



Newark TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Town Council meeting held on Wednesday 9th April 2025 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall.

Membership Present:	Town Mayor	Cllr D Ledger (in the Chair)
	Councillors	I Brown D Campbell T Collier B Corrigan E Cropper S Crosby (Ap) S Dickinson L Geary L Goff J Kellas D Moore (A) G Rix N Ross L Roulstone M Skinner M Spors (A) P Taylor
Apologies received from:	Councillor	S Crosby
Town Council Staff:	Deputy Town Clerk	Anna Lawson
Public:	There was 1 member of the press present and 4 members of the public.	
Venue:	Council Chamber	Town Hall

TC41/24/25 Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Town Council held on Wednesday 19th February 2025

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Town Council held on Wednesday 19th February 2025 were proposed by Cllr D Ledger, seconded by G Rix and **AGREED** as a true and accurate record.

TC42/24/25 Declarations of Interest from Members and Officers

Cllrs Corrigan, Skinner and Ross declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 7 – Presentation by GNR Solar Park.

TC43/24/25 Town Mayor's Announcements

The Town Mayor said she was thoroughly enjoying the role and would provide a further update at the next meeting.

TC44/24/25 Town Clerk's Announcements

There were no Announcements from the Town Clerk.

TC45/24/25 Leader of the Council's Announcements

There were no Announcements from the Leader of the Council.

TC46/24/25 Presentation by GNR Solar Park

The developers provided a presentation to Members, outlining the activities of their organisation as well as their intention for the site. Issues were addressed in relation to job creation during construction and operation, along with the EG Academy, to provide skills and education for residents.

Data obtained from the recent scheme of public consultation initiatives was also presented.

TC47/24/25 To agree consultation response to GNR Solar Park proposals (referred to Town Council by the Planning Committee)

Many questions were raised by Members and addressed to the developers. Queries were raised in the following areas (shown in **bold**) along with the responses from the developers.

Flooding, including proposed mitigation

Details of the mitigation plans will be made public as part of the planning application.

Sourcing of the PV panels from China

Difficulty in sourcing elsewhere, due to the complexities of the manufacturing processes. A Buy British Policy will be implemented for all other aspects of the construction. Steel will be purchased from British Steel and sold back to them for recycling in 40 years time.

Education and Apprenticeships

The Apprenticeships and PhD positions will mainly be in London, based at their headquarters, however, Members did request consideration for Newark-based roles.

The developers stated that they would include 'seldom heard voices' within the cohort for education.

Environmental and Farming Impact

In response to concerns raised in relation to food security, Members were advised that once the lifespan of the site has been depleted, the land will return to farming. The site will be available for sheep farmers to graze free of charge and the rest in **not** being farmed will improve the land quality.

Members challenged this response due to the impact on farming practices and the soil type.

It was confirmed that the three furrows farming practice at Loxton would not be affected as the site does not cover this area.

Access to Public Rights of Way

Permissive routes will be created across the site.

Highways and Construction Impact

It is expected that if the application is approved, a condition will be made to implement a planning gain in relation to the highways infrastructure. Specific routes for construction traffic will be instigated and fines will be imposed if not adhered to.

Business Sustainability for the Site

If the application is successful, then a separate business for the site will be created.

Cllr M Skinner proposed an **OBJECTION** to the application on the grounds of density, visual impact, and damage to local farmland. This was seconded by Cllr J Kellas who requested a Named Vote.

Councillor	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTENTION	ABSENT
Irene Brown	✓			
Dawn Campbell		✓		
Tom Collier	✓			
Barbara Corrigan		✓		
Esther Cropper		✓		
Susan Crosby				✓
Sophie Dickinson		✓		
Lisa Geary		✓		
Laurence Goff		✓		
Jack Kellas	✓			
Diane Ledger	✓			
David Moore				✓
Glenis Rix				✓
Neil Ross	✗	✓		
Lynn Roulstone		✓		
Mathew Skinner	✓			
Matthew Spoores				✓
Paul Taylor		✓		
TOTAL	5	9	0	4

The vote was **5 in favour of OBJECTING** to the application and **9 AGAINST**.

Cllr L Geary then proposed to **SUPPORT** the application, which was seconded by Cllr L Goff.

Cllr J Kellas requested a Named Vote.

Councillor	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTENTION	ABSENT
Irene Brown		✓		
Dawn Campbell	✓			
Tom Collier		✓		
Barbara Corrigan	✓			
Esther Cropper	✓			
Susan Crosby				✓
Sophie Dickinson	✓			
Lisa Geary	✓			
Laurence Goff	✓			
Jack Kellas		✓		
Diane Ledger		✓		
David Moore				✓
Glenis Rix				✓
Neil Ross		✓		
Lynn Roulstone	✓			
Mathew Skinner		✓		
Mathew Spoores				✓
Paul Taylor	✓			
TOTALS	8	6	0	4

The outcome of the vote was recorded as **8 IN FAVOUR** and **6 AGAINST**, therefore the Council **AGREED** to **SUPPORT** the application.

TO BE NOTED:

Standing Orders were suspended at 8.59pm and 9.25pm to allow the meeting to be extended by 30 minutes.

Cllr G Rix left the meeting at 8.16pm.

Meeting Closed:	9.43pm	Next Meeting:	Wednesday 23 rd July 2025
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