, the Mayor has just completed a visit to Sandomierz for their Twinning Anniversary and is currently in Sicily trekking the ancient pilgrimage route Magna via Francigena to raise funds for the 3 charities, Beaumont House, Mencap and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.'

At this point, Cllr L Geary (who had also attended the Twinning Event in Sandomierz) showed Members an award that had been won by the Newark contingent in attendance at the 3km Fun Run which was on the Sunday.

TC20/23/24 Town Clerk's Announcements

The Town Clerk then gave Members his update:

1. Newark Festival – the new working group covering events will be meeting soon to think carefully about Newark Festival for 2024. If any members have feedback from this year or any thoughts they want to share, please email Cllr Collier ahead of the forthcoming meeting.
2. Climate Change Updates.
3. Recruitment.
4. Air Bridge Service – 24th September – the Polish Commemoration Ceremony for the Warsaw Uprising. All Members will receive formal invitations – 1.45pm arrival at Newark Cemetery.
5. All Souls – 29th November – Polish Commemoration Ceremony. All Members will receive formal invitations – 2.15pm arrival at the Cemetery.
6. Lilley and Stone meeting.
7. Members Briefing – Wednesday 4th October, 7pm at the Town Hall. Further details to follow.
8. Emails – all Councillor emails are now set up. Hoping to move to internal correspondence with Members from Monday 25th September. If anyone needs help please get in touch. NSDC have been requested to come and deliver GDPR training – MG is awaiting their response.
9. Umbrellas – 27th September there will be a short artistic goodbye at 12noon – all Members are welcome to attend.
10. Castle Lighting – ongoing.

11.Sherwood Avenue – ongoing.

12.Dragon Boat Race – a reminder for Sunday 17th September.

TC21/23/24 Leader of the Council's Announcements

The Leader thanked all Members who had attended the Battle of Britain Civic Event and thanked the Deputy Mayor for giving her speech which was much appreciated.

Polish Commemorations – the Sikorski event; the following day there was a visit from a high level delegation. It was a successful visit with incredible Polish food and it was great to get the Polish community here in those numbers.

Book Festival – well done to everyone who made this possible.

Brass Bands – showcase for young people who are learning musical instruments. This was another free event.

Newark Festival – police and ASB; they now have an office in the Town Hall. That was agreed by the previous council and the new Members have pushed it forward. The Leader then said it was nice to see earlier that the police were talking to young people outside.

He reported that there was a new Youth Officer at Hawtonville Youth Centre.

On the 27th September there was to be an NHS Engagement Team – this would be a consultation about the hours and was specific to the UCC.

We have formed new Working Groups and are moving at pace with the Climate Change Working Group.

Festival/Events Working Group – the Leader said he was pleased to have these Working Groups – more Members would get to have a say.

Civic Events – we are honouring our past and also looking forward to the future.

Cllr D Ledger asked if there was a time stated for the NHS event mentioned earlier; the time was given as 5pm.

TC22/23/24 Questions from Town Councillors

There were no Questions from Town Councillors.

TC23/23/24 Notice of Motion

The proposer of the Motion, Cllr P Taylor said he had been asked to withdraw the motion and was prepared to do so.

Cllr N Ross said he was not asked to withdraw it, but there had been a discussion prior to this meeting with regard to the subject matter of the motion and that it would be discussed in far more detail at the next meeting of the Finance & General Purposes meeting.

Cllr P Taylor accepted this and withdrew the motion.

TC24/23/24 Questions from Members of the Public

Mr Laurence Goff had sent in a question to the Town Council and he said he was the first person to ever do this.

The question was:

"On Freedom's Wings"

I would like to ask this question would you consider your support by giving a donation to The Lancaster Bomber to Be Constructed on the A 46 At Norton Disney Near Newark "On Freedom's Wings" Let's Make This A Reality. The Lancaster Bomber Sculpture, This Will Be Much Bigger Than The Angel Of The North. It Will Be Seen By More Than 34.000 Drivers Every Day On The A46 - Still Badly Needs Fundraising To Make This Dream Come

True.

This will mark the historic link between Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire shared with RAF Bomber Command during the second world war. Over the last few years with materials, particularly steel, soaring in price has very much, efforted this major and fantastic project ever gets finished.

I need to convince you that this landmark on the border of Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire is very important, let's make it a reality.

