



Newmarket TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Newmarket Town Council

held on Monday 26th January 2026 at 6:15 pm at the Memorial Hall

Attendance:

Councillor P Winter (Town Mayor)
Councillor J Berry
Councillor J Borda
Councillor J Clover
Councillor A Drummond
Councillor J Harvey (Deputy Town Mayor)

Councillor P Hulbert
Councillor J Jarvis
Councillor R Nobbs
Councillor C Revitt
Councillor M Slater
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 4 Members of the Public.

Minute

26/01/1 Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone and 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.

Cllr Berry joined the meeting at 6:18pm.

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

Apologies were received from Cllrs Crissall, Hood, Kavanagh and McHugh. Cllr Anderson was 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

Cllr Drummond declared an "other interest in item 9. There were no requests for Dispensation.

26/01/4 To Receive and Confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meetings held on 15th December 2025 and 8th January 2026 (extraordinary) and any Matters Arising.

The minutes of the meetings held on 15th December 2025, and 8th January 2026 (extraordinary) were presented. Cllr Winter made a proposal seconded by Cllr Drummond. A vote was taken which was unanimous and the following was agreed:

26/01/4.01 Resolved

That the minutes of the meetings held on 15th December 2025 and 8th January 2026 (extraordinary) be adopted and signed as a correct record by the Town Mayor.

There were no matters arising.

26/01/5 Public Open Session

A member of the public asked for the views of NTC on a recycling centre in Newmarket. Cllr Drummond explained that Open Door had transferred back the lease to SCC but that a larger site is required and it is unlikely that anything will be achieved before the devolution process. Cllr Jarvis added that a motion was passed at the last WSC Full Council meeting to reinstate a recycling centre facility in Newmarket. Cllr Whittle added that the lease is now available at a peppercorn rate until the end of March

2028. He is communicating with SCC regarding legal responsibilities between SCC and WSC for recycling facilities.

26/01/6 Police Report

The monthly report was presented and noted.

26/01/7 Councillor Reports

SCC

Cllr Drummond reported that the monthly report had been issued.

West Suffolk Council (WSC)

Cllr Yarrow reported that he had attended a meeting with Flagship regarding the Rowley Drive Masterplan along with NTC Cllrs and WSC Planning Officers. It was a positive meeting and Flagship will be investing £100 million in Newmarket housing - the details of the plan are awaited. He reported that the bollards had started to be installed in Exning Road and Town Clerk advised that this work is ongoing.

Cllr Whittle reported that there is a national campaign to increase recycling rates and retailers, and hospitality outlets will be required to offer a return scheme for bottles. The Flagship plan is not yet finalised nor the number of new dwellings decided. He had investigated a complaint of overgrown vegetation on Freshfields, and this has now been cleared. He asked for NTC support regarding an application for a salt bin.

Cllr Jarvis reported that the road works on Fordham Road and Exning Road at the same time were causing huge issues for residents and there had been no communication from SCC Highways. The Mayor added that she will be contacting the Head of Transport Strategy and the Head of Road Works at SCC. The new Tesco Manager had used his own staff to direct traffic and he was now paying a contractor to do this. He would like to be involved in any meetings regarding the long-term issues on Fordham Road.

Ward Reports

Cllr Hulbert reported that taxi drivers were complaining about taxis from Cambridge operating in Newmarket. He had investigated whether licences were required and established that they are not required, but Cambridge taxis are not allowed to use the taxi ranks in Newmarket.

Cllr Borda reported that he had attended the Christmas lunch at the Catholic Church and there were over 100 people in attendance. He had also supported residents in Churchill Court following the recent fire.

Council Representatives on Outside Bodies

None noted.

26/01/8 Mayors Announcements

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

16th January 2026 - Attended the opening of the refurbished gym at The Leisure Centre.

23rd January 2026 – Attended a meeting with Flagship regarding the Rowley Drive Masterplan. It had been a positive meeting.

Cllr Drummond declared an “other” interest in the following item and did not vote.

26/01/9 To Receive the Minutes and Consider and Approve any Recommendations from the Development & Planning Committee Meetings held on 15th December 2025, 5th and 19th January 2026

The minutes and recommendations from the Development & Planning Committee meetings held on 15th December 2025, 5th and 19th January 2026 were presented. Cllr Harvey made a proposal seconded by Cllr Jarvis for 15th December 2025 and 5th January 2026. 19th January 2026 was seconded by Cllr Hulbert. A vote was taken which was unanimous and the minutes were adopted. There were no recommendations.

