



Newmarket

TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Newmarket Town Council Single Issue held on Thursday 8th January 2026 at 6:15pm at the Memorial Hall

Attendance:

Councillor P Winter (Town Mayor)
Councillor J Borda
Councillor J Clover
Councillor A Drummond
Councillor J Harvey (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor R Hood
Councillor P Hulbert

Councillor J Jarvis
Councillor S Kavanagh
Councillor J McHugh
Councillor R Nobbs
Councillor C Revitt
Councillor A Starkey
Councillor K Yarrow

Also Present: C Whitaker – Town Clerk, N Alecock – Deputy Town Clerk, J Ashton – Minute Assistant, Cllr Whittle – WSC, 1 Member of the Press and 2 Members of the Public.

Minute

26/01/1 Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting and read the fire safety notice and confirmed that proceedings were being recorded.

26/01/2 Apologies for Absence – LGA 1972, Section 85(1) & (2)

Apologies were received from Cllr Crissall. Cllrs Anderson, Berry and Slater were absent.

26/01/3 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. Cllrs Drummond and Hood requested a dispensation as they had already voted on the issue at SCC and WSC which was granted, to allow them to participate in the debate and voting process.

Cllr Kavanagh joined the meeting at 6.17pm.

26/01/4 Public Open Session

Cllr Whittle set out his reasons for voting for the Three Councils model rather than the One Suffolk option at WSC and urged NTC to reject the One Suffolk option and to support the Three Council model.

A member of the Press joined the meeting at 6.21pm

26/01/5 Local Government Reorganisation

The Newmarket Town Council's response to the consultation by way of a vote for a preference of either One Council (as preferred by SCC) or Three Councils (as preferred by WSC) was discussed.

Cllrs Hood and Drummond spoke in favour of One Suffolk.

Cllr Jarvis spoke in favour of the Three Councils model.

Cllr Harvey could see merits in both options but whatever the outcome, NTC would need to work with them and ensure that the NTC voice is heard.

Cllr Kavanagh spoke against One Suffolk, and this was the representative view of her constituents.

The Chair asked for a vote on the One Suffolk option. A recorded vote was requested, a vote was taken, the result was as follows:

Votes for: Cllrs Hulbert, Drummond, Hood, Nobbs and Revitt.

Votes against: None noted.

Abstentions: Cllrs Borda, Clover, Harvey, McHugh, Jarvis, Kavanagh, Starkey, Yarrow and Winter.

The Chair asked for a vote on the Three Councils model. A vote was taken, the result was as follows:

Votes for: Cllrs Borda, Clover, Harvey, McHugh, Jarvis, Kavanagh, Starkey, Yarrow and Winter.

Votes against: Cllrs Drummond, Hood and Hulbert.

Abstentions: Cllrs Nobbs and Revitt.

With there being nine votes for the Three Councils proposal, against five votes for the One Council proposal, the following was agreed:

26/01/5.01 Resolved

That the Newmarket Town Council response to the consultation for the preference of the Three Councils model be approved and submitted.

Cllr Harvey read out a statement to be added to the consultation response. Cllr Winter made a proposal, seconded by Cllr Harvey. A vote was taken which was unanimous and the following was agreed:

26/01/5.02 Resolved

That the following be approved and submitted with the NTC Response to the consultation regarding Local Government Reorganisation for Suffolk:

Newmarket Town Council (NTC) support the proposal for the three unitary option (Suffolk to the power of three) rather than the single unitary (One Suffolk) option, as agreed at Full Town Council meeting on 8 Jan 2026 (by a majority of 9 to 5, with 4 members absent).

Councillors considered the potential advantages and disadvantages of both proposals but crucial was the desire for strong, direct local representation and service delivery.

One Suffolk would still need a level of local representation and has not a good track record for this part of the County. The 3 unitary option will need co-operation and co-ordination at a strategic level and potentially operationally for County-wide services.

NTC supports the comments from SALC that "Town and Parish Councils must be recognised as key stakeholders in governance to avoid disconnect and bureaucracy. We strongly agree that the proposals have potential to enable greater community engagement and neighbourhood empowerment. There is recognition that the opportunity exists to reshape governance in a way that reflects the needs, strengths, and ambitions of our communities. The emphasis on closer relationships between the new unitary council and Town and Parish Councils is particularly welcomed, as these bodies form the first tier of local government and play a vital role in representing local voices."

26/01/6 Date of the next Meeting

Monday 26th January 2026 at 6.15pm in the Memorial Hall

Book Number 51 2025 -2026

Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of Newmarket Town Council held on Thursday 8th January 2026

Meeting closed at 6.37pm

Signed: __Cllr P.Winter__

Date: __26.01.26__

Summary of Resolutions

Resolution	Resolution Wording
<u>26/01/5.01 Resolved</u>	That the Newmarket Town Council response to the consultation for the preference of the Three Councils model be approved and submitted.
<u>26/01/5.02 Resolved</u>	That the following be approved and submitted with the NTC response to the consultation: Newmarket Town Council (NTC) support the proposal for the three unitary option (Suffolk to the power of three) rather than the single unitary (One Suffolk) option, as agreed at Full Town Council meeting on 8 Jan 2026 (by a majority of 9 to 5, with 4 members absent). Councillors considered the potential advantages and disadvantages of both proposals but crucial was the desire for strong, direct local representation and service delivery. One Suffolk would still need a level of local representation and has not a good track record for this part of the County. The 3 unitary option will need co-operation and co-ordination at a strategic level and potentially operationally for County-wide services. NTC supports the comments from SALC that “Town and Parish Councils must be recognised as key stakeholders in governance to avoid disconnect and bureaucracy. We strongly agree that the proposals have potential to enable greater community engagement and neighbourhood empowerment. There is recognition that the opportunity exists to reshape governance in a way that reflects the needs, strengths, and ambitions of our communities. The emphasis on closer relationships between the new unitary council and Town and Parish Councils is particularly welcomed, as these bodies form the first tier of local government and play a vital role in representing local voices.”