



NEWARK TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Wednesday 21st June 2023 at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall.

Membership Present:	Town Mayor	Cllr P Ball (in the Chair)
	Councillors	I Brown D Campbell T Collier B Corrigan E Cropper S Crosby S Dickinson L Geary J Kellas D Ledger (Ap) D Moore G Rix N Ross L Roulstone M Skinner M Spoor P Taylor
Apologies received from:	Councillors	D Ledger
Town Council Staff:	Town Clerk PA to the Town Clerk Civic Officer	Matthew Gleadell Helen Crossland Ian Watters
Public:	There were 6 members of the public and 1 member of the press present.	
Venue:	Council Chamber	Town Hall

The meeting was opened by the Town Mayor, Cllr P Ball.

The Town Mayor went on to say that although it was usual to say prayers before the Full Council meeting, she felt that we were a multi religious society and in deference to other religions there would not be any prayers whilst she was in the post.

The Town Mayor reminded Members that there was no room for personal agendas, party politics, or ego. Everyone was present for the benefit of the people of Newark and for no other reason.

TC01/23/24 Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Wednesday 26th April 2023

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Wednesday 26th April 2023 were proposed by Cllr L Geary, seconded by Cllr E Cropper, and **AGREED** as a true and accurate record.

The Minutes were then signed by the Mayor.

TC02/23/24 Declarations of Interest from Members and Officers

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

TC03/23/24 Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday 31st May 2023

The previous Chairman, Cllr L Geary, presented the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday 31st May 2023.

Cllr M Skinner raised a point on **Application No 23/00735/FUL – Robin Hood Parking, 81 Appleton Gate, Newark**. He said he had declared an interest in this application and left the meeting; it was not in the Minutes.

The Town Clerk **NOTED** the comment.

TC04/23/24 Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 14th June 2023

The Chairman, Cllr B Corrigan, presented the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 14th June 2023, marked 'TO FOLLOW' in the Agenda, which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

TC05/23/24 Town Mayor's Announcements

The Town Mayor reported that although her role had begun quite 'gently' with an enjoyable afternoon at Mount School, she had since then attended quite a few events. These included a Reception at RAF Waddington where she was treated to a fly past by the Red Arrows, and the Twinning Celebration last weekend where she had the opportunity to meet the Mayors from our twin towns in Emmendingen and Sandomierz. She had attended the welcome reception and joined the BBQ in the castle grounds.

Last Sunday was Armed Forces Day and she was particularly pleased to inspect the Cadets and to chat to some of the veterans. The evening saw the signing of the Twinning Charters in the Ballroom followed by a buffet supper, for the twinning guests.

The Town Mayor said she was now looking forward to the many more events to come this year.

TC06/23/24 Town Clerk's Announcements

The Town Clerk asked those Members who had not responded to the invitation to attend the Sikorski Statue event to let him know as soon as possible if they are

planning to attend.

He reported that the Town Council website, although well under way, was still not 'live' owing to the heavy work commitments at this time. Some members had seen a 'preview' and were very impressed.

The Town Clerk had also attended the Twinning events and was pleased that a number of Members had supported them.

Today he had assisted the judging of the local Newark in Bloom competition ahead of the East Midlands in Bloom competition which will be judged on 5th July.

The Town Clerk thanked all those that attended the Armed Forces Day; it was an emotional and successful day. It was a nice touch that we were able to have out twin town Mayors inspecting the parade too.

There were some dates for Members to note:

4th July – Sikorski event

6th-9th July – Newark Book Festival

28th July – Newark Town Centre Cycle Races

25th-28th August – Newark Festival Weekend

6th September – Tour of Britain finishing in Newark

TC07/23/24 Leader of the Council's Announcements

The Leader informed Members he had been to Chatham Court today and had a cup of tea with residents. There would be a debate to come on Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) so he would talk some more about it then.

The Leader also said that if Members wished to speak for more than 5 minutes he would invoke Standing Order 11.4 to allow this to happen. He felt that the measure of meetings was by how much you learn from them. It this meant that Members needed more time, he was happy to give them that.