26/01/10 To Receive the Minutes and Consider and Approve any Recommendations from the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 5th January 2026

The minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on 5th January 2026 were presented. Cllr Winter made a proposal seconded by Cllr Borda. A vote was taken which was unanimous and the minutes were adopted:

26/01/10.01 Resolved (C/26/01/4.01 Resolved)

That the minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on 3rd November 2025 be adopted and signed as a true record by the Chair of the Community Services Committee.

26/01/10.02 Resolved (C/26/01/7.01 Recommendation)

That 46 of the High Street heritage columns be upgraded, transferring the recently upgraded lamps and utilising the £102K Section 106 funding from WSC; NTC to fund the balance from current and next year budgets and EMRs.

26/01/10.03 Resolved (C/26/01/7.02 Recommendation)

That funding to upgrade the remaining 12 units on Birdcage Walk be included in the 2027/2028 budget.

26/01/10.04 Resolved (C/26/01/8.01 Recommendation)

That the Cemetery fees and charges for 2026 – 2027 be approved.

26/01/11 To Receive the Minutes and Consider and Approve any Recommendations from the Performance & Audit Committee Meeting held on 12th January 2026

The minutes of the Performance & Audit Committee meeting held on 12th January 2026 were presented. Cllr Harvey made a proposal seconded by Cllr Drummond. A vote was taken which was unanimous and the minutes were adopted:

26/01/11.01 Resolved (P/26/01/4.01 Resolved)

That the minutes of the Performance & Audit Committee meeting held on Monday 13th October 2025 be adopted and signed as a true record by the Chair of the Performance & Audit Committee.

26/01/12 To Receive the Minutes and Consider and Approve any Recommendations from the Extraordinary Human Resources Committee Meeting held on 12th January 2026

The minutes of the Extraordinary Human Resources Committee meeting held on 12th January 2026 were presented. Cllr Yarrow made a proposal seconded by Cllr Drummond. A vote was taken which was unanimous and the minutes were adopted:

26/01/12.01 Resolved (H/26/01/4.01 Resolved)

That the minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting held on Monday 20th October 2025 be adopted and be signed as a correct record by the Chairman of the Human Resources Committee.

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26/01/12.02 Resolved (H/26/01/6.01 Resolved)

To resolve that under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded for the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure of private and confidential information or staff matters.

26/01/12.03 Resolved (H/26/01/7.01 Resolved)

That a redundancy consultation period begin.

26/01/12.04 Resolved (H/26/01/7.02 Resolved)

That a contract increase in hours for a staff member be approved from January 2026.

26/01/12.05 Resolved (H/26/01/7.03 Resolved)

That an increase in NJC SCP of two points be awarded to two members of staff in April 2026.

26/01/13

To Receive the Minutes and Consider and Approve any Recommendations from the Finance & Policy Committee Meeting held on 19th January 2026

The minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee meeting held on 19th January 2026 were presented. Cllr Harvey made a proposal seconded by Cllr Drummond. A vote was taken which was unanimous and the minutes were adopted:

26/01/13.01 Resolved (F/26/01/4.01 Resolved)

That the minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee meeting held on 17th November 2025 be adopted and signed as a true record by the Chair of the Finance & Planning Committee.

26/01/13.02 Resolved (F/26/01/6.01 Resolved)

That the ratification of the schedules of payments for the period 01/11/2025 – 30/11/2025 and 01/12/2025 – 31/12/2025 (Cash Book 1 - 5) be received and adopted.

26/01/13.03 Resolved (F/26/01/10.01 Resolved)

That the request from Hope for Tomorrow for a grant be approved and be awarded at £500.

26/01/13.04 Resolved (F/26/01/10.02 Resolved)

That the request from Newmarket Chalk Streams CIC for a grant be approved and be awarded at £1,000.

26/01/14

Consultations

West Suffolk Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning document 2026 – the consultation will be open from 6th January 09:00am to 17th February 2026 5:00pm. A Working Group will be set up comprising of Cllrs Borda, Drummond, Harvey, Jarvis, Starkey and Yarrow to form a response.

26/01/15

Working Groups

The membership of the Working Groups was updated as follows:

Climate change - Cllrs Borda, Drummond, Jarvis and Revitt.

Enforcement – Cllrs Drummond, Harvey, Hood, Nobbs, Winter and Yarrow.

Environmental – Cllrs Drummond, Jarvis, McHugh, Revitt and Winter.

