



# Newark TOWN COUNCIL

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16<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12 - Part III

## **ANNUAL TOWN ELECTORS MEETING**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Annual Town Electors Meeting will be held at the Town Hall, Newark, on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm in the Ballroom.

The business to be transacted at the meeting is set out below:

1. Welcome and introduction by the Town Mayor.
2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023.
3. Presentation to be given by the Town Clerk, Mr Matthew Gleadell.
4. Question Time

An opportunity for members of the General Public to offer questions, make comment and raise issues relating to matters pertaining to the Town.

A cordial invitation is extended to **residents of the town of NEWARK** to attend this public meeting.

Councillor Diane Ledger  
**Town Mayor**





# NEWARK TOWN COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023, at 8pm in the Council Chamber, Newark Town Hall.**

Membership Present:	Town Mayor	Cllr Laurence Goff (in the Chair)
	Councillors	J Baggaley Mrs I Brown M G Cope E Cropper Mrs R Crowe R A Crowe Mrs G Dawn (A) L Geary J Henderson (Ap) D Ledger J Lee D Lloyd T Mathias Ms J Oliver J Olson M Skinner (Ap) S Vickers (A)

<b>Apologies:</b>	Councillors	J Henderson, M Skinner
<b>Town Council Staff:</b>	Town Clerk	M Gleadell
	PA to the Town Clerk	H Crossland
	Civic Officer	I Watters
<b>Public:</b>	<p>The following members of the public, were present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pam Hall</li> <li>• Paul Taylor</li> <li>• Rosemary Holland</li> <li>• Jean Moore</li> <li>• Lynn Roulstone</li> <li>• Dawn Campbell</li> <li>• Colin Campbell</li> <li>• Shaun Noble</li> <li>• Wendy Patterson</li> <li>• Ian Thomson</li> <li>• Darrell Pointing</li> <li>• David Moore</li> <li>• Susan Crosby</li> <li>• Jenni Vaughan</li> <li>• Jenni Harding</li> <li>• Pamela Ball</li> <li>• Andrea Bartlett</li> <li>• Roy Williams</li> <li>• Rowan Barker</li> <li>• Glenn Barker</li> <li>• Debbie Moore</li> </ul>	
<b>Venue:</b>	Council Chamber, Newark Town Hall	

<b>ATM/01/23/24</b>	<b>Welcome</b>
	The Town Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained its purpose and encouraged members of the Public to ask questions, on matters related to either the business of the Town Council or matters that impact on the town.

<b>ATM/02/23/24</b>	<b>Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022</b>
	The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 were <b>AGREED</b> as a true and accurate record and signed by the Mayor.
<b>ATM/03/23/24</b>	<b>Report of the Planning Committee</b>
	The Chairman, Cllr J Olson, presented the annual report on the matters considered by the Planning Committee.  A copy of the report is attached to these Minutes at Appendix 1.
<b>ATM/04/23/24</b>	<b>Report of the Finance &amp; General Purposes Committee</b>
	The Chairman, Cllr D Ledger, presented the annual report on the matters considered by the Finance & General Purposes Committee.  A copy of the report is attached to these Minutes at Appendix 2.
<b>ATM/05/23/24</b>	<b>Question Time</b>
	The Town Mayor invited questions from those members of the public present, who were residents of Newark.
	There were no questions from any members of the public present.
	Cllr L Geary asked if there were any details available about the forthcoming 40 <sup>th</sup> year celebrations of the Twinning of Newark with Emmendingen.  Cllr M Cope responded that this was not the forum to discuss this, and there was no one present who was able to give that detail.
	There were no further questions or comments so the Town Mayor closed the Annual Town Meeting.

<b>Meeting Closed:</b>	<b>20.45pm</b>	<b>Next Meeting:</b>	<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024</b>
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## Appendix 1

### Planning Report for the 2022/2023 Civic Year

Cllr Jane Olson

For 11 months of the year Newark Town Council Planning Committee have met here to while away our Wednesday evenings once a month at the intersection of fact and opinion. During the course of the past 11 meetings we have scrutinised a total of 170 new applications, 14 amended applications (those previously presented in a previous Civic Year and now changed in some way) 3 County Council Applications, 5 Licencing Applications and one Street Naming request.

Whilst Newark Town Council has no powers in the planning process, all decisions ultimately being made by Newark & Sherwood District Council, we have a duty to provide a level of local knowledge and to raise areas of concern should they arise, filtering the views of the residents affected by these decisions. We then advising the District in writing as to whether we object, have no comment or support an application, having an advisory role as statutory consultees. We welcome members of the public and the press to attend these meetings and, when appropriate, to contribute by speaking to, for or against an application.

We as a Council have continued to advocate the need for adequate amenities in town centre accomodation conversions, especially when we see space being used potentially over-intensively.

We have also continued to highlight the plight of the Toads of Barnby Road. As their numbers dwindle year on year in the annual Toad Patrol it becomes increasingly urgent to defend their habitat from inappropriate development, It is my hope that the incoming Council will continue to croak their ever diminishing corner.

The number of trees that Newark Town Council Planning Committee has saved during this Civic Year has drastically increased since the new Town Clerk changed the way we operate meetings. The reems of paper plans and documents that accompanied every meeting before he started have been ditched in favour of a projected screen hooked up to the Planning Portal allowing detailed inspection of items by the team.

Another improvement introduced by Matthew Gleadall, the Town Clerk, is a numbered agenda schedule, an idea which seems so simple but has made a real difference to the ease and flow of operations of these meetings.

