



# NEWARK TOWN COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019 in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall.

<b>Membership Present:</b>	<b>Town Mayor</b>	<b>Cllr T Roberts MBE (in the Chair)</b>
	Councillors	Mrs C Barker-Powell Mrs I Brown M Cleasby M G Cope Mrs R Crowe R A Crowe Mrs G Dawn P Duncan Ms H Gent K Girling L Goff S Haynes D Hyde D Jones D Lloyd M Skinner R Williams
<b>Apologies received from:</b>		There were no Apologies
<b>Town Council Staff:</b>	Town Clerk	Alan Mellor
	PA to the Town Clerk	H Crossland
	Mayor's Officer	P Tomlinson
<b>Mayor's Chaplain</b>		Rev D Pickersgill
<b>Public:</b>	There were four members of the public present.	
<b>Venue:</b>	Council Chamber	Town Hall

**TC41/18/19 Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018 were **AGREED** as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Mayor.

**TC42/18/19 Declarations of Interest**

It was **AGREED** to accept any Members Declarations, if any arose, during the meeting; all Declarations of Interest should already be contained within the Agenda reports.

**TC43/18/19 Minutes of the Planning Committee, Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2019**

The Chairman, Cllr M Skinner, presented the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2019.

**TC44/18/19 Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

The Chairman, Cllr D Lloyd, presented the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

**TC45/18/19 Minutes of the Planning Committee, Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

The Chairman, Cllr M Skinner, presented the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

**TC46/18/19 Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

The Chairman, Cllr D Lloyd, presented the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019, marked **TO FOLLOW** in the Agenda.

**TC47/18/19 Doris Bainbridge Trust Fund**

The recommendation was moved by Cllr R Crowe, seconded by Cllr D Hyde and following a vote Members **AGREED** to allocate the income achieved from the external investment of the Capital Sum, to support the cost of holding the Sunday Band Concerts in the Castle Grounds in July and August 2019, estimated to be £1,200.

**TC48/18/19 Medium Term Financial Strategy**

Cllr D Lloyd thanked the Town Clerk for producing the report; he said it was clear that the Town Council was in a 'sound' position and moved the recommendations.

Cllr M Cope seconded the recommendations and said he was delighted to echo Cllr D Lloyd.

Cllr K Girling wanted to highlight the fact that he was also confident that the Town Council had the leadership required to continue with the work that had been done so far, with regard to the recent purchase of the Buttermarket; the Town Council needs to have the courage to 'do what was right' for the Town when considering the future.

The Town Mayor pointed out that the Buttermarket was actually the part of the building under the Council Chamber on the ground floor; the other part which now belongs to N&SDC was the old indoor market.

Members then **CONSIDERED** and **APPROVED** the Medium Term Financial Strategy covering the period 2018 – 2026 as in the Agenda Report.

## **TC49/18/19 Revenue Budget & Precept 2019/20**

Cllr D Lloyd began the debate on this Agenda Item.

He hoped that Members would agree that this was not a 'stand still' budget; he thanked Cllr Mrs G Dawn for her help in achieving the Devolution Agreement.

Cllr D Lloyd moved the recommendations then went through some of the budget heads as follows:

Markets - Newark is doing particularly well compared to others around the country and it is well positioned to sustain itself despite the challenges being faced across the retail sector.

There has been continuing investment in the town centre environment with additional bollards, planters and stalls.

Parks and Playing Fields/Open Spaces/Sherwood Avenue - there was increased investment in these services and the facilities provided.

Central Establishment - Members were asked to note that although the Mayor's Allowance had been reduced, this would not affect how the role would be maintained.

The annual grant to St Mary Magdalene Parish Church had been sustained.

Town Hall - a large investment has been made in the fabric of the building work; this was completed prior to the purchase of the Buttermarket. The budget makes for provision for ongoing maintenance to ensure that this iconic building remains in a good state of repair for the future.

Dog Bins/Litter Bins – these were now on a rolling replacement scheme.

Street Furniture is being re-painted.

In the Cemetery there are plans for major changes; these would include a separate children's burial area and new interment options as discussed at the Finance & General Purposes Committee. The Cemetery would now provide for many more years than previously forecasted.

PC's – expenditure is being capped on this and a review of working hours carried out to rationalise them across the day.

Leisure and Economic Development is still being sustained; this included the Museum, Christmas Lights, Newark Festival and the Band Concerts.

Relocation of the Cavalier Statue – this should be done soon, it is dependent upon Planning Permission.

Cllr D Lloyd then said that the Town Clerk, and Members, should be congratulated for having reserves for a Neighbourhood Plan; this will enable a plan to be prepared to implement the Town Council's aim of providing an enhanced Museum offer and link it to the Civil War Centre and Newark Castle.

Cllr M Cope then spoke; he thought it was an excellent budget and seconded the proposals; he also requested a Recorded Vote.

Cllr M Cope said that everyone was delighted that the Buttermarket was back in the ownership of Newark Town Council and he was grateful to all Councillors for their unanimous support for the purchase.

The purchase has however had an impact on the budgets for next year which has required steps to be taken to ensure that it doesn't have a major detrimental impact on the Town Council's underlying financial position.

He thanked the Town Clerk for producing a budget taking account of this increase budget demand and identifying savings that could be achieved without adversely affecting the level and quality of service delivery.

Cllr M Cope said that he hoped the next Town Council would be able to make a huge success of the Buttermarket.

He was pleased to second the 1.9% increase this still represented excellent value for money; he pointed out that the Police were proposing a 12.2% increase.

Cllr P Duncan congratulated the Town Clerk on a very well executed year. He said that although the market was not doing as well as hoped, the retail position was difficult overall. A lot of money had been saved by taking the cleaning 'in house' and not putting up/taking down the market stalls. Cllr P Duncan said you can control costs, but only forecast income.

