



NEWARK TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Wednesday 24th February 2016 in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall.

Membership Present:	Town Mayor	Cllr R A Crowe (in the Chair)
	Councillors	Mrs C Barker-Powell Mrs I Brown M Cleasby M G Cope Mrs R Crowe Mrs G Dawn P Duncan Ms H Gent (Ap) K Girling L Goff D Hyde D Jones D Lloyd T Roberts MBE M Skinner Mrs J Whicher R Williams
Apologies received from:	Councillor	Councillor Ms H Gent
Town Council Staff:	Town Clerk	Alan Mellor
Public:	There were two members of the public present.	
Venue:	Council Chamber	Town Hall

TC38/15/16 Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16th December 2015

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16th December 2015 were **AGREED** as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Mayor.

Cllr. Mrs G dawn asked if there was an update on the position of the Robin Hood Hotel.

Cllr. D Lloyd replied that he had no further information available.

With regard to **Minute TC47/15/16**; Cllr D Jones made a personal statement retracting the comments he had made concerning a previous Chairman of the District Council's Planning Committee; he now understands that his statement that the previous Chairman was a member of the Nottingham Building Preservation Trust was incorrect.

TC39/15/16 Declarations of Interest

It was **AGREED** to accept any Declarations of Interest as they may arise during the meeting.

TC40/15/16 Minutes of the Planning & Regeneration Committee, Tuesday 30th December 2015

The Chairman, Cllr T Roberts MBE, presented the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning & Regeneration Committee held on Tuesday 30th December 2015.

TC41/15/16 Minutes of the Environment & Leisure Committee, Wednesday 20th January 2016

The Chairman, Cllr Mrs R Crowe, presented the Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee held on Wednesday 20th January 2016.

Cllr L Goff thanked Members for their support of the Friends of Newark Cemetery's planned commemorations of the 75th anniversary of the bombing of the RHP factory.

Cllr M Cope responded that there hadn't been any statements of support made; it was his view that these events were not a matter of debate or consideration by the Environment & Leisure Committee.

TC42/15/16 Minutes of the Planning & Regeneration Committee, Wednesday 27th January 2016

The Chairman, Cllr T Roberts MBE, presented the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning & Regeneration Committee held on Wednesday 27th January 2016.

TC43/15/16 Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee, Wednesday 10th February 2016

The Chairman, Cllr D Lloyd, presented the Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee held on Wednesday 10th February 2016.

TC44/15/16 Minutes of the Planning & Regeneration Committee, Wednesday 17th February 2016

The Chairman, Cllr T Roberts MBE, presented the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning & Regeneration Committee held on Wednesday 17th February 2016.

16/0190/ADV - Cllr M Cope referred to the position of the new Leisure Centre on Bowbridge Road which was near to the site where a significant amount of rubbish has been dumped illegally. He asked the Chairman what is happening with the rubbish on the site.

Cllr T Roberts MBE, replied that the rubbish had now been on the site for one year, no work has yet been undertaken to remove the rubbish. He understands that the Environment Agency are taking the perpetrators to court seeking compensation of around £250,000 which is the expected cost of removing it. He added that this legal action could take a further year before it is resolved. In his view action is required now to ensure that any associated health hazards are eliminated and to remove the eyesore for the local community.

Cllr D Jones supported Cllr Roberts in his endeavours to achieve a solution within a reasonable period of time. He could not believe that the Environment Agency were not able or willing to clear the rubbish and then recover the cost from those responsible. He added that perhaps support for action should be sought from the local MP.

Cllr M Cope further added that the Town Council should ask the Town clerk to write to the Environment Agency asking them to take action now and, if possible, place a legal charge

on the land as a means of obtaining repayment for any expenditure incurred.

Cllr P Duncan also supported the call for action to be taken by the Environment Agency as a matter of urgency.

It was **AGREED** by all Members that the Town clerk be asked to write to the Environment Agency expressing the Town Council's concerns and calling for immediate action to be taken to remove the rubbish from the site.

Cllr T Roberts MBE then reminded all Members that a Special meeting of the Planning & Regeneration Committee had been called for Wednesday 2nd March 2016, starting at 7.00pm, to consider the Sainsbury's Planning application for a store at the junction of Kelham Road and Great North Road. He invited all Members to attend and speak on the application if they so wished.

16/00124/FULM – Cllr K Girling raised his concern about the symbolic façade that could have been delivered at the end of the buildings which would have been seen by people coming into Newark from Farndon Road; it would have provided an attractive architectural feature at a major gateway entrance to the Town. It was disappointing that the local views had been ignored in the final design.

