



Newmarket

TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Newmarket Town Council

held on Monday 15th December 2025 at 7:15 pm at the Memorial Hall

Attendance:

Councillor P Winter (Town Mayor)
Councillor J Borda
Councillor L Crissall
Councillor A Drummond
Councillor J Harvey (Deputy Town Mayor)
Councillor P Hulbert

Councillor J Jarvis
Councillor S Kavanagh
Councillor J McHugh
Councillor R Nobbs
Councillor C Revitt
Councillor M Slater
Councillor K Yarrow

Also Present: C Whitaker Town Clerk, N Alecock - Deputy Town Clerk, J Ashton – Minute Assistant, C O'Reilly - Events Manager as an observer, 1 Member of the Press and 1 Member of the Public.

Minute

25/12/1 Welcome

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the last full Council meeting of 2025 and welcomed new Councillor Slater who signed the Declaration of Office.

The Chair read out the Fire safety notice and announced that the meeting was being recorded by the Minute Assistant asked if anyone intended to record the meeting.

25/12/2 Apologies for Absence – LGA 1972, Section 85(1) & (2)

Apologies were received from Cllrs Berry, Clover, Hood, and Starkey. Cllr Anderson was absent.

25/12/3 Declaration of Members Interests & to Remind Councillors of the Need to Keep up to Date Their Register of Member's Interests and to Consider any Requests Received for Member's Dispensation

None noted. Town Clerk advised that SCC and WSC Cllrs require a Dispensation for item 12 a. Government Consultation on LGR (Local Government Reorganisation) which was granted to Cllrs Drummond, Jarvis and Yarrow.

25/12/4 To Receive and Confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 24th November 2025 and any Matters Arising.

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2025 were presented and the following amendment was made:

Page 2 - 25/11/6 – the paragraph: “The Council are encouraged to see that Cllr Drummond has now complied with the Monitoring Officer's request to apologise to the member of the public; whilst noting that initially he had stated that he would not.” Was changed to read “The Council are encouraged to see that Cllr Drummond has apologised to the member of the public, whilst noting that initially he had stated that he would not.”

Subject to the amendment being made, Cllr Winter made a proposal seconded by Cllr Nobbs. A vote was taken which was unanimous and the following was agreed:

25/12/4.01 Resolved

Book Number 54 2025 -2026

Minutes of the Meeting of Newmarket Town Council held on Monday 15th December 2025

That subject to the amendment being made, the minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2025 be adopted and signed as a correct record by the Town Mayor.

There were no matters arising.

25/12/5 Public Open Session

No members of the public wished to speak.

25/12/6 Police Report

The monthly report was presented and noted.

25/12/7 Councillor Reports

SCC – Cllr Drummond reported that the monthly report had been issued and highlighted that Sunnica will be changing their planning application.

West Suffolk Council (WSC) – Cllr Jarvis wished everyone a Merry Christmas and gave thanks for everyone's dedication and hard work on behalf of the Council and residents. He reported that he will be submitting a motion at the next WS Full Council meeting to reinstate a recycling facility for Newmarket. There has been a long campaign since the recycling site was closed in 2018. SCC are responsible for supplying recycling facilities and WSC are responsible for household waste. Newmarket is the only Town in WS without a recycling centre and Cllr Jarvis asked that all Cllrs to support the motion.

Cllr Drummond added that a larger site may be required and that Open Door had given up the lease and SCC still hold the licence.

Cllr Hulbert added that ECC were asked to collaborate as some of their residents were using the one run by Open Door but they were not interested.

Cllr Yarrow added that other sites belonging to WSC need to be investigated for a larger site.

Ward Reports – Cllr McHugh reported that WSC Financial Inclusion Service will be holding sessions at the Racing Centre, monthly on a Friday, where they will provide support to residents on benefits and help with applications.

Cllr McHugh had attended the Youth Forum where Newmarket Charitable Foundation had introduced the directory on their website for young people on activities and opportunities in Newmarket.

Cllr Yarrow reported that WSC had financed thirty-three organisations to provide warm spaces including locally: the Library, Racing Centre, Catholic Church, Horse Racing Museum and All Saints Church in Newmarket.

WSC have earmarked funding to purchase five flats to provide temporary accommodation for homeless families which will be less expensive than paying for B&B accommodation; however the service charges are currently being negotiated with the lease holder.

There has been some movement on the newly built flats (The Silks) behind Aldi supermarket with an expectation of tenants moving into them in May 2026. They will

all be at affordable rates with the majority being at social rates. They will be available to people over fifty-five years of age. The delay is due to the outstanding Section 106 details.

Cllr Yarrow congratulated WSC on its refurbishment programme for the play areas in Mandelson Road, Green Road, Field Terrace/Heasman Close junction and the pending refurbishment at Hyperion Way.

Cllr Borda reported that the Catholic Church will be serving Christmas lunch on Christmas Day and that there will be access to disability transport this year.

Outside Bodies – None noted.

25/12/8 Mayors Announcements

The Mayor reported that, in addition to attending committee meetings, working groups and other meetings, her activities included the following:

5th December 2025 - Attended the Christmas Carols by the Newmarket Community Choir on the Severals. Thanks were given to the Event Manager, and it was hoped that there will be more in attendance next year.

