

Agenda Item 65 Dispensations

If you have a pecuniary interest in an item on this agenda, you will not be able to participate in any of the discussions or vote on a resolution. However, if you wish the council to consider your request for dispensation, you need to **write to the Clerk ahead of the meeting** stating your reasons why you should be given a dispensation.

Agenda Item 67 Councillor Vacancy

Rebecca Major has sent the following application to be co-opted to NPC (forwarded to you on 12\03\2026):

“In terms of why I would like to be a Parish Councillor, I view this role as a vital opportunity to act as a direct community leader and a bridge between local residents and higher tiers of government. My primary motivation is to be a trusted voice for my neighbours, ensuring our specific needs are heard and prioritised. I am particularly eager to contribute as a disabled resident to ensure that essential local decisions, such as reviewing planning applications and managing community assets, consider accessibility and wider needs.

As a barrister with a long career in public service, I bring a strong set of transferable skills, including public speaking, problem-solving and a commitment to the Nolan Principles of public life.

I’ve read the relevant legislation sections. I am eligible to stand and in my opinion there is no reason why I could not be a Parish Councillor. In case it’s relevant, I happened to get a DBS check last week for work and I have the certificate available should you need it.”

Agenda Item 69 Emails Circulated

If I have circulated an email not included on the agenda, and you consider that it should be discussed, please raise the item at this point.

Associated Papers NPC for Meeting on 8th April 2026

Agenda Item 70 Clerk's Report

Minute	Action	Complete ✓
26/031 b	Awaiting the SLA to be counter signed by Sudbury Town Council.	
26/044	Minutes sent to BRN and updated on website.	✓
26/049 a	Sent NPC's views on planning application to the LPA.	✓
26/051 a	Suppliers paid.	✓
26/051 b	Babergh agreed to new dog bin location.	✓
26/054	Maintenance completed on MUGA and Play Equipment. Awaiting date for Forever Fitness Equipment maintenance. New batteries purchased for SID, but fault not resolved so being sent to manufacture for an assessment.	
26/055	New litter bin purchase for play equipment area and is awaiting installation. New signage has not be ordered to date.	
26/057	New council mobile phone purchased 07550 030175. Will be rolled out on stationery, notices, website and access controls from 1st April 2026.	✓
26/059	Year plan updated on website.	✓
	Clerk's Actions & Delegated Power	
	SID batteries purchased and return to base costs approved after consulting Chairman.	
	Clerk Hours	
	1st April 2025 to 29th March 2026 - Paid 624 / Worked 669.5 / Holiday taken 36 hours. *	

- **Clerks Hours** – I am contracted to work 12 hours per week / 624 hours per year. Within the contracted hours I am entitled to 67.2 hours holiday entitlement.

You will note that I worked 669.5 hours during the last year which has resulted in me working unpaid for 112.7 hours. Whilst I am very happy to do the additional work unpaid, councillors should consider this when appointing my successor.

Agenda Item 71c Planning Status

BDC Ref	Application	NPC Ref	NPC Response	BDC Response
DC/25/04864	Land West Of Manders Auctions, Assington Road - Change of use of land. Erection of 9No. single-storey dwellings (including 4No. Affordable). Improvements to access and public highway (including pedestrian crossing, new footpath provision etc. Biodiversity enhancements.	25/203a 26/006a 26/029b	Object Object Object	
DC/25/04963	Land Rear Of Juglans, Sudbury Road - Application under Section 73 of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 - Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) of Planning Permission DC/22/05206 dated: 15.12.2022 - Erection of 6No single storey dwellings, ancillary outbuildings and alterations to existing vehicular access	25/203c 26/029c	Support Support	Permission 04/03/2026
DC/25/05504	Village Hall, The Green - Resurfacing of car park.	26/029a	Support	Withdrawn 19/03/2026
DC/25/05260	Valley Farm, Valley Road - Erection of agricultural building (retention of).	26/049a	Object	

Agenda Item 73a Bank Reconciliation and Receipts and Payments for 2025 / 2026

	Bank Reconciliation at 31/03/2026		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2025		37,365.79
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2025 - 31/03/2026		48,789.87
			86,155.66
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2025 - 31/03/2026		29,490.91
A	Cash in Hand 31/03/2026 (per Cash Book)		56,664.75
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 31/03/2026	0.00	
	Lloyds Corporate Purchasing Card 31/03/2026	0.00	
	Unity Trust Bank - Savings Account 31/03/2026	54,801.87	
	Unity Trust Bank - Current Account 31/03/2026	1,862.88	
			56,664.75
	Less unrepresented payments		
			56,664.75
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
B	Adjusted Bank Balance		56,664.75
	A = B Checks out OK		

