



Newark TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 3rd September 2025, at 7.00pm, in the Council Chamber, at the Town Hall.

Membership Present:	Councillor	S Crosby (Chairman)
	Councillors	I Brown D Campbell T Collier B Corrigan (Vice-Chairman) (arrived 7.47 pm) E Cropper S Dickinson L Geary L Goff J Kellas D Ledger D Moore G Rix N Ross (arrived 7.47 pm) L Roulstone M Skinner M Spoors P Taylor
Apologies for Absence:	Councillors	No Apologies
Officers Present:	Town Clerk Deputy Town Clerk	Matthew Gleadell Anna Lawson
	There was one members of the press present and no members of the public.	
Venue:	Committee Room, Newark Town Hall	

FGP024/25/26 Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 16th July 2025

The Minutes (as above) were proposed by Cllr D Moore, seconded by Cllr P Taylor and **AGREED** and **APPROVED** unanimously.

FGP025/25/26 Minutes of the Extraordinary Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 6th August 2025

With one amendment – Cllr E Cropper had sent Apologies, the Minutes of the Extraordinary Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 6th August 2025 were proposed by Cllr D Moore, seconded by Cllr P Taylor and **AGREED** and **APPROVED** unanimously.

FGP026/25/26 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were received.

FGP027/25/26 Payment Schedule

The payment schedule was proposed by Cllr D Moore, seconded by Cllr L Geary and **NOTED**.

FGP028/25/26 Work Programme and Forward Planning

The Work Programme and Forward Planning Report was proposed by Cllr L Geary, seconded by Cllr D Campbell and **NOTED**.

FGP029/25/26 Community Grant Applications

It was proposed by Cllr D Ledger, seconded by Cllr L Goff, that the Community Grant Applications from the Emmaus Trust and Newark and Sherwood Concert Band be **ACCEPTED**.

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

FGP030/25/26 Allotment Rent Review

It was **AGREED** to accept the proposed rent increase of 8p per metre for the period October 2026 to September 2027.

A counter proposal was made to defer this item until the next meeting in order for further information to be presented.

This was proposed by Cllr D Moore and seconded by Cllr J Kellas. A vote was held and the counter proposal was **REJECTED** by the council with 8 votes in favour and 10 against.

FGP031/25/26 Target Hardening

The various options were discussed at length.

It was proposed by Cllr E Cropper, seconded by Cllr L Geary, that the proposal for bunds that include wild flowers be adopted. A vote was held and this was **AGREED**.

Cllr M Skinner asked that the Minutes state that the current repairs to the Syerston Road play area have been completed to a poor standard.

FGP032/25/26 Notice of Motion

Three separate motions were considered.

The first motion was submitted by Cllr L Geary and seconded by Cllr L Roulstone:

'We propose that the Council remove all charges from public toilets. '

A vote was held, and it was **NOT AGREED**.

This item was then discussed at length; issues raised included:

- That the motion did not include costs and the potential impact of the loss of revenue.
- A request was made by Cllr M Skinner for the Standing Order to be amended to state that all motions must include costing and impact analysis.
- The potential risk to staff.
- The Council had previously agreed to implement a new payment system, and queries were raised as to whether all options were explored.

Cllr P Taylor made a request that it be minuted that the Council would like to praise staff for the initiative to purchase feminine hygiene products.

An amendment to the motion was proposed by Cllr P Taylor, and seconded by Cllr T Collier, that the idea should be trialled for six months and then re-evaluated. A vote was held and this was **NOT AGREED** (7 votes for and 11 against).

The second motion was submitted by Cllr L Goff and seconded by Cllr S Crosby.

'We propose that the Town Hall in named for its 250th year anniversary in 2026'.

A vote was held and it was **NOT AGREED** (3 in favour, 13 against, 2 abstentions) due to costs.

This item was then discussed at length, issues raised included:

- Queries were raised in relation to the requirement for Planning Permission and indicative costs, in the region of £10,000.
- The Town Hall looks like a Town Hall, and as such, a sign is not required.

- That the motion does not clarify what is required.

At 9.02 pm, Cllr L Goff proposed, Cllr S Crosby seconded that Standing Orders be suspended for 30 minutes. A vote was held, and this was **AGREED**.

At 9.05 pm, Cllr D Ledger left the meeting.

The third motion was submitted by Cllr P Taylor and seconded by Cllr M Skinner.

