



# NEWARK TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall, Market Place, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG24 1DU  
Tel: 01636 680 333 ~ Fax: 01636 680 350  
Email: [post@newark.gov.uk](mailto:post@newark.gov.uk) ~ Website: [www.newark.gov.uk](http://www.newark.gov.uk)

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018 in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall.

<b>Membership Present:</b>	<b>Town Mayor</b>	<b>Cllr Mrs Rita Crowe (in the Chair)</b>
	Councillors	Mrs C Barker-Powell Mrs I Brown M Cleasby M G Cope Cllr R A Crowe Mrs G Dawn P Duncan Ms H Gent K Girling L Goff S Haynes D Hyde D Jones D Lloyd T Roberts MBE M Skinner R Williams
<b>Apologies received from:</b>	Councillors	None
<b>Town Council Staff:</b>	Town Clerk	Alan Mellor
	Mayor's Officer	P Tomlinson
<b>Mayor's Chaplain</b>		Rev D Pickersgill
<b>Public:</b>	There were three members of the public present.	
<b>Venue:</b>	Council Chamber	Town Hall

<b>TC53/17/18</b>	<b>Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018</b>
	The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2018 were <b>AGREED</b> as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Mayor.
<b>TC54/17/18</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>
	<p>It was <b>AGREED</b> to accept any Members Declarations, if any arose, during the meeting; all Declarations of Interest should already be contained within the Agenda reports.</p> <p>The Mayor reminded Members that if the Town Council meeting was not finished by 8.00pm it would be adjourned to allow the Annual Town Meeting to take place at that time.</p> <p>The Town Council meeting would then resume if necessary.</p> <p>Because of the above the Mayor informed Members that Agenda Items 9 and 10 would be taken before Agenda Item 8; this would make it easier for the movement of people out of the Town Council meeting for the Exempt Item.</p>
<b>TC55/17/18</b>	<b>Minutes of the Planning Committee, Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018</b>
	The Chairman, Cllr T Roberts MBE, presented the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2018.
<b>TC56/17/18</b>	<b>Minutes of the Finance &amp; General Purposes Committee, Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018</b>
	<p>The Chairman, Cllr D Lloyd, presented the Minutes of the Finance &amp; General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018.</p> <p><b>FGP89/17/18 – Kiddey Stones</b></p> <p>Cllr P Duncan updated Members; he reported that he had a meeting with the Museum Curator, and the family of Robert Kiddey and that ‘things were progressing’ in the right direction with a view to their placement.</p>
<b>TC57/17/18</b>	<b>Minutes of the Planning Committee, Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018</b>
	The Chairman, Cllr T Roberts MBE, presented the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2018.
<b>TC58/17/18</b>	<b>Minutes of the Finance &amp; General Purposes Committee, Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018</b>
	The Chairman, Cllr D Lloyd, presented the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2018.
<b>TC59/17/18</b>	<b>Town Mayor’s Announcements</b>
	The Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs Rita Crowe, had no Announcements.
<b>TC60/17/18</b>	<b>Town Council Leader’s Announcements</b>
	The Town Council Leader, Cllr D Lloyd, had no Announcements.
<b>TC61/17/18</b>	<b>Town Clerk’s Announcements</b>
	The Town Clerk, Mr Alan Mellor, had no Announcements.
<b>TC62/17/18</b>	<b>Motion to Exclude the Press &amp; Public</b>
	<p>Members <b>AGREED</b> that:</p> <p>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 remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the Committee’s remaining business involves the likely</p>

	disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.
	The Press and Public left the meeting.

