



Newark TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Wednesday 24th January 2024 at 7.00pm
in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall.

Membership Present:	Town Mayor	Cllr P Ball (Ap)
	Councillors	I Brown D Campbell T Collier B Corrigan E Cropper S Crosby S Dickinson (Ap) L Geary J Kellas D Ledger (Deputy Mayor) D Moore G Rix N Ross L Roulstone M Skinner M Spoors P Taylor
Apologies received from:	Councillors	S Dickinson
Town Council Staff:	Town Clerk Executive Assistant Mayor's Officer	Matthew Gleadell Helen Crossland Pete Tomlinson
Public:	There were 2 members of the public and 1 member of the press present.	
Venue:	Council Chamber	Town Hall

TC41/23/24 Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Wednesday 13th December 2023

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Wednesday 13th December 2023 were proposed by Cllr P Ball, seconded by Cllr B Corrigan, and **AGREED** as a true and accurate record.

TC42/23/24 Declarations of Interest from Members and Officers

There were no Declarations of Interest.

TC43/23/24 Adopted Minutes of the Committees held since the last Full Town Council Meeting

a. Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 22nd November 2023

Cllr B Corrigan presented the Minutes of this Meeting.

b. Planning Committee held on Wednesday 29th November 2023

Cllr L Geary presented the Minutes of this Meeting.

The above Minutes were **RECEIVED**.

It was **NOTED** that Cllr M Skinner made a comment on planning application **22/02321/FULM**.

The Town Clerk informed him that the Minutes had already been adopted so the comment would be passed back to the next meeting of that Committee.

TC44/23/24 2024/2025 Revenue Budget and Precept

Cllr B Corrigan began the debate on this Agenda Item.

She informed Members that following last week's Finance & General Purposes Committee there had been some changes made to the Revenue Budget by the Town Clerk. These changes were in the papers for tonight's meeting.

Cllr B Corrigan asked Members to note that an 11% increase in the Precept would give the Town Council just over £10k – there was no surplus to transfer to Reserves (this was previously £50k) – and that would make it 2 years since anything had been added to that fund.

There was a suggestion that the Precept could be raised by 15% to enable a transfer to the Reserves.

It was noted that there was no budget for the Newark on Sea event; the Town Council was waiting for news on a grant, and this should be known in February. If the grant is not received there is no budget to run the event even on a smaller scale.

General discussion then followed; concern was raised about the hire fees additional income that had been put in the budget and more questions about the Reserves.

The Leader of the Council pointed out it was no good looking back, the Town Council has to deal with the here and now. It was necessary to build up financial resilience.

Cllr B Corrigan proposed that the precept be set with a 15% increase, and that the expenditure budget as presented be accepted.

This was seconded by Cllr D Moore.

An amendment was then moved by Cllr P Taylor, to raise the precept by 5.9%. This was seconded by Cllr M Spoors.

A named vote was held:

Cllr	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Pamela Ball		√		
Irene Brown			√	
Dawn Campbell		√		
Tom Collier		√		
Barbara Corrigan		√		
Esther Cropper		√		
Susan Crosby			√	
Sophie Dickinson				√
Lisa Geary	√			
Jack Kellas			√	
Diane Ledger			√	
David Moore		√		
Glenis Rix			√	
Neil Ross		√		
Lynn Roulstone	√			
Mathew Skinner			√	
Matthew Spoor	√			
Paul Taylor	√			
TOTALS	4	7	6	1

This was **NOT AGREED**.

There was a general discussion around how much each of the proposals suggested would raise.

The Leader of the Council thanked everyone who had joined in the debate and said the contribution of everyone was appreciated.

Cllr E Cropper proposed an increase of 11% to the precept; this was seconded by Cllr D Campbell. This was an amendment to the original proposal of a 15% increase.

A named vote was held:

Cllr	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Pamela Ball	√			
Irene Brown			√	
Dawn Campbell	√			
Tom Collier	√			
Barbara Corrigan	√			
Esther Cropper	√			

Susan Crosby			√	
Sophie Dickinson				√
Lisa Geary	√			
Jack Kellas			√	
Diane Ledger			√	
David Moore	√			
Glenis Rix			√	
Neil Ross	√			
Lynn Roulstone	√			
Mathew Skinner			√	
Matthew Spoors		√		
Paul Taylor		√		
TOTALS	9	2	6	1

This was **AGREED**.

It was proposed by Cllr B Corrigan and seconded by Cllr D Moore that another named vote be held to make an 11% rise in the precept the substantive motion.

Cllr	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Pamela Ball	√			
Irene Brown			√	
Dawn Campbell	√			
Tom Collier	√			
Barbara Corrigan	√			
Esther Cropper	√			
Susan Crosby			√	
Sophie Dickinson				√
Lisa Geary	√			
Jack Kellas			√	
Diane Ledger			√	
David Moore	√			
Glenis Rix			√	
Neil Ross	√			
Lynn Roulstone	√			

Mathew Skinner			√	
Matthew Spoors			√	
Paul Taylor			√	
TOTALS	9		8	1

This was **AGREED**.

TC45/23/24 Town Mayor's Announcements

The Town Mayor informed Members that on Friday 15th December 2023 she had been lucky enough to be able to book Yuri Sabatini, an Italian tenor, for a charity concert.

It was a very successful evening and raised over £600 for the chosen charities.

The Town Mayor also informed Members that the next event would be 'Romeo and Juliet' performed by the Nottingham Shakespear Company on Friday 9th February. Tickets were available online.

TC46/23/24 Town Clerk's Announcements

The Town Clerk gave Members an update on what he had been doing since the last meeting.

1. Crime and ASB meeting
2. Possible opportunities for sports clubs to help provide opportunities for youngsters
3. Discussions with NSDC about the Museum
4. Number crunching on budgets
5. A grant in principle from the Lawn Tennis Association for improvements to the tennis courts at Sherwood Avenue
6. Plough Sunday Civic Service
7. Cultural Heart Project
8. Sherwood Avenue Project

The Town Clerk then thanked Members for their understanding in recent weeks whilst the decorative works had been undertaken in the Council Chamber.

TC47/23/24 Leader of the Council's Announcements

The Leader of the Council thanked everyone for what had been a very difficult decision to make with regard to the precept.

He also urged all Members to try and attend the Civic Events that are held in the Town Hall.

The Leader then announced that Cllr G Rix was now a non-aligned Independent; he had asked the Town Clerk to take a look at the political balance on the various Working Groups and Committees.

There was to be a meeting with the Town Council Leader, the Town Clerk, the Chief Executive of N&SDC and a member of N&SDC to discuss the financial challenges that we both face.

TC48/23/24 Questions from Town Councillors

There were no Questions submitted from Town Councillors.

TC49/23/24 Notice of Motion

No Notices of Motion had been received.

TC50/23/24 Questions from Members of the Public

There were no Questions submitted from Members of the Public.

Meeting Closed:	8.15pm	Next Meeting:	Wednesday 24th April 2024
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