



Newark TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Wednesday, 17th September 2025, at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall.

Membership Present:	Town Mayor	Cllr B Corrigan (in the Chair)
	Councillors	I Brown D Campbell T Collier E Cropper S Crosby S Dickinson L Geary L Goff J Kellas D Ledger D Moore (A) G Rix (Ap) N Ross (Ap) L Roulstone (Ap) M Skinner M Spoons P Taylor
Apologies received from:	Councillor	G Rix, N Ross, L Roulstone
Town Council Staff:	Deputy Town Clerk	Anna Lawson
Public:	There was 1 member of the press and 3 members of the public present.	
Venue:	Council Chamber	Town Hall

Prior to the beginning of the meeting, Cllr D Ledger raised an issue in relation to the arrival of some Councillors.

For clarity in the Minutes that follow, the meeting considered the Agenda Items in the following order:

1	Item 1. Apologies
2	Item 2. To approve the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Wednesday, 23rd July 2025
3	Item 3. Declarations of Interest
4	Item 4. To receive all Adopted Minutes of the Committees held since the last Full Town Council Meeting:
5	Item 5. Town Mayor's Announcements
6	Item 6. Town Clerk's Announcements
7	Item 7. Leader of the Council's Announcements
8	Item 8. Questions from Town Councillors
9	Item 9. Questions from Members of the Public
10	Item 14. COP 30 School Event
11	Item 12. Doris Bainbridge Trust – Funding Request
12	Item 10. Citizens Advice Bureau Grant.
13	Item 11. Local Government Re-organisation
14	Item 13. Newark Town Hall Roof – Cost Plan
15	Item 15. Neighbourhood Plan
16	Item 16. Community Grant Application
17	Item 17. Newark Cemetery Chapel : Repair and Renovation
18	Item 18. Exclusion of the Press and Public
19	Item 19. Newark Cemetery Chapel : Repair and Renovation

TC15/25/26 Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Wednesday 23rd July 2025

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Town Council held on Wednesday 23rd July 2025 were proposed by Cllr B Corrigan, seconded by Cllr P Taylor and **AGREED** as a true and accurate record.

TC16/25/26 Declarations of Interest from Members and Officers

Declarations of Interest were received from Cllrs P Taylor, M Spooers, J Kellas, S Crosby and I Brown in relation to Newark Castle and Cedar Avenue.

Cllr L Goff declared an interest in the Friends of Newark Cemetery.

Cllrs L Geary and D Campbell declared an interest in Newark Borrow and Repair.

Cllr T Collier declared an interest in the Citizens Advice Bureau.

TC17/25/26 Adopted Minutes of the Committees held since the last Full Town Council Meeting

a. Events, Arts, Culture & Twinning Sub Committee held on Monday 10th April 2025

Cllr T Collier presented the Minutes of this Meeting.

b. Planning Committee held on Wednesday 25th June 2025

Cllr L Geary presented the Minutes of this Meeting.

c. Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 16th July 2025

Cllr B Corrigan presented the Minutes of this Meeting.

d. Planning Committee held on Wednesday 30th July 2025

Cllr L Geary presented the Minutes of this Meeting.

The above reports were **NOTED** and **ACCEPTED**.

TC18/25/26 Town Mayor's Announcements

Cllr B Corrigan thanked those who had invited her to attend an array of events over the last few months. Events attended included:

- VJ Day in both Newark and Balderton
- Newark on Sea
- Newark Festival
- Newark Half Marathon
- Merchant Navy Day
- Battle of Britain Commemoration
- Dragon Boat Race

In addition to these, there was also a visit from a local resident who had completed a three-year exchange program in Japan, who brought gifts from the council where she was based,

Finally, the highlight was the trip to RAF Northolt for the Polish Air Force Commemoration event.

TC19/25/26 Town Clerk's Announcements

The Town Clerk took the opportunity to provide details in relation to the following:

- Land at Cedar Avenue is still awaiting input from the Charity Commission.
- The Battle of Britain commemoration included a flypast by a Spitfire from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight.
- Funding for the Play Park should hopefully be completed shortly.
- Organisation has commenced for the various Christmas events.
- Flood warden scheme is progressing.
- Recruitment is underway for several roles.
- The ASB update meeting will now take place on Tuesday 23rd September.
- An update on the progress of the Hospitality aspect of the council will take place in the next few weeks.

- A response has been received from the East Midlands Mayor, following the request for a meeting. Unfortunately, their diary is full until the Christmas period, and it is hoped that a meeting can take place early in the New Year.
- Volunteers are required for the 'Town Clean Up' event that the Town Clerk is organising.

TC20/25/26 Leader of the Council's Announcements

The Leader of the Council informed members that there have been no Towns Fund meetings over the last few months, and as such, there was nothing to report.