<b>TC63/17/18</b>	<b>Land Sales</b>
	Cllr D Lloyd went through the Agenda Report and the reasons for bringing it to the Full Town Council.
	Cllr M Cope seconded the proposals contained therein. He also pointed out that the name of one of the sites was spelled incorrectly; this needed to be rectified.
	<p>Cllr Mrs G Dawn then spoke; she supported some of the recommendations, but not (i) the potential sale of the Pine Close site for housing, or (ii) the potential sale of the Wheatsheaf Avenue site for housing.</p> <p>She objected very strongly to both; Pine Close was an 'open space' linking two areas of houses.</p> <p>Wheatsheaf Avenue was an 'informal' facility for children and it was used. She said her biggest objection was that this was a further loss of valuable open space in the Bridge Ward, yet again.</p>
	<p>Cllr Mrs I Brown asked what sort of housing would be considered for the sites – would it be social housing or council housing, for example.</p> <p>Cllr D Lloyd said he was not able to answer the question; there were no specifics on the tenure, design or size of any applications that may be made. Any decisions on those would be subject to Outline Planning Permission. He said he recognised the open space issue but felt that there were enough formalised play areas nearby.</p>
	Cllr Ms H Gent spoke with regard to Pine Close. She said that the trees in the area were not particularly good and that children did not play there – it was very overgrown. She also pointed out that originally it should have been a 'through road' and that this proposal would be returning it to its original purpose.
	Cllr P Duncan agreed that a lot of land was being given up for housing, but felt that this was an absolute necessity as houses were desperately needed in Newark.
	Members then <b>CONSIDERED</b> the Agenda Report and <b>AGREED</b> to the following recommendations:
(i)	The sale of the Pine Close site for housing.
(ii)	The sale of the Wheatsheaf Avenue site for housing.
(iii)	The sale of the Hounsfield Close site for housing.
(iv)	In connection with (i) and (ii) above, the Town Clerk was instructed to obtain the necessary professional assistance to prepare and submit planning applications for a change of use to housing purposes.
(v)	The sale of part of the Hounsfield Close site to the owner of 12 Hounsfield Close for use as a private garden along with a covenant restricting its future use for this purpose only.
(vi)	The transfer of the Town Councils' former allotment land at Lincoln Road Playing Fields to the District Council at no cost.

	(vii)	The transfer of the District Councils' land at Sparrow Lane to the Town Council at no cost.
The meeting was then adjourned.		

<b>Meeting Closed:</b>	<b>7.55pm</b>	<b>Next Meeting:</b>	<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018</b>
------------------------	---------------	----------------------	--

Following the Annual Town Meeting, the Full Town Council meeting resumed at 8.25pm.

<b>TC64/17/18</b>	<b>Notice of Motion</b>
	<p>Cllr K Girling moved the motion:</p> <p>‘That this Council calls upon the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner of Nottinghamshire Police to expand upon their recent answer with regard to the redirection of resources following the closure of Newark’s Custody Suite and the increase in the police precept, in order to clarify their ‘increase in officers’ that Newark town environs will experience.</p> <p>This matter arises due to the evident reluctance to evidence actual policing in the town and the upsurge in serious incidents and perpetual receipt of complaints of open disregard of authority demonstrating the increase and unabated level of lawlessness in our town which is unanswered.’</p> <p>He said he was bringing this motion to the Council because of his despair at the way he felt Newark was being sacrificed for the benefit of Nottingham and Mansfield in terms of policing and crime prevention.</p> <p>He said it was his understanding that Newark is now ‘importing’ criminals into the town because it is an easy target, compared to other places; that, and being situated within easy access from Nottingham via the A46, Doncaster and Sheffield via the A1 and Mansfield via the A617 makes for rich pickings in Newark.</p> <p>The closing of the custody suite, despite strong objection from this Council and our MP were further indications that our interests are being ignored.</p> <p>An interim report marked ‘officially sensitive – internal use only’, which was uncovered by the Newark Advertiser following a Freedom of Information request said that Newark received 14% of arrests within Nottinghamshire in 2016 and although the Newark Custody Suite had fewer cells than the two remaining suites – the Bridewell in Nottingham, and Mansfield, the report said that Newark had a higher utilisation rate than the other two suites, 41% compared to 29% and 28% respectively.</p> <p>This in itself indicates that Newark is being left to the behest of criminals and that cannot be acceptable. In the same report, under ‘strength and weaknesses’ for mothballing Newark Custody Suite, increased driving time for officers was mentioned and it also discussed asking detainees to volunteer to attend another police station rather than arresting them in Newark. The safety of officers was also considered as a weakness.</p> <p>There is a danger that the police will be less likely to arrest offenders because of the</p>