10th December 2025 – Attended the HRH Princes of Wales Regional Carol Service for the East of England ‘Suffolk Together at Christmas’ hosted by the Lord Lieutenant at St Edmundsbury Cathedral

12th December 2025 – Attended the Rotary Carol Concert at Tattersalls

25/12/9 To Receive the Minutes and Consider and Approve any Recommendations from the Development & Planning Committee Meetings held on 1st December 2025

The minutes and recommendations from the Development & Planning Committee meeting held on 1st December 2025 were presented. Cllr Harvey made a proposal seconded by Cllr McHugh. A vote was taken which was unanimous and the minutes were adopted. There were no recommendations.

25/12/10 To Receive the Minutes and Consider and Approve any Recommendations from the Leisure Services Committee Meeting held on 1st December 2025

The minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting held on 1st December 2025 were presented. Cllr McHugh made a proposal seconded by Cllr Jarvis. A vote was taken which was unanimous and the minutes were adopted:

25/12/10.01 Resolved (L/25/12/3.01 Resolved)

That Cllr McHugh be elected as the Chair for the Leisure Services Committee for the Municipal Year to May 2026.

25/12/10.02 Resolved (L/25/12/6.01 Recommendation)

That the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting held on 6th October 2025 be adopted and signed as a true record by the outgoing Chair (Cllr Harvey) of the Leisure Services Committee.

25/12/10.03 Resolved (L/25/12/9.01 Recommendation)

That the Leisure Services Budget for 2026/2027 at £303,494 be approved.

25/12/10.04 Resolved (L/25/12/10.01 Recommendation)

That the replacement of 5 trolleys and 150 chairs at £9,480.50 for the Memorial Hall be approved.

25/12/11 Membership

It was noted that Cllr Revitt had joined the Community Services Committee. Cllr Kavanagh had joined the Community Services and Leisure Services Committees. Cllr Revitt had joined the Twinning and Environmental Working Groups. Cllr Kavanagh had joined the Environmental Working Group.

25/12/12 2026/2027 Financial Year

25/12/12/1 The overall budget for the financial year 2026/2027 for Newmarket Town Council was presented and considered. Cllr Drummond made a proposal seconded by Cllr Harvey. A vote was taken which was unanimous and the budget was adopted:

25/12/12.01 Resolved

That the overall Newmarket Town Council budget for the financial year 2026/2027 be approved at £1,131,996.00.

25/12/12/2 The precept application for the financial year 2026/2027 for Newmarket Town Council was presented and considered. Cllr Drummond made a proposal seconded by Cllr Harvey. A vote was taken which was unanimous and the precept application was adopted:

25/12/12.02 Resolved

That the NTC precept for the financial year 2026/2027 be set at £1,131,996.00; equating to £189.96 for a band D property – an increase of £16.79 (9.70%) from the previous year.

25/12/13 Consultations

25/12/13/1 **Government Consultation on LGR (Local Government Reorganisation).** Town Clerk advised that the Mayoral elections have been postponed to 2028, although this does not affect the LGR schedule.

The merits of having a single Council (preferred by SCC) or three Councils (preferred by WSC) were briefly discussed and due to the short deadline of 11th January 2026, an Extra Ordinary Meeting was requested. The date will be confirmed for the first working week of the New Year.

Cllr Nobbs will host an informal forum at the Heath Court Hotel on Monday 5th January at 3:00pm for Members to discuss the information further.

25/12/13/2 **Community Governance Review – Parish and Town –** was noted.

25/12/14 Correspondence

None noted.

The Mayor wished everyone a Happy Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2026 and thanks were given to the staff for all their hard work.

25/12/15 Date of the next Meeting

Monday 26th January 2026 in the Memorial Hall.

Meeting closed at 8:09pm

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Summary of Resolutions

Resolution	Resolution Wording
<u>25/12/4.01 Resolved</u>	That subject to the amendment being made, the minutes of the meeting held on 24 th November 2025 be adopted and signed as a correct record by the Town Mayor.
<u>25/12/10.01 Resolved</u> <i><u>(L/25/12/3.01 Resolved)</u></i>	That Cllr McHugh be elected as the Chair for the Leisure Services Committee for the Municipal Year to May 2026.
<u>25/12/10.02 Resolved</u> <i><u>(L/25/12/6.01 Recommendation)</u></i>	That the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting held on 6 th October 2025 be adopted and signed as a true record by the outgoing Chair (Cllr Harvey) of the Leisure Services Committee.
<u>25/12/10.03 Resolved</u> <i><u>(L/25/12/9.01 Recommendation)</u></i>	That the Leisure Services Budget for 2026/2027 at £ 303,494 be approved.
<u>25/12/10.04 Resolved</u> <i><u>(L/25/12/10.01 Recommendation)</u></i>	That the replacement of 5 trolleys and 150 chairs at £9,480.50 for the Memorial Hall be approved.
<u>25/12/12.01 Resolved</u>	That the overall Newmarket Town Council budget for the financial year 2026/2027 be approved at £1,131,996.00.
<u>25/12/12.02 Resolved</u>	That the NTC precept for the financial year 2026/2027 be set at £1,131,996.00; equating to £189.96 for a band D property – an increase of £16.79 (9.70%) from the previous year.