



Newark TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 29th January 2025, at 7.00pm, in the Council Chamber, at the Town Hall.

Membership Present:	Councillor	B Corrigan (Chairman)
	Councillors	I Brown D Campbell T Collier E Cropper S Crosby (Vice-Chairman) S Dickinson (Ap) L Geary L Goff J Kellas D Ledger D Moore G Rix (Ap) N Ross (Ap) L Roulstone M Skinner M Spoors P Taylor
Apologies for Absence:	Councillors	S Dickinson, G Rix, N Ross
Officers Present:	Town Clerk	Matthew Gleadell
	There were no members of the public present and one member of the press.	
Venue:	Committee Room, Newark Town Hall	

FGP86/24/25 Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 13th November 2024.

The Minutes (as above) were **AGREED** and **APPROVED**.

FGP87/24/25 Minutes of the Extraordinary Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 20th November 2024.

The Minutes (as above) were **AGREED** and **APPROVED**.

It was **NOTED** that the Deputy Clerks surname was spelled incorrectly.

FGP88/24/25 Minutes of the Extraordinary Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 15th January 2025

The Minutes (as above) were **AGREED** and **APPROVED**.

It was **NOTED** that the Deputy Clerks surname was spelled incorrectly.

It was **NOTED** that Minute **FGP85/24/25** did not quite reflect an increase in the budget for the grants accurately and it should be made clear that an increase of £100 to make the grant budget £7,500 should be in there.

FGP89/24/25 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were received.

FGP90/24/25 Payment Schedules 8/25 and 9/25

Payment Schedules 8/25 and 9/25 in the sum of £323,859.31 (three hundred and twenty three thousand, eight hundred and fifty nine pounds and 31p) and £142,538.39 (one hundred and forty two thousand, five hundred and thirty eight pounds and 39p) were **NOTED**.

FGP91/24/25 Community Governance Review of Newark Town Council

There was considerable debate and input provided from the membership in relation to this matter. There was recollection of former ward structures. It was noted how some wards have slightly bigger ratios than others in terms of numbers of electorate to each member.

The broad consensus from the membership was that due to changes in local government proposed, following a recent government white paper, that it was not considered to be an appropriate time to be considering reviewing boundaries; it should be done when any changes are clear. Members did however note that the South Ward should be reasonably be considered to become Middlebeck Ward to reflect the areas growth and establishment as a distinct part of Newark.

Following a vote it was **AGREED** to formally respond to NSDC to state that now is not a good time to review the ward boundaries and electoral arrangements for the Town Council, and that any such review should be deferred until the full impact of local government changes is clear and that the South Ward should be renamed as the Middlebeck Ward.

The Chairman opened the discussion with a succinct summary of the budget proposals and reminded members of various factors that were pertinent in the recommendations made by the Town Clerk of an increase of 5% in the precept which had been extensively discussed at the previous Extraordinary Finance & General Purposes Committee. The Chairman reminded Members of the continuous challenges facing local government finances along with the fact that some of the income streams are from very new income generating initiative and therefore the forecasts are not based on several years of data, therefore its accuracy is less dependent, albeit prepared by experienced officer. It was noted that in the coming years there continues to be a deficit in the financial forecast albeit much less than had been expected previously.

The Chairman explained that she was broadly supportive of a 5% increase in the precept.

A number of Members spoke in relation to the budget precept. There was particular mention of the budget plans to deliver some pop up Newark on Sea beaches in other areas on Newark.

Some Members once again confirmed that they welcomed this for their own wards. Other Members clarified their reasoning for expressing concern as to the possible delivery of a pop up Newark on Sea in their own ward at the last meeting.

There was some discussion and debate regarding certain small items within the budget including noting that postage costs are decreasing as a result of greater use of digital technology.

It was then proposed and seconded, and a vote taken, to recommend that the starting budget for the financial year 25/26 be as presented in the Agenda paperwork and the precept level be set such that an increase of 5% to the Town Council element of Council Tax will be levied.

It was also **AGREED** to **NOTE** the draft Medium Term Financial Plan and year end forecasts accordingly.

Meeting Closed:	7.45pm	Next Meeting:	Wednesday 12th March 2025
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