TC08/23/24 Questions from Town Councillors

There were no Questions from Town Councillors.

TC09/23/24 Notice of Motion

The proposer of the Motion, Cllr P Taylor began the debate on this item. He asked Members to note that there had been two instances of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) today that he was aware of. One instance was some young people had been caught on CCTV putting a live pigeon into a wheelie bin and closing the lid, and some other young people had been walking into shops during the day and helping themselves to items – the staff were too scared to do anything. He then gave some more examples of ASB and said that the situation on Yorke Drive was now getting close to the situation in the Town Centre.

There should be increased policing and enforcement. Newark Police are doing the best they can but are under resourced.

A 'zero tolerance' approach to criminal activity is not what is going on. Visitors do not want to come to Newark and residents are scared to come into town. Cllr P Taylor said would be asking tonight for unanimous support for this motion. It will send a message to the people of this town.

Cllr M Spoors reserved his right to speak.

Cllr I Brown said the there is a CPO that responds, but Members are Councillors, not their parents. She said she could not support the motion – there was not enough

information as to where the money might come from. She suggested that the police be asked to attend a meeting as well as N&SDC Officers.

Cllr N Ross then moved an amendment to the motion in the Agenda at Item 9. He said he had discussed it with most of the other Members. He agreed that ASB is a problem but whilst supporting the motion it was the wording that they disagreed with.

Cllr N Ross then gave some details as to the context of the amendment to the motion.

The amendment was seconded by Cllr D Moore.

Cllr P Taylor was happy to accept the amendment.

The amendment was circulated to Members; Cllr M Skinner asked for a brief adjournment for those who had not seen the amendment prior to the meeting to consider the contents.

The Town Mayor agreed to adjourn the meeting for 5 minutes; the meeting was then adjourned at 20:05.

The meeting reconvened just after 20:10.

Cllr M Spoors spoke about the amendment to the motion; he said investing now would bring benefits back in the future.

Cllr J Kellas then spoke; his first concern was this Council's resources and this Council's responsibilities – he was uncomfortable about this.

Secondly, he was uncomfortable with the persistent attacks on 'young people'. This was not fair – it happens (ASB) in all walks of life.

His third concern was the last paragraph - he did not think the Town Council could do this; it was not their place to 'lock in another authority'.

Cllr M Spoors felt that Cllr J Kellas was saying 'it's not our job to fix this' and that he was wrong.

Cllr G Rix spoke about using our valuable resources; she said her perception was that the Town Council would not put any money into this. It was not financially viable to do so.

Cllr N Ross then responded to Cllr J Kellas' points. In paragraph 2 of the amendment, he said the Town Council could not decide how much resources would be required until they knew what they were going to do.

He said the points about 'we cannot dictate what other Agencies do' were good; however, he thought that this would be a 'vehicle' to move this forward – he thought the motion was adequate.

Cllr D Moore asked if Cllrs I Brown, P Taylor, M Skinner and N Ross should form a Working Group and come up with an agreement that works for everyone.

Cllr E Cropper said she supported Cllr J Kellas' mention about 'young people'. ASB is a wider society issue.

Cllr I Brown pointed out that the ASB Office from N&SDC and the police were already working on ASB in the Town Centre.

Cllr P Taylor agreed that N&SDC have actions to take on Yorke Drive (Cllr I Brown's earlier comment). There was a lot of professional work going on; this motion is part of a complex jigsaw.

Cllr N Ross said it did not matter about using the pre-fix 'young people' – if young people start ASB they may come to harm.

Cllr J Kellas pointed out that paragraphs 2 and 3 of the motion did not 'go together'.

Cllr B Corrigan then said she too was uncomfortable with the use of the phrase 'young people' all the time. Someone had earlier mentioned that there were 'lots of things to do' in Newark; she pointed out that most of the things there are to do cost money. There is a need to provide something that does not cost anything.

Cllr L Geary reminded Members that people in the community can become vulnerable.

There is an issue around school leaving time, with school children 'hanging around' in town and elsewhere.