Some applications of note that we have submitted objection to this year have been

- August 2022, the development of Lincoln Road Playing Field. We listened to members who brought their views about the loss and destruction of wildlife and mature trees in the area and concerns about the increased traffic to Lincoln Road. The Developers listened to us and to the locals who came forward and have recently submitted amended plans to which we offered no objections.
- In October 2022 we were invited to offer our thoughts on the Statutory Consultation for the A46 Newark Bypass, otherwise known as "Dualling" of the A46. The item was brought to the Committee for comment on 30<sup>th</sup> November where it was hotly debated causing some duelling within the ranks. With all eyes suddenly on Newark Town Council the response was to object to the project in principle. Spurred by the comments made by the committee February's meeting saw three representatives from National Highways attend the meeting with a presentation seeking to address our concerns. In the April meeting it was agreed that a revised statement in support of the project would now be submitted to National Highways.
- In our November meeting we agreed to suspend standing order 26(2) to allow more than one member of the public to speak in relation to the application for 94 dwellings on the land adjacent to Highfields School. This application has been before us several times over the last few years and our response has been consistently in objection to the project with concerns over the loss of 10 TPO trees and associated ecological damage as well as issues concerning the impact of traffic to London Road. During the meeting we heard from a representative from Notts Wildlife Trust who expressed concerns at the loss of wildlife and biodiversity on the site as well as hearing from a further two residents speaking against the application. We sustained our original objections.

And so our term draws to a close: it remains for me to thank everyone for their level of commitment over the last year. I would like to take the opportunity to offer a huge "Thank You" to Janet Hempshall. Although not spotted at meetings, her hard work is essential for the smooth running of the Committee and by no means goes unnoticed.

Thank you to each and all of the Committee members for sacrificing their time on an entirely voluntary basis. It's not just the hours spent on a Wednesday evening in meetings which could be spent Country Dancing or at a Beetle Drive: it's the hours of devoted scrutiny of the sometimes extraordinary numbers of public documents, indecipherable plans and lengthy public comments that takes considerable time outside of meetings. I am personally grateful to you all, not only for bringing yourselves here each week, but also for unashamedly BEING yourselves, bringing your unique stamp to the process:



Cllr Oliver – for your eye for detail and impeccable taste  
Cllr Geary – for your curiosity and passion  
Cllr Cropper – for your practical approach and insightful contributions  
Cllr Lee – for your enthusiasm and confidence  
Cllr Lloyd – for your amazing intelligence and encyclopedic knowledge  
Cllr Cope – for your candour and direct approach  
Cllr Ledger – for your humility, honesty and humour

I have learned a lot from each of you and it has been an honour to Chair the meetings for the past year. Personally, I think that we've made a great team serving the best interests of our Town and its communities who live, work and play here. May I wish the next Planning Committee all the very best at getting some biscuits out of the Town Clerk.



## **Appendix 2**

### **Report from the Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, Cllr D Ledger**

'I'd like to start by thanking you all for all of your input over the last 4 years. It's been challenging at times, with lots of changes. We've employed a new town clerk and operations manager, and the chair of FGP has changed 3 times. Unfortunately for you lot, I was the final choice so now you have to listen to me waffle on.

There are so many positive things that the Council has done and continues to do that I could not possibly list them all in this report, but I'll have a go.

Due to the cost of living crisis, the council, like everyone, has had to deal with rising overheads. This has had an impact on the on the costs of providing council services but we have managed to avoid big increases in our council tax budget plans for the next financial year due to historic long term financial management.

I am pleased that the Council has been taking active steps in the last 12 months to invest in this wonderful Grade 1 listed Town Hall. We have agreed to carry out extensive work to upgrade the electrics and boiler system along with repairs to roof structures in the units next to the colonnades. The town hall is arguably one of Newark's finest buildings and I am proud that we are maintaining it for the enjoyment of Newark residents.

Sherwood Avenue skate park and play area site is an important leisure asset, with its town centre location. It is long overdue a face lift and we have recently committed to significant investment to make this happen. I am excited to see the end result and it being used by the people of Newark.

Our site maintenance contract with NSDC has been secured and is in the process of being finalized. The contract includes measures that will see our parks and open spaces maintained with a more climate friendly focus.

The last year has seen us actively supporting the Towns Fund Cultural Heart of Newark project which brought us Newark on Sea in August last year. This was hugely successful, with lots of positive feedback from people that used it. I hope Newark enjoys it again this year, and it can become a yearly attraction in our events calendar.

As a committee our financial management and grant schemes help to support a number of organisations gain free use of the Town Hall Ballroom for various charity fundraising activities and this last year has seen many groups hold events in the Town Hall to raise money for good causes. One in particular involved a star appearance from our very own Cllr. Jane Olson.

We provide active support financial and otherwise to a number of local groups including Newark in Bloom, Newark Armed Forces Day, Newark Twinning Association and Newark Citizens Advice Bureau. Whilst all are very different, all help to contribute positively to Newark and its residents.

2022 was a significant year for our long standing ties with Poland and I was proud to see in November last year the Council provide such professional support to the Polish government in their efforts to repatriate 3 Presidents in Exile from Newark Cemetery to their final resting place in Warsaw. That strong bond with Poland will be celebrated further in July this year when we unveil a statue of Polish war leader General Sikorski in our beautiful Green Flag awarded Cemetery.

As this council term comes to an end, and with the elections soon taking place, there may be some challenges for the newly elected councillors but I am confident that whoever the elected members are, they will continue to build on the work of the current council, and they will have the interests of Newark's residents at heart.

Newark is already a place that we can be proud of but with so many positive ambitious projects in the pipeline Newark looks set to only continue to improve and strengthen its position as a place in which we are all proud to live, work and visit.

Finally, I would like to thank Councillor Goff for all his years of service to the Town and wish him a happy retirement.'