



NEWARK TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Wednesday 16th December 2015 in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall.

Membership Present:	Town Mayor	Cllr R A Crowe (in the Chair)
	Councillors	Mrs C Barker-Powell (Ap) 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:	Councillors	Mrs C Barker-Powell, Ms H Gent
Town Council Staff:	Town Clerk PA to the Town Clerk/Mayor's Secretary	Alan Mellor Helen Crossland – taking notes
Public:	There were 5 members of the public present.	
Venue:	Council Chamber	Town Hall

TC38/15/16	Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14th October 2015
	The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14 th October 2015 were AGREED as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Mayor, with the addition of the word 'Some' before Members, at the beginning of paragraph 5 of TC31/15/16 – Minutes of the Devolved Services Committee, Monday 28th September 2015 .
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, Wednesday 28th October 2015
	The Chairman, Cllr T Roberts MBE, presented the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning & Regeneration Committee held on Wednesday 28 th October 2015.
TC41/15/16	Minutes of the Devolved Services Committee, Monday 2nd November 2015
	This item was on the Addendum issued to Councillors at the Meeting tonight. The Chairman, Cllr D Lloyd, presented the Minutes of the Meeting of the Devolved Services Committee held on Monday 2 nd November 2015.
TC42/15/16	Minutes of the Devolved Services Committee, Monday 23rd November 2015
	The Chairman, Cllr D Lloyd, presented the Minutes of the Meeting of the Devolved Services Committee held on Monday 23 rd November 2015.
TC42/15/16	Minutes of the Planning & Regeneration Committee, Wednesday 25th November 2015
	The Chairman, Cllr T Roberts MBE, presented the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning & Regeneration Meeting held on Wednesday 25 th November 2015.
TC43/15/16	Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee, Wednesday 2nd December 2015
	The Chairman, Cllr D Lloyd, presented the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance & Policy Committee held on Wednesday 2 nd December 2015.
TC44/15/16	Town Mayor's Announcements
	The Town Mayor informed Members that a letter had been sent to the parents of Jay McGuinness from Farndon who has reached the finals of Strictly Come Dancing, wishing him the very best of luck.
TC45/15/16	Town Council Leader's Announcements
	The Town Council Leader, Cllr D Lloyd, informed Members that the Newark Healthcare Consultative Group (NHCG) had recently met to discuss issues around Newark Hospital. He said he was, through the Mayor, seeking to iterate support for Newark Hospital Cllr D Lloyd then talked about a new group that had been started, the Newark Healthy Communities Partnership Group, which the NHCG had been informed of, at their last meeting. In the 32 strong body, there are 3 Members from N&SDC (who were appointed by N&SDC), no County Councillors and no local Parish Councillors. It was decidedly disappointing that Newark Town Council was not invited to join. Since the meeting, SFH NHS Trust had written to the Chairman of the NHCG and invited them to appoint 2 Members. Cllr D Lloyd said he would like to write to them, and ask if Newark Town Council could nominate 4 members of the public and 4 representatives from the NHCG to attend.

	<p>Cllr Mrs I Brown (who is on the NHCG Committee) said that the group had felt very let down, and even insulted, to discover that they had not been invited to join the new Partnership Group.</p> <p>Cllr D Jones said he would support anything that gets representation with the CCG. They seem to have public meeting in other communities, at places where no-one can get to.</p> <p>It was AGREED unanimously to write a letter to SFH NHS Trust as reported above.</p> <p>Cllr D Lloyd then said that the MP for Newark, Robert Jenrick, was also campaigning for Newark Hospital and needed the support of this Council if a motion is taken by him to Parliament.</p> <p>It was AGREED unanimously to send a letter of support to Robert Jenrick MP as follows:</p>				
	<p>This Parish Council unanimously resolves to:</p>				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">(i)</td> <td>Iterate its strong and ongoing support for Newark Hospital and all who work there.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">(ii)</td> <td>Call on involved agencies/partners to explore all necessary options to maintain a vibrant future for Newark Hospital.</td> </tr> </table>	(i)	Iterate its strong and ongoing support for Newark Hospital and all who work there.	(ii)	Call on involved agencies/partners to explore all necessary options to maintain a vibrant future for Newark Hospital.
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TC46/15/16	Town Clerk's Announcements				
	<p>The Town Clerk, Mr Alan Mellor, wished all present a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.</p>				
TC47/15/16	Notice of Motion & Amendment to Notice of Motion				
	<p>Prior to discussion of the item, Cllr Mrs G Dawn asked, under Standing Order 10(9), for the Council's consent to a change to the original motion. Cllr Mrs I Brown also consented to the alteration.</p> <p>The Town Mayor asked if there were any objections to this request, and there were none.</p>				
	<p>Opening the debate, Cllr Mrs G Dawn informed Members that the main reason for bringing the motion tonight was that the deadline of November had now gone, and the whole site should be finished and made good.</p> <p>Up until the last few weeks, this Council had been told that they would 'be hearing something soon', but nothing had come through.</p> <p>A lot of work is going on, to encourage visitors and tourists to the Town, and still the first thing they are confronted by is the sorry state of the Robin Hood Hotel.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs G Dawn said she would like to know why Newark & Sherwood District Council had not taken any action on the developer; the site would still be in the same condition in 5 years' time if nothing is done.</p>				
	<p>Cllr D Lloyd then spoke about some of the actions that had taken place, by other groups. For instance, the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust had managed to get funding and undertaken a study that showed alternatives for the site, but the developer does not now want to engage with that group.</p> <p>There had been a suggestion of an extension of the contract, but District Councillors who were also Newark Town Councillors had absolutely refused to do this. The longer it takes for a decision, it will turn into 'something is better than nothing'.</p>				
	<p>Cllr D Jones informed Members that he could not support the motion being put before the Town Council.</p> <p>The building was an eyesore, and it needed to be demolished. People in this Town were fed up of looking at the property; it now had no historical merit, and no archaeological merit. The Town Council should be talking more about its removal and the development of</p>				