Health & Well-Being – Cllrs Kavanagh, McHugh and Starkey.

IT Systems – Cllrs Borda, Harvey, Nobbs and Winter.

Litter – Cllrs Clover, Harvey, Jarvis, McHugh and Revitt.

Local History & Tourism – Cllrs Harvey, Kavanagh, Nobbs and Winter.

Market – Cllrs Drummond, Harvey, Hood, Hulbert, Winter and Yarrow. M. Jefferies, S Beckett and R Wood as non-councillor members.

Neighbourhood Plan – Cllrs Harvey, Hood, Hulbert, Jarvis, Starkey and Winter.

On-Street Advertising – to be merged with the Enforcement Working Group.

Solar – Cllr Hood is the NTC representative and no Working Group is currently required.

Policies – Cllrs Drummond, Harvey and Hood.

Transport & Parking – Cllrs Drummond, Harvey, Hood, Hulbert and Winter.

Town Twinning – Cllrs Harvey, Hood, Nobbs, Revitt and Winter

Website review – to be added to the IT Systems Working Group.

26/01/16 First UK Town of Culture Competition

Information regarding the competition and possible participation was discussed. Cllr Winter made a proposal seconded by Cllr Drummond. A vote was taken which was unanimous and the following was agreed:

26/01/16.01 Resolved

That an application to the UK Town of Culture competition be supported by Newmarket Town Council.

26/01/17 Correspondence

Letter from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government confirming that the local elections scheduled for 7th May 2026 will be postponed for one year. This will apply to SCC.

26/01/18 Date of the next Meeting

Monday 23rd February 2026 in the Memorial Hall.

Meeting closed at 7:12 pm

Signed: _Cllr P.Winter_____

Date: __23.2.26_____

Summary of Resolutions

Resolution	Resolution Wording
<u>26/01/4.01 Resolved</u>	That the minutes of the meetings held on 15 th December 2025, and 8 th January 2026 (extraordinary) be adopted and signed as a correct record by the Town Mayor.
<u>26/01/10.01 Resolved</u> <i><u>(C/26/01/4.01 Resolved)</u></i>	That the minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on 3rd November 2025 be adopted and signed as a true record by the Chair of the Community Services Committee.
<u>26/01/10.02 Resolved</u> <i><u>(C/26/01/7.01 Recommendation)</u></i>	That 46 of the High Street heritage columns be upgraded, transferring the recently upgraded lamps and utilising the £102K Section 106 funding from WSC; NTC to fund the balance from current and next year budgets and EMRs.
<u>26/01/10.03 Resolved</u> <i><u>(C/26/01/7.02 Recommendation)</u></i>	That funding to upgrade the remaining 12 units on Birdcage Walk be included in the 2027/2028 budget.
<u>26/01/10.04 Resolved</u> <i><u>(C/26/01/8.01 Recommendation)</u></i>	That the Cemetery fees and charges for 2026 – 2027 be approved.
<u>26/01/11.01 Resolved</u> <i><u>(P/26/01/4.01 Resolved)</u></i>	That the minutes of the Performance & Audit Committee meeting held on Monday 13th October 2025 be adopted and signed as a true record by the Chair of the Performance & Audit Committee.
<u>26/01/12.01 Resolved</u> <i><u>(H/26/01/4.01 Resolved)</u></i>	That the minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting held on Monday 20th October 2025 be adopted and be signed as a correct record by the Chairman of the Human Resources Committee.
<u>26/01/12.02 Resolved</u> <i><u>(H/26/01/6.01 Resolved)</u></i>	To resolve that under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded for the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure of private and confidential information or staff matters.
<u>26/01/12.03 Resolved</u> <i><u>(H/26/01/7.01 Resolved)</u></i>	That a redundancy consultation period begin.
<u>26/01/12.04 Resolved</u> <i><u>(H/26/01/7.02 Resolved)</u></i>	That a contract increase in hours for a staff member be approved from January 2026.
<u>26/01/12.05 Resolved</u> <i><u>(H/26/01/7.03 Resolved)</u></i>	That an increase in NJC SCP of two points be awarded to two members of staff in April 2026.
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<u>26/01/13.04 Resolved</u> <i><u>(F/26/01/10.02 Resolved)</u></i>	That the request from Newmarket Chalk Streams CIC for a grant be approved and be awarded at £1,000.
<u>26/01/16.01 Resolved</u>	That an application to the UK Town of Culture competition be submitted.