'Newark Town Council is dedicated to preserving the historic significance of the Mayor's role and is resolute in preventing any diminishing of its esteemed status.'

To this end, the Council proposed the following:

- 1. Mayoral Regalia: During all Full Council meetings, the Mayor shall wear the traditional Mayoral robes and chain, upholding the visual dignity of the office.***
- 2. Impartial in Debate: The Mayor, akin to the Speaker of the House of Commons, holds a non-political position when chairing Council meetings.***
- 3. Their role is to facilitate discussions impartially. In return for abstaining from political debate, the Mayor retains their right to vote and, crucially, possesses a casting vote in the event of a tie.***
- 4. Civic Transport. When attending official engagements, the Mayor shall be chauffeured in the civic car, ensuring appropriate representation of the Council.***
- 5. Ex-Mayor's Badge. All outgoing Mayors shall be offered the traditional full-sized ex-Mayor's badge, rather than a miniature version. Furthermore, the immediate past Mayor shall receive the specific version traditionally bestowed upon outgoing Mayors.***
- 6. Council Meeting Set Up: For all Full Council meetings, the traditional table arrangements shall be utilised, reinforcing the established customs of the Council.'***

This motion was discussed at length. Issues raised included:

- The cost of implementing these steps as the current civic cost is £21,000.
- The practicality of the regalia and tables during meetings.
- The understanding of previous discussions regarding the mayor's badge.

It was proposed by Cllr M Spoors and seconded by Cllr B Corrigan that each part of the motion be considered separately. A vote was held and this was **AGREED**.

1. Mayoral Regalia 8 in favour, 5 against, 4 abstentions **AGREED**
2. Impartial in Debate 15 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention **AGREED**

3. Facilitate discussions impartially

An amendment was proposed by Cllr B Corrigan and seconded by Cllr S Crosby.

The motion should read:

‘ In return for abstaining from political debate **until the end of the debate**, the Mayor retains their right to vote at the end of the debate, unless they have proposed or seconded a motion.’

A vote was held and it was **AGREED**. 15 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention

4. Civic Transport 13 in favour, 2 against, 2 abstentions **AGREED**

5. Ex-Mayor's Badge 9 in favour, 5 against, 3 abstentions **AGREED**

6. Council Meeting Set Up 7 in favour, 9 against, 1 abstention **NOT AGREED** .

Cllr M Spoors requested a complete set of costs for implementing the motion at the next meeting.

At 9.30 pm Cllr L Goff proposed and Cllr L Geary seconded that Standing Orders be suspended for 30 minutes. A vote was held, and this was **AGREED**.

Cllr G Rix left the meeting at this point.

FGP033/25/26 Newark Market Place Towns Funds Investment – RIBA 2

Declarations of Interest were made by Cllrs I Brown (?), S Crosby, D Moore, J Kellas, M Spoors, N Ross and P Taylor as District Councillors.

This motion refers to the presentation made last night by representatives of Newark and Sherwood District Council regarding investment plans for the renovation of the Market Place.

Cllr J Kellas left the meeting at this point.

This item was discussed at length.

The presentation made by NSDC related to the project as a whole, whilst the Council was tasked with considering elements of the proposal in relation to the submission of RIBA 2.

Cllr P Taylor encourage Members to consider the project on behalf of the Town and not individual preferences. It was also reiterated that it was imperative that the Council submit the items for inclusion, as to delay would endanger the viability of the project.

It was proposed by Cllr S Crosby and seconded by Cllr P Taylor that Standing orders be suspended for 30 minutes. A vote was held and this was **AGREED**.

The elements were voted in individually:

- The inclusion of trees (the decision to plant either in the ground or in pots to be made prior to the RIBA 3 submission)
 - 10 in favour, 5 against
- The inclusion of benches
 - 15 in favour
- The inclusion of Alfresco dining areas
 - 13 in favour, 2 abstentions
- Market stalls in parts 2 & 3 of the Market Place
 - 13 in favour, 2 abstentions
- The layout of the area
 - 12 in favour, 3 abstentions
- The inclusion of amended lighting
 - 15 in favour
- The inclusion of further planting (the decision to plant either in the ground or in pots to be made prior to the RIBA 3 submission)
 - 13 in favour, 2 abstentions
- The catenary is to remain (this proposal rejects the suggestion from NSDC)
 - 15 in favour

Meeting Closed:	10.21 pm	Next Meeting:	Wednesday 8th October 2025
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