	<p>additional strain that would be put on fellow officers left being in Newark – it would require two police officers to escort an offender to other Custody Suites.</p> <p>All this was being carried out for a potential saving of £264,000.</p> <p>However, none of the staff manning the Newark Suite lost their jobs, and the estimated cost of the overtime bill to fill the gap was £37,000 in addition to the extra 5,000 hours officers and staff worked.</p> <p>Cllr K Girling then said that before anyone started to blame all this on austerity measures, he would like to put some of this into context; the Police force had over £1.9m in their contingency and Nottinghamshire Police underspent by £2m last year. They received £1.79m more from the Government this year than was anticipated so there is no justification for putting the responsibility for this onto anyone else.</p> <p>He also pointed out that there is a commitment to recruit 200 police officers for Nottinghamshire but finding out how many extra officers that means for Newark is very difficult to find out.</p> <p>Recently there had been a shooting, not a mile from this Council building and a car was also set on fire. Drug dealing is happening in clear view of the public – indeed addicts use the telephone box just outside of this Chamber to call their dealers. This cannot be acceptable and we, as a Town Council, should do all we can to highlight the lack of police crime prevention in our town.</p>
	<p>Cllr D Lloyd seconded the motion. He informed Members that he had attended the last meeting of the Business Club and most of the questions raised were about crime in general.</p> <p>He thought that the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner should establish a ‘panel’ to look at what is going on in Newark; this could be bringing agencies together to look at the issues.</p> <p>Cllr D Lloyd then raised the issue that CCTV was not being used for law enforcement – why, when it could be. He felt that the police should consider making more use of it.</p> <p>The continual erosion of services – the Magistrates Court, the Custody Suite, now the Police Station.</p> <p>Cllr D Lloyd described scenes he had witnessed in the Castle grounds recently – graffiti, knives, broken bottles to name but a few. He said this was damaging the town economy but the police are just asking everyone else to do more; the police are not above the law, and we should be able to question them about their decisions and their performance.</p> <p>Cllr D Lloyd asked what was the point in the Town Council investing in the town if the police could not provide appropriate resources to deliver an acceptable service.</p>
	<p>Cllr Mrs G Dawn then spoke. She reported that she had attended a Partnership Plus meeting a few weeks ago. There was always a police officer present – it used to be Inspector L Clarke but she does not attend any more, she sends another officer.</p> <p>She said that there is a major drugs problem in Yorke Drive – Cllr Mrs G Dawn said that you can see where the dealers are, how they are selling their wares, and where they are hiding them. The police response is ‘our priority is to safeguard the children’.</p> <p>Winthorpe Road has had its CCTV taken away (by N&amp;S Homes) without any consultation.</p> <p>Austerity cuts have impacted on the police’s ability to provide proper services, like all other areas of public service.</p>
	<p>Cllr D Jones said he did not recognise the description of the Town as put forward in the motion to this meeting. He felt that Cllr K Girling was casting aspersions on the amount of money that the police have available; these questions should be put to the Police and Crime Commissioner directly, not in a letter or motion.</p> <p>Cllr D Jones said he would not support the motion but that he would contact the Police and</p>

	Crime Commissioner and ask him to come and talk to the Town Council.
	<p>Cllr Mrs I Brown talked about the Safer Neighbourhood Group she attended and said that month after month the same questions are asked and the same responses are received “we have not got the resources”.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs I Brown reported that she had met with the MP (along with other Councillors) and he had said he would try to get a meeting with Inspector Clarke; she would not meet with them.</p> <p>OAPs were being harassed and people were frightened to leave their houses.</p> <p>Only Newark Town Council seem to have the time for the local community.</p>
	Cllr L Goff said he would support the motion.
	<p>Cllr M Cope said that it was the fundamental duty of the Government to protect its people by way of the police force. The police force is absent in its duty to protect the people of this town.</p> <p>He pointed out that the police precept had gone up by 6% - there was a huge increase in cash available; we are not getting value for money. More importantly we are not getting the protection that is their fundamental duty.</p>
	<p>Cllr K Girling responded to some of the points made.</p> <p>With regard to the point about Inspector Clarke being ‘not available’ – he felt that this was another indication that Councillors are not being taken seriously.</p> <p>People will not report crime if they do not feel there will be any action.</p> <p>Cllr K Girling said he was very disappointed with the comments made by Cllr D Jones and pointed out that if Cllr D Jones attended some of the Safer Neighbourhood Meetings for example, he would get a better idea of what the public think.</p>
	Cllr K Girling then asked for a Recorded Vote; there were 17 votes for, no votes against and one abstention; the motion below was therefore <b>AGREED:</b>
	<p><i>That this Council calls upon the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner of Nottinghamshire Police to expand upon their recent answer with regard to the redirection of resources following the closure of Newark’s Custody Suite and the increase in the police precept, in order to clarify their ‘increase in officers’ that Newark town environs will experience.</i></p> <p><i>This matter arises due to the evident reluctance to evidence actual policing in the town and the upsurge in serious incidents and perpetual receipt of complaints of open disregard of authority demonstrating the increase and unabated level of lawlessness in our town which is unanswered.</i></p>

<b>Meeting Closed:</b>	<b>8.55pm</b>	<b>Next Meeting:</b>	<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018</b>
------------------------	---------------	----------------------	--