Cllr T Collier thought that Cllr N Ross had made a good point regarding providing services and engaging young people. He supported the motion.

Cllr M Skinner agreed that ASB is a problem in the town. However, the statistics are not anywhere to see. The recording of the problem does not match the perception of it. He pointed out that Members had already seen 2 or 3 instances this evening (people entering the building during the meeting).

Cllr M Skinner then proposed an amendment to paragraph 2:

'Engage with and support the delivery of an agreed Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction Strategy'.

Cllr M Skinner also proposed that paragraph 3 be completely removed.

Cllr D Moore seconded the proposal; this then became the substantive motion.

Cllr P Taylor responded to the amendment – he said 'we have seen what it is like in the Town Centre' tonight, at this meeting. He then asked for a Recorded Vote, Cllr M Spoors seconded the request.

Cllr P Taylor then asked for a Named Vote.

Cllr B Corrigan proposed an amendment to the new substantive motion; she proposed that the word 'agency' in paragraph 1. e should be changed to read 'organisation'.

Cllr D Moore seconded the proposal.

The Town Mayor moved that a vote be held. Following a show of hands the amendment was **AGREED**. This then became the new substantive motion.

Cllr P Taylor then spoke again. He was it was staggering that the motion had been 'watered down' when it had been agreed before this meeting.

The Town Mayor asked him to explain why he thought it was 'watered down'.

Cllr P Taylor responded that paragraph 3 had been completely removed.

Cllr N Ross pointed out that although agreement had been reached between some Members, the motion still had to be put before the Full Town Council.

A heated discussion followed involving Cllrs P Taylor, J Kellas and M Skinner.

A final point was made by Cllr B Corrigan; she said she was disappointed that Cllr P Taylor felt the motion was a 'watered down' proposal,

Cllr P Taylor withdrew the request for a Recorded or Named Vote.

The Town Mayor then asked for a show of hands.

The motion was **AGREED** unanimously.

'Antisocial behaviour in Newark is currently at an unacceptable level, which is impacting the safety and wellbeing of residents and visitors.'

In order to address issues of Anti-Social Behaviour in Newark, as a matter of urgency Newark Town Council agrees to take the following actions:

1. Engage with the following organisations to form a partnership group to develop an antisocial behaviour reduction strategy for Newark, that includes youth engagement strategies.

a. Nottinghamshire County Council Youth Service

b. Newark and Sherwood District Council.

c. Nottinghamshire Police

d. Nottinghamshire Youth Offending Services.

e. Any other organisation deemed necessary to meet the requirements of this motion.

2. Engage with and support the delivery of an agreed Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction Strategy.

TC10/23/24 Questions from Members of the Public

There were no Questions from Members of the Public.

TC11/23/24 Doris Bainbridge Trust Final Accounts 2022/23

Cllr N Ross proposed, Cllr D Moore seconded the recommendation as in the Agenda Report.

A vote was held, and Members **APPROVED** the financial accounts of the Doris Bainbridge Trust for the 2022/23 financial year.

TC12/23/24 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for the financial year 2022/2023

Cllr N Ross explained to Members why there was a 'NO' answer contained within the AGAR document. This was necessary as a report from the new Internal Auditor had not been received yet so this question could not be answered at this time. However, by the next meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee on 5th July the report should be available.

Cllr N Ross then proposed, Cllr D Moore seconded the recommendation as in the Agenda Report.

A vote was held and Members **APPROVED** the Governance and Financial statements contained in the AGAR audit return document and authorised the Chairman of the Council to sign them accordingly.

TC13/23/24 Appointment to Planning Committee

As Cllr D Moore had been selected for the Planning Committee at Newark & Sherwood District Council and therefore resigned from his place on the Town Council Planning Committee, there was one vacancy to be filled.

Cllr B Corrigan volunteered to take the position. This was seconded by Cllr L Geary.

A vote was held, and it was **AGREED**.

Meeting Closed:	21:45	Next Meeting:	Wednesday 13 th September 2023
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