TC21/25/26 Questions from Town Councillors

None received.

TC22/25/26 Questions from Members of the Public

None received.

TC23/25/26 Citizens Advice Bureau Grant

Cllr D Ledger proposed that the grant value as stated in the committee paper (£3,500) be awarded due to the excellent service that they provide to Newark residents. This was seconded by Cllr E Cropper.

Cllr M Spoors made an alternative proposal for the pre-2024 budget figure of £5,000 to be granted. The Town Clerk inquired about the source of the additional funding, specifically whether it would come from the Grant funding budget or the General Reserves. Cllr M Spoors then proposed that the funds should be taken from the General Reserves. Cllr D Ledger stated that she was happy to accommodate this amendment within her proposal.

The proposal was therefore amended to grant the Citizens Advice Bureau a grant of £5,000. This was seconded by Cllr I Brown.

Cllr M Spoors requested a Named Vote:

Councillor	For	Against	Abstention	Absent
Irene Brown	X			
Dawn Campbell	X			
Tom Collier			X	
Barbara Corrigan	X			
Esther Cropper	X			
Susan Crosby			X	
Sophie Dickinson	X			
Lisa Geary	X			
Laurence Goff	X			
Jack Kellas			X	

Diane Ledger	X			
David Moore				X
Glenis Rix				X
Neil Ross				X
Lynn Roulstone				X
Mathew Skinner			X	
Matthew Spooers	X			
Paul Taylor	X			
TOTAL	10	0	4	4

It was therefore **AGREED** to provide the Citizen Advice Bureau with a grant on £5,000.

TC24/25/26 Local Government Re-organisation

Cllr L Geary queried the impact of the proposed changes. Cllr P Taylor stated that there will be a period of equalisation of the council tax across the area following re-organisation. Further discussions are required in relation to the impact on the town, both from the aspect of precept, and assets to be retained. The Town Clerk advised that the Chief Executive of N&SDC has stated that the deadline for feedback is the end of November.

Cllr E Cropper proposed that this item be deferred to a separate meeting. This was seconded by Cllr L Geary. A vote was held and it was **AGREED**.

TC25/25/26 Doris Bainbridge Trust – Funding Request

A member of the public addressed the council regarding the Castlegate project, requesting funding to support either items for the exhibition space or the refurbishment of the Bandstand in the Gardens.

Discussions took place regarding the requests. The request for funding for the items for the exhibition space was rejected due to the fact that it would require all the funds within the Trust.

With regard to the refurbishment of the Bandstand, questions were raised with the member of the public in relation to requests made to other charities and grant funders. Discussions also took place with regard to the funds available from the Trust and the value of interest generated. The funds are primarily used to support the popular brass band concerts, and any donations would have a significant impact on the future viability of these events.

Various alternative proposals were submitted, but neither were seconded nor supported.

It was proposed that £14,000 is granted to the Castlegate project from the Doris Bainbridge Trust, to cover the renovation of the Bandstand.

The proposal was put forward by Cllr D Campbell and seconded by Cllr E Cropper. A vote was held and with 8 in favour, 1 against and 5 abstentions it was **AGREED** to grant £14,000 to the Castlegate project for the refurbishment of the Bandstand.

A proposal was also put forward that a condition should be added to the funding, whereby a plaque is installed stating that the funding for the work has been granted by Newark Town Council on behalf of the Doris Bainbridge Trust. This was proposed by Cllr B Corrigan, seconded by Cllr M Spors and unanimously supported; however, this item was not stated on the Agenda.

TC26/25/26 Newark Town Hall Roof – Cost Plan

It was proposed by Cllr P Taylor, seconded by Cllr B Corrigan, that the work be carried out as stated in the Agenda report. A vote was held and this was **AGREED**.

TC27/25/26 COP 30 School Event

Cllr L Geary presented the proposal.

A member of the public spoke about COP 30, which is taking place later this year, and the importance of involving younger residents. A request was made to use the Ballroom and Kitchen, free of charge, and all the necessary paperwork will be provided.

The Town Clerk clarified that it would be an NTC event operated in conjunction with volunteers. Queries were raised in relation to the potential for political bias with an event of this nature. It was therefore proposed that the Town Clerk and the Leader vet the content of the speeches and context of the agenda.

Cllr P Taylor congratulated the nature of the initiative and the opportunity for working with volunteers.

Cllr M Skinner queried whether this request should have been submitted as a grant application in line with other requests of this nature. He subsequently requested that the motion be deferred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for consideration, using the Grant Policy.