	<p>the site.</p> <p>Cllr D Jones mentioned that a previous Chairman of District Planning Committee, who was also a Town Councillor, had in fact voted against the demolition previously and had failed to mention the fact that he was a member of the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust.</p>				
	<p>Cllr K Girling agreed with Cllr D Lloyd; the building had been in disrepair for too long. It was generous to give the developer until the end of January.</p>				
	<p>Cllr T Roberts MBE then spoke. He said that in the past he had defended the developer, but now had to agree with Cllr D Lloyd – the building now has no merit at all – it is just a shell of what it should be.</p> <p>With regard to part (i) of the motion, from a Health and Safety point of view, the developer should be able to give assurance that the building is safe to walk past. Currently the state of the site gives a negative impression of the town to visitors, and a decision needs to be made by someone.</p>				
	<p>Cllr P Duncan re-iterated that there was an alternative plan for the building (as shown by the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust); this situation needs to be resolved.</p> <p>He also stated that the Councillor referred to by Cllr D Jones was not and had never been a member of the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust, and that such a damaging assertion should not be made, and should indeed be retracted.</p> <p>Cllr D Jones responded that he would be pleased to retract his statement if it turns out to be untrue.</p>				
	<p>Cllr M Cope said that Cllrs Mrs Dawn and D Lloyd had spoken with sufficient eloquence and covered all the points; he thought that if this motion went through this Council with unanimity it would be much better received at the District Council.</p> <p>Cllr M Cope said that retention is not an option, and he would support demolition. He then asked for Cllr Mrs G Dawn's support and permission to change the word 'building' to 'site' in paragraph (ii) of the amended motion, and hopefully this would bring about unanimous support from the Chamber.</p>				
	<p>Cllr Mrs G Dawn then proposed the amended motion, and this was seconded by Cllr D Lloyd.</p>				
	<p>It was therefore AGREED unanimously that this Council now resolved to:</p>				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">(i)</td> <td>Call upon Newark & Sherwood District Council to take all necessary enforcement action against the owners of the property to ensure that the building is wind, water tight and structurally sound, with third party re-assurance; and</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">(ii)</td> <td>Seek to expedite a solution for the development of the site by 31st January 2016, otherwise to enforce the now expired contract between Newark & Sherwood District Council and the site owners.</td> </tr> </table>	(i)	Call upon Newark & Sherwood District Council to take all necessary enforcement action against the owners of the property to ensure that the building is wind, water tight and structurally sound, with third party re-assurance; and	(ii)	Seek to expedite a solution for the development of the site by 31 st January 2016, otherwise to enforce the now expired contract between Newark & Sherwood District Council and the site owners.
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TC48/15/16	External Audit Arrangements				
	<p>Cllr D Lloyd started the debate on this item. He stated that the timescale did not give this Council time to do anything other than 'opt in' to the new Sector Led Body external audit appointment process.</p> <p>This was seconded by Cllr M Cope.</p> <p>The Town Clerk was asked to discuss with other Parishes at some point if there is any interest in coming together for this.</p>				

Cllr K Girling thought the Town Council were being forced into something that they didn't know how it would be resolved; 5 years was a long time, and there is no time to find an alternative. He asked if this could be revised as soon as the Town Council is able to do so.

Cllr D Jones asked if there was any merit in re-joining the NALC.

Cllr P Duncan said it was another examples of a process that was not handled very well and that a proper review should be sought after 3 years.

Cllr D Lloyd agreed with all of the comments that had been made.

A vote was then taken and it was unanimously **AGREED** to 'opt in' to the new audit arrangements.

Meeting Closed:	8.20pm	Next Meeting:	Wednesday 17th February 2016
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