



Newark Town Council

Town Hall, Market Place, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG24 1DU
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19th May 2021

Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12 - Part III

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Town Meeting will be held at the Town Hall, Newark, on Thursday 27th May at 7pm in the Ballroom.

The business to be transacted at the meeting is set out below:

1. Welcome and introduction by the Town Mayor.
2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 17th April 2019.
3. Question Time

An opportunity for members of the General Public who are registered electors in the town of Newark to offer questions, make comment and raise issues relating to matters pertaining to the Town.

A cordial invitation is extended to **residents of the town of NEWARK** to attend this public meeting.

Cllr Lisa Geary
Town Mayor



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Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Wednesday 17th April 2019 in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall.

Membership Present:	Town Mayor	CLlr T Roberts MBE (in the Chair)
	Councillors	Mrs C Barker-Powell Mrs I Brown M Cleasby (Ap) M G Cope Mrs R Crowe R 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
Apologies:	Councillors	M Cleasby
Town Council Staff:		Mr A Mellor - Town Clerk P Tomlinson – Mayor’s Officer

Public:	The following members of the public, were present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs L. Sledmore-Hyde • Mr R Belam, Newark • Mr J Clarke, Newark • Mr R Cain, Newark
Venue:	Council Chamber, Town Hall
Taking Notes:	Alan Mellor

ATM/01/19/20	Welcome
	The Town Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained its purpose and encouraged members of the Public to ask questions, after the Committee reports, on matters related to either the business of the Town Council or matters that impact on the town.
ATM/02/19/20	Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Wednesday 18th April 2018
	The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Wednesday 18 th April 2018 were proposed, seconded and accepted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Mayor.
ATM/03/19/20	Report of the Planning Committee
	Cllr M Skinner presented the annual report on the matters considered by the Planning Committee.
ATM/04/19/20	Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee
	Cllr D Lloyd presented the annual report on the matters considered by the Finance & General Purposes Committee.
ATM/05/19/20	Question Time
	The Town Mayor invited the members of the public present at the meeting to ask questions, make comments and observations or raise issues relating to matters pertaining to the Town Council.

(i) Mr R Cain addressed the meeting about the issue of 'Street Trees' in the town.
He posed the question; what do we want Newark to look like in 20/30 years' time?
He felt that there has been a loss of many trees over recent years and felt that the balance needs to be re-addressed. There is a need to develop a green environment in the town.
The Government has announced it aims to green towns by growing one million trees across the country. There are many advantages that result from trees being planted in streets. It wants to work with organisations who can assist with achieving this goal.
He said that trees need to be planted intelligently with the right trees in the right location. If you plant large semi mature trees then this deters vandalism it also helps if you can engage with the local community to take ownership of the trees. Sponsorship of trees is also a good idea either by businesses or individuals.
Finally he said that National Tree Week is being held in November; Councils are able to apply for grants to plant new trees and he urged the Town Council to take part in the scheme.

Cllr. D Lloyd replied; he advised that Newark Town Council doesn't have any responsibility for the maintenance of streets. Representations with regard to trees on streets should be made to Nottinghamshire County Council and he would hope that they would take on this idea in a positive manner.

He further advised Mr Cain that the Town Council has only limited land holdings that could be suitable for planning of new trees.

He also said that the Town Council has consistently objected to the removal of trees where part of any planning application and also objected when any replacement trees are not of an appropriate type.

He further advised that Newark & Sherwood District Council had recently planted over 300 trees in the district engaging with young children as part of the project.

The Town Mayor, Cllr T Roberts MBE, said that he was working to support the construction of a new primary school on that Middlebeck development on Land South of Newark; the plan for the new school includes a number of new trees to be planted.

(ii) Mr J Clarke addressed the meeting; his concern was about the protection of existing trees in the town irrespective of who actually owns them. He asked if Newark Town Council can use its influence to make Planning Applications better for the inclusion of trees; either for their protection or the provision of new trees. He said that, in his view, it was good to plant new trees but even better to retain existing ones.

Cllr D Jones replied that there was a fine line to be trod between the retention of trees and the wider benefits that arose from individual developments. He believed that new trees should be encouraged to be included in new developments wherever possible. He undertook to work in the future to enhance the profile and need for new trees in the future.

Cllr D Lloyd replied that he agrees with Mr Clarke; the protection of existing trees is an important issue, he would be encouraging the District Council to develop a full a register of existing trees to support their protection. He added that Newark & Sherwood District Council has consistently objected to developments where due care hasn't been given to existing trees and/or their replacement. In his view trees should be given a similar measure of protection as that afforded to Heritage Assets.

(iii) Mr R Belam addressed the meeting; he is of the view that Newark is a great town but he has concerns over law and order within the town. He asked if it were possible for the Custody Suite at Newark Police station could be re-opened; town centre crime appears to be on the increase and the lack of this facility was having a discouraging influence on police officers decision as to whether or not an individual should be arrested. This reluctance was due to the fact that police officers would then have to escort a prisoner to Mansfield.

Cllr D Lloyd said that the Town Council objected to the closure of the Custody Suite and a Motion seeking to prevent the closure was unanimously supported by all Town Councillors. In his view the Police didn't give a reasonable response to the Town Council's concerns. The Police however did give an undertaking that savings arising from the closure would be re-invested in the town through the employment of more police officers; there are now two police constables assigned to every beat team across the town.

He added that he was aware that the custody suite had been re-opened as a temporary measure when high demand was expected. He is also aware that they have changed the operational arrangements for the transporting of prisoners to save time and avoid police officers being away from the town for too long.

The new District Commander has made significant improvements since she was appointed to the post; she has delivered a strong and robust message regarding Anti-Social Behaviour and is engaging well with partners to reduce crime and mitigate the impacts of it across the town.

	Cllr D Jones said that the loss of the Magistrates Court was the writing on the wall for the subsequent decision to close the Custody Suite. He hopes that it can be used more frequently when the need arises.

Meeting Closed:	8.50pm	Next Meeting:	Wednesday 15th April 2020
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