Cllr J Kellas raised concerns in relation to the deliverable outcomes for such an event, especially as Newark and Sherwood District Council already leads on this kind of initiative and has designated officers. He also queried the capacity of the NTC officers to undertake observing and monitoring the event.

Cllr P Taylor asked Members not to sacrifice this initiative on the grounds that it was not perfect, as amendments can be made and the financial impact will be minimal.

Cllr L Geary suggested that Members vote on the principle of the motion, with details being brought to FGP.

It was proposed by Cllr M Skinner and seconded by Cllr S Crosby that the proposal be deferred.

Cllr L Goff requested a Named Vote:

Councillor	For	Against	Abstention	Absent
Irene Brown		X		
Dawn Campbell		X		
Tom Collier	X			
Barbara Corrigan		X		
Esther Cropper		X		

Susan Crosby	X			
Sophie Dickinson		X		
Lisa Geary		X		
Laurence Goff		X		
Jack Kellas	X			
Diane Ledger		X		
David Moore				X
Glenis Rix				X
Neil Ross				X
Lynn Roulstone				X
Mathew Skinner	X			
Matthew Spooers		X		
Paul Taylor		X		
TOTAL	4	10	0	4

The proposal to defer the motion was therefore **REJECTED**.

Another proposal was then made to accept the motion with the following amendment:

- That the Town Clerk and Leader have sight of the material being presented at the event to reduce the risk of children being indoctrinated.

This was proposed by Cllr D Ledger and seconded by Cllr L Geary.

Cllr L Goff requested a Named Vote:

Councillor	For	Against	Abstention	Absent
Irene Brown	X			
Dawn Campbell	X			
Tom Collier		X		
Barbara Corrigan	X			
Esther Cropper	X			
Susan Crosby	X			
Sophie Dickinson	X			
Lisa Geary	X			
Laurence Goff	X			
Jack Kellas			X	

Diane Ledger	X			
David Moore				X
Glenis Rix				X
Neil Ross				X
Lynn Roulstone				X
Mathew Skinner			X	
Matthew Spoors	X			
Paul Taylor	X			
TOTAL	11	1	2	4

It was therefore **AGREED** to accept the proposal with the amendment.

TC28/25/26 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr L Geary queried why the motion was for the Full Council to delegate powers to the Environmental Stewardship Committee and not the Planning Committee.

The Town Clerk explained that due to the enormity of the project, the item was required to be considered by the Environmental Stewardship Sub-Committee as their remit was wider.

Cllr M Spoors proposed that the Chairs of all Committees and Sub-Committees form a Neighbourhood Plan Working Group to work on this project.

Cllr J Kellas queried the political bias of the formation of the Committee.

The proposal was to accept the motion to develop a Neighbourhood Plan with the following amendment:

- That the Terms of Reference for the Working Group are brought back to the Full Town Council.
- That the Planning Committee submit options for future steps for the project.

The proposal was made by Cllr L Geary and seconded by Cllr L Goff. A vote was held and with 10 in favour and 1 abstention it was **AGREED**.

TC29/25/26 Community Grant Application

Cllrs L Geary and D Campbell declared an interest in this application.

The Newark Borrow and Repair Group had submitted a grant application for £500.

Cllr B Corrigan proposed, Cllr P Taylor seconded that the application be approved. A vote was held and with 7 votes for and 2 abstentions the application was **APPROVED**.

TC30/25/26 Newark Cemetery Chapel: Repair and Renovation

The Town Clerk explained the reasons for the recommendations contained within the Agenda Report.

Cllr D Campbell proposed, Cllr P Taylor seconded, that Members devolve power to the Town Clerk, Leader and Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes

Committee, to incur costs of up to £10,000 in order to pursue the project up to the RIBA 4 stage.

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

TC31/25/26 Exclusion of the Press and Public

It was proposed by Cllr B Corrigan, seconded by Cllr P Taylor that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972) the press and public be excluded from the next Agenda Item debate on the grounds that the Committee's remaining business involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, and the public interest in disclosing the information. This was **AGREED**.

TC32/25/26 Appendix 1 to Agenda Item 17

It was proposed by Cllr D Campbell, seconded by Cllr P Taylor, to **ACCEPT** the recommendation in the Agenda Report

Councillors left the meeting at the following times:

8.55pm **Cllr D Ledger**
 Cllr I Brown

9.15pm **Cllr M Skinner**

9.25pm **Cllr L Geary**
 Cllr J Kellas

Suspension of Standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue for 30 minutes took place at the following times:

9.01pm **Cllr B Corrigan proposed, Cllr L Goff seconded – unanimously agreed**
9.30pm **Cllr B Corrigan proposed, Cllr L Goff seconded – unanimously agreed**

Meeting Closed:	9.34pm	Next Meeting:	Wednesday 10th December 2025
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