TC45/15/16 Doris Bainbridge Trust Fund

Cllr D Lloyd moved and Cllr M Cope seconded the recommendations as printed in the report; it was **AGREED**:

- (i) To invest the capital sum of £56,018 with CCLA in their Local Authority Property Fund,
- (ii) To allocate the estimated sum of £1,500 from the Interest Reserve Fund to meet the costs of holding the Sunday Band Concerts in the Castle grounds in July & August,
- (iii) To request the Town Clerk to submit a report, together with legal advice, to a future meeting of the Town Council to consider the potential use of the capital sum.

TC46/15/16 Medium Term Financial Strategy

Cllr D Lloyd moved and Cllr M Cope seconded the recommendations as printed in the report; it was **AGREED** to approve the Town Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy covering the period 2015-2023, as contained in the report.

TC47/15/16 Revenue Budget & Precept 2016/2017

Prior to the consideration of this item Cllr D Lloyd moved and Cllr M Cope seconded the suspension of Standing Order 10(4) allowing speeches to last longer than five minutes. Following a vote this was **AGREED**.

Cllr D Lloyd then formally moved the recommendations as set out in the report, before presenting the budget to the Town Council.

He thanked the Town Clerk for all his hard work over the last year as the services that were transferred on 1st April 2015 have been assimilated into the Town Council, as well as preparing the budget for next year which has significant more detail in than previous years.

Cllr Lloyd made the following comments on the detailed budget heads:

- (i) Market – an additional investment would be made to the promotion and marketing of the markets with a further £6,000 being dedicated to this aspect of the operation. The new fixed stall layout had been well received and accepted. Capital investment would also be made to secure the perimeter of the Market Place to stop the current use made of it as a car park at the weekends, this will include introducing additional planters and bollards.
- (ii) Central Establishment – changes were proposed to the various grants that the

Town Council have traditionally provided:

- (a) It was proposed to make a dedicated grant to the Newark Twinning Association to support their work arranging and hosting visitors from the twin towns.
 - (b) Change the focus of the Voluntary Bodies Grants; this budget has traditionally been underspent in previous years, it is proposed that it will in future be used to encourage community and voluntary groups to use the Town Hall facilities at a reduced or free charge.
 - (c) Town Team – one reason for the acceptance by the Town Council for the Devolved Services agreement was to enhance its position and profile within the town and the local community. A sum of £25,000 is proposed for a new budget head to support and facilitate the work of a Town Team. Such a group has started to be established and it is anticipated can bring together all those organisations and groups that have an interest in the town centre.
 - (d) Youth Council – sadly this initiative has not been able to be sustained, it seems unlikely that a further group will be established in the near future and therefore it is proposed that this budget be deleted.
 - (e) Neighbourhood Plan – this initiative needs to be progressed and therefore a budget of £40,000 has been allocated in both 2015/16 and 2016/17. This should be sufficient funding to enable a Neighbourhood Plan to be developed, agreed and implemented and when complete will enable the Town council to access additional funding through the Community Infrastructure Levy.
- (iii) Environment – additional investment is proposed for Dog Litter Bins and Newark in Bloom. Both initiatives are aimed at improving the environment with both the town centre and the many parks and open spaces which the Town Council has taken on.
- (iv) Public Conveniences – a capital budget has been included to deliver improvements to the London Road and Tolney Lane public conveniences. Associated with this work are plans to also introduce charges at these two toilets. The introduction of charges is to address and discourage the problems encountered during the last year with drug taking and anti-social behaviour.
- (v) Leisure & Economic Development – further small investment in the Christmas light display in the Market Place plus additional investment to improve the lights in Castle Gate. A budget of £1,000 has now been included to fund the celebrations of the Queen's 90th birthday.
- (vi) Capital Budgets – a number of new projects are proposed:
- (a) Fountain Gardens & Friary Gardens – a budget of £100,000 is proposed for schemes to renovate and improve these two sites.
 - (b) Cavalier Statue – this is currently located in Beaumont Gardens. A sum of £5,000 is allocated to fund its relocation to a more prominent position at the roundabout on Beast Market Hill.
 - (c) Cemetery Improvements – a budget to facilitate improvements and enhancements to the Cemetery.
 - (d) Built Environment Signage – a budget of £15,000 to support signage and improvements within the town centre.

Cllr M Cope thanked Cllr Lloyd for his presentation and exciting budget proposals, he seconded the recommendations and reserved his right to speak later in the debate.

Cllr M Skinner welcomed the proposals to protect the Market Place from unrestricted access by vehicles which is causing a nuisance at the moment and is also creating a danger to the

general public.

Cllr P Duncan also supported the plans for the Market Place and the investment to promote the market. He hoped it would assist in providing a varied and expanded retail offer in the town.