Mr Goff informed the Town Council that this fundraising had been going on for 4 years but they were still £90,000 short.

Cllr D Ledger thanked Mr Goff for that information.

Cllr N Ross also thanked Mr Goff and said he was aware that he attends lots of meeting and events. He said that we are in 'Bomber County' and that he emotionally supported what Mr Goff was doing and would go onto his Just Giving page to make a donation. It was, however, more difficult to give donations from taxpayers money. Mention was made of the A46 Community Funding – that might be a possibility.

All Members were encouraged to go to the Just Giving page.

Cllr D Ledger suggested Mr Goff could submit a grant application – this would then go to the Finance & General Purposes Committee,

The Town Clerk pointed out that currently the Town Council grant structure is that only free use of rooms would be granted, for fundraising events etc. It has been made clear that we want to review our grant structure arrangements and they need to be formalised.

Cllr M Skinner commended Mr Goff for supporting this worthy cause.

Mr Goff had mentioned a parachute jump and Cllr M Skinner said he would be delighted to attend when he did this.

TC25/23/24 Internal Audit Review

Members **NOTED** the Internal Audit Review.

TC26/23/24 Standing Order Amendments

Cllr D Ledger began the debate on this Agenda Item.

The last two Finance and General Purposes meeting had gone on until past 10pm. She said she understood that everyone wants to have their say, but some people and children and families to get back to.

Cllr D Ledger proposed that the start times of meeting be changed to 7pm; then they would be finished by 9.30pm if the proposed Standing Order amendments were agreed.

The proposal was seconded by Cllr B Corrigan.

Cllr L Geary was against the proposal, she would prefer the 7.30pm start.

Cllr P Taylor pointed out that the original recommendations had not been proposed yet. This was done and following a vote they were **AGREED**.

Cllr M Spoors said he had concerns that the meetings were infrequent, and some urgent items may be deferred. He also asked if the pink papers (exempt) be put to the beginning of the meeting. The Town Clerk said there was no reason they could not be at the beginning.

Cllr N Ross pointed out that everything is important. Perhaps Members could get more of a consensus before the meetings? He gave the example of the Notice of Motion that had happened earlier. He said he would be happy to go to 2 hours, up to 2 ½ if necessary (as proposed) and would work harder to get some agreement.

Cllr E Cropper then thanked the Town Clerk for putting on extra meetings; these were new, and everyone appreciated it.

Cllr B Corrigan said she appreciated Cllr M Spoors point about items maybe not being discussed – she saw merit in both cases. If time is running out, extra meetings might have to be arranged.

The Town Clerk said he had been talking to Cllr N Ross and Cllr P Taylor about the Scheme of Delegation; almost all of the Town Council business is aimed at Finance & General Purposes, this meeting is ceremonial. Members could change the rules and enable this committee to do some other things.

Cllr T Collier then spoke; he suggested a 5-10 minutes break half way through might help. This would also give Members the ‘heads up’ as to where they with the meeting (should be half way through the Agenda).

Cllr J Kellas said that in his experience of time limits, he had only seen it once. He asked the Town Clerk to confirm that the 30 minutes extension could be done more than once.

The Town Clerk responded that Standing Orders could be suspended to do this anyway.

Cllr P Taylor was not sure that this should be done in haste, and piecemeal. He didn’t was to see democracy reduced just because things were rushed.

Cllr M Spoors asked if paragraph 2.4 in the report needed to be done; Cllr D Ledger agreed that it did.

Cllr D Ledger then proposed suspension of Standing Order 39; this was seconded by Cllr G Rix.

Cllr P Taylor repeated his previous questions; Cllr T Collier said he would propose this.

Cllr N Ross said Members need to look at the structure of the Full Town Council and see what could be delegated to this Committee. They would be keen to ask about who would be chairing the meeting. He would be happy to leave this until the next meeting. He asked if everyone could come to an agreement beforehand as to what they want.

The Town Clerk said that personally he would prefer Members to do this, at this stage.

Cllr E Cropper seconded the proposal.

Cllr L Geary said she would welcome the opportunity for some reflection on this today. If we make these changes today, do not change them on paper, put it online.

Cllr G Rix pointed out that it had been proposed and seconded, and a vote should be held.

A vote was held and the proposal was **AGREED**.

Meeting Closed:	8.50pm	Next Meeting:	Wednesday 13 th December 2023
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