Cllr Mrs G Dawn also congratulated the Town Clerk and Leader of the Council. Against all odds, it was a marvellous record. The market is now, and will continue to be, a challenge.

She then asked Cllr D Lloyd that as he had alluded to all the things the Town Council had done, and what had been devolved, could he do something to educate the public about which Council does what.

Cllr D Jones said that the budget proposed looks at continuing to provide financial resources to the services that we provide. He was happy to support the 1.9% increase also.

Cllr Mrs R Crowe then spoke; she talked about the 'Promotions', particularly Newark in Bloom. The Town had received a Gold Award for the second time – things like this need to be 'put out there' to let the public know what the Town Council is doing to promote the Town.

Cllr R Crowe also said he had been privileged to be at the Cemetery to receive the fourth Green Flag.

Cllr L Goff thought that it was very important to use Social Media.

Cllr K Girling also spoke with regard to Promotions, particularly the Christmas Lights. He said he had been involved with the Business Club for some years now and the positive feedback from there about the Lights had been excellent. Visitors from all over the place come to see Newark's Lights because they are so good – it shows how much the Town Council can do with the budget that we have.

He went on to say that 79% of people who visit Newark think that it is a nice place, with friendly people. We need to continue to do the right thing and not listen to the negative comments on social media sites such as 'Spotted Newark'.

Cllr Mrs I Brown congratulated Cllr D Lloyd and thought he had the best interests of Newark in mind.

She said that the people of Newark are pleased that the Buttermarket is back under our control, but the Town Council needs to listen to the people of Newark with regard to the future of it.

Cllr Mrs I Brown also pointed out that although the Market Place is nice and clean, some of the streets that lead there are not.

Cllr D Lloyd then spoke again; he thanked Cllr P Duncan for his work on the marketing and branding project – his efforts were recognised.

He also thanked Cllr Mrs G Dawn and said he was pleased that Members work together across the whole Council – it had been a joint effort over a number of years.

He then responded to the comment about letting people know who does what; during the Winter Wonderland initiative that took place over the festive season it was discovered that there are a lot of local people that make negative comments about the Town. We need the people of Newark to be less critical – it is a big problem that there is so much negativity.

Cllr D Lloyd talked about a joint strategy between Newark Town Council and the District Council to deliver improvements across the town.

He thanked Cllr D Jones for his constructive comments.

Congratulations were given to all the volunteers who are involved with Newark in Bloom.

Cllr D Lloyd thanked Cllr R Crowe for his comments about the Green Flag award and commented that it was thanks to Cllr Crowe that there was a new flag pole.

He went on to say that there has been major investment in Newark; Devolved Services had enabled the Town Council to be more relevant and to have a bigger voice in the Town's future.

We have engaged Radio Newark to support our social media output.

The Christmas Lights are a continuing success.

Cllr D Lloyd informed Members that he had met with M&S, and there is a lot of false information in the public domain. They were not going to change their mind with regard to moving out of the premises on Stodman Street, but we still expect them to open a food store on the Retail Park at some point. Rumours about other major stores leaving the town are also untrue, in fact there are some 'national brands' that would like to come to Newark.

He pointed out that what we are doing with the Police, CCTV, PCSOs and new Town Wardens proves that we are listening to the people of Newark and have grown as a Council.

Following the recommendation from the Finance & General Purposes Committee and the discussion above, Members **CONSIDERED** and **APPROVED**:

- (i) The budget proposals as revised for the financial year 2019/19 in respect of all services and functions operated by the Town Council, giving rise to a projected net expenditure of £1,022,590.
- (ii) The budget proposals as submitted for the financial year 2019/20 in respect of all services and functions operated by the Town Council, giving rise to a projected net expenditure of £1,026,460.
- (iii) The projected aggregate net expenditure on Town Council services for the financial year 2018/19 be met by way of the levying of a precept of £927,429 on Newark & Sherwood District Council, leaving the sum of £239,594 in General Revenue Balances.

The Recorded Vote was:

**FOR**

**AGAINST**

Councillor Mrs C Barker-Powell

Councillor Mrs I Brown

Councillor M Cleasby

Councillor M G Cope

Councillor Mrs R Crowe

Councillor R A Crowe  
Councillor Mrs G Dawn  
Councillor P Duncan  
Councillor Ms H Gent  
Councillor K Girling  
Councillor L Goff  
Councillor S Haynes  
Councillor D Hyde  
Councillor D Jones  
Councillor D Lloyd  
Councillor A C Roberts MBE  
Councillor M Skinner  
Councillor R Williams

**TC50/18/19 Town Mayor's Announcements**

The Town Mayor informed Members that the Charity Quiz Night on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February was now fully booked.

He also reminded Members about the St George's Day Dinner he was holding on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2019, and tickets were now available.

**TC38/18/19 Town Council Leader's Announcements**

The Town Council Leader, Cllr D Lloyd, had no Announcements.

**TC39/18/19 Town Clerk's Announcements**

The Town Clerk, Mr Alan Mellor, reminded Members that following the Finance & General Purposes meeting last week, he had been given Delegated Authority to speak to the Collingham Panthers U7's with regard to their proposed Street Collection this coming Saturday.

They have agreed to only raise funds for the food bank in Newark on that occasion and on that basis he has advised the District Council that the Street Collection can go ahead.

**TC50/18/19 Meeting Dates**

Members **AGREED** the meeting schedule as in the Agenda Report.

<b>Meeting Closed:</b>	<b>8.30pm</b>	<b>Next Meeting:</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> April 2019</b>
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