Cllr Mrs G Dawn congratulated Cllr Lloyd on his presentation and said that she would support the budget proposals. She went on to add her thanks to the Town Clerk for his work over the last year to integrate the Devolved Services. She was disappointed that the Youth Council initiative has not progressed and hopes that it can be re-established in the near future.

Cllr D Jones said that that labour Group were pleased to be able to support the budget. He understood and accepted that it was necessary for the Council Tax charge to increase in order to support the Devolved Services and introduce other service enhancements. He also supported the new grant to the Twinning Association and remained supportive of the work they do with the twin towns.

Cllr Mrs R Crowe welcomed the new investment in the Cemetery which will enable the Town Council to improve facilities for the public there. She also welcomed the budget for the Queen's birthday celebrations.

Cllr K Girling said that he was delighted to be able to support the budget which was very exciting and progressive; it would ensure funds were allocated to deliver the Town Council's priorities. He was supportive of the Town Team; he felt that more could be achieved through partnership working and looked forward to this initiative being a success. He felt that the Town Council should engage with young people and hoped that a mechanism to deliver this would be possible in the future. He thought that the Christmas Lights in the Market Place were spectacular and hoped that the majority of the new investment could be focussed on Castle Gate which is one of the main routes through the Town Centre and could add a lot to the promotion of the town over the festive period.

Cllr L Goff was pleased that the Cavalier statue was to be moved to a prominent location, he thought that the sword had been lost and may need to be repaired. He also thought that there should be more signage for the Cemetery.

Cllr T Roberts MBE said he was concerned about the increasing clutter in the Town Centre arising from the proliferation of A Boards and other signs which do nothing to add to the 'Built Environment' in Newark. He felt that a clear policy for such matters was required which would reduce the volume of such signs and improve the retail offer for shoppers.

Cllr M Cope said that he was pleased that the budget had received cross party support. It was an exciting set of proposals for the forthcoming year. The Neighbourhood Plan was an investment for the future as it would release additional funding to the Town Council from the Community Infrastructure Levy which could be invested positively in the Town. He welcomed Cllr Mrs G Dawn & D Jones support for the proposed increase in Council Tax of 1.94%; this is a modest increase which will add £1.99 per annum to all Band D bills and will enable the budget proposals to be delivered.

Cllr D Lloyd finished the debate by thanking all Members for their support. He would look forward to see how the Town Council could engage better with young people and supported the aspiration of introducing a new policy on A boards that would support an improvement to the Town scape.

All Members unanimously **AGREED** the following budget proposals:

- (i) That the budget proposals as revised for the financial year 2015/16 in respect of all services and functions operated by the Town Council, giving rise to a projected net expenditure of £890,560 (£949,820 - £59,260) be approved.
- (ii) That the budget proposals as submitted for the financial year 2016/17 in respect of all services and functions operated by the Town Council, giving rise to a projected net expenditure of £968,770 (£998,400 - £29,630) be approved.

(iii) That the projected aggregate net expenditure on Town Council services for the financial year 2016/17 be met by way of the levying of a precept of £833,838 on Newark & Sherwood District Council, leaving the sum of £499,249 in General Revenue Balances, subject to any adjustments arising from the consideration of the previous two Agenda Items, be approved.

This precept represents a 1.94% increase from that levied in 2015/16; this will result in a Council Tax charge of £104.82 per annum for a Band D property, an increase of £1.99 per annum from the charge in the current financial year.

TC48/15/16 Town Mayor's Announcements

The Town Mayor reminded Members that it was important that they opened their mail from the Town Council promptly so that they were aware of the information and notices contained in it.

He reminded all Members that the next Civic Service would be Hercules Clay on Sunday 13th March.

He also announced that there were still tickets available for the 'Last Night of the Proms' concert on Friday 27th February at the Palace Theatre, this is the main fundraising event for the Newark Twinning Association and all support for the concert is welcome.

TC49/15/16 Town Council Leader's Announcements

The Town Council Leader had no announcements.

TC50/15/16 Town Clerk's Announcements

The Town Clerk, Mr Alan Mellor, had no announcements.

TC51/15/16 National Living Wage

Cllr D Lloyd moved and Cllr M Cope seconded the recommendations as printed in the report; it was **AGREED** to implement the new National Living Wage of £7.20 per hour, for all employees who are currently paid less than this rate. The increase to be effective from 1st April 2016 and is to be paid on an interim basis until the national pay agreement is finalised.

TC52/15/16 Meeting Dates

Cllr D Lloyd moved and Cllr Mrs R Crowe seconded the recommendations as printed in the report; the schedule of meeting dates at Appendix 1 was **AGREED**.

Meeting Closed:	8.50pm	Next Meeting:	Wednesday 20th April 2016
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