**Newton Parish Council
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

	RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS
Opening Balance		
Balance at Bank	37,365.79	
Cash in Hand		
Precept Demand	26,479.94	
CIL Receipts	17,915.75	
Footpath Cutting Grant	213.00	
SCC Locality		
BDC Locality		
Other Grants		
Glass	315.52	
Paper	53.30	
Textiles	192.00	
Bank Interest	905.87	
Allotment Rent	135.00	
Other Income		
Net Salary		10,313.64
Clerk Tax		2,578.20
Clerk NI		
Clerk Pension		
Employers NI		1,183.77
Employers Pension		
Clerk WFHA		312.00
Bank Service Charge		88.00
Office Expenses		582.07
Mileage Costs		
Election Costs		
Audit Fees		430.00
Insurance		1,739.51
Refreshments		77.09
Village Hall Hire		405.00
Training Costs		
SALC		294.59
Community Action Suffolk		
SLCC		190.00
ICO		47.00
Asset Purchases		
Asset Maintenance		
Litter, Dog & Grit Bin Maintenance		
Footpath Grass Maintenance		450.00
War Memorial Hedging Maintenance		100.00
Village Sign Hedging Maintenance		100.00
Christmas Parcels		100.00

Associated Papers NPC for Meeting on 8th April 2026

Newton Parish Council STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

	RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS
RBL Poppy Day	100.00	
Software Licences	757.57	
Website Hosting	55.00	
Email Hosting	42.00	
Domain Registration	72.00	
Laptop Maintenance	73.00	
Revenue Costs		
Community Warden Hours	682.50	
Community Warden Mileage Costs	50.70	
Community Warden Installation Costs		
Play Equipment Inspection	152.00	
Play Equipment Maintenance		
MUGA Maintenance		
Forever Fitness Maintenance	395.00	
Litter & Dog Bin Emptying	1,245.00	
Recreation Ground Grass & Hedge Main	540.00	
Dog Poop Bag Consumables	275.00	
Defibrillator Consumables		
SID Maintenance	159.92	
Allotments Maintenance	500.00	
Other Donations	718.00	
Legal Costs		
VAT Refund		
War Memorial Maintenance		
War Memorial		
Donation to Village Hall		
CIL Expenditure	3,158.83	
VAT	2,579.49	1,523.52
	48,789.87	29,490.91
<hr/>		
Closing Balances:		
Balances in Bank Account		56,664.75
Cash in Hand		
<hr/>		
TOTAL	86,155.66	86,155.66

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the council as at 31 Mar 2026

Signed _____
Responsible Financial Officer

Agenda Item 73b Internal Auditors Report for 2025 / 2026

The Internal Audit is currently being conducted. I will forward you the report once received.

Agenda Item 73c Section 1 of the Annual Return
Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

We acknowledge as the members of:

EN Newton Parish Council

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2026, that:

	Agreed		*Yes' means that this authority:
	Yes	No*	
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✓		<i>prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.</i>
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓		<i>made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.</i>
3. We have assured ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.	✓		<i>has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.</i>
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	✓		<i>during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.</i>
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✓		<i>considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.</i>
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓		<i>arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.</i>
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓		<i>responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.</i>
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	✓		<i>disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.</i>
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	N/A
			✓
10. We have put in place arrangements for the effective IT and data management in accordance with proper practices during the year under review.	✓		<i>has made suitable arrangements for its IT and data management and has complied with proper practices in doing so.</i>

***Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response and describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets must be published with the Annual Governance Statement.**

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

DD/MM/YYYY

and recorded as minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE

Signed by the Chair and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:

Chair

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Clerk

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

www.newton-pc.gov.uk PUBLICLY AVAILABLE WEBSITE/WEBPAGE ADDRESS

**Agenda Item 73d Section 2 of the Annual Return
Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2025/26 for**

EN Newton Parish Council

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2025 £	31 March 2026 £	
			<i>Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records.</i>
1. Balances brought forward	27,207	37,366	<i>Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.</i>
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	21,451	26,480	<i>Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.</i>
3. (+) Total other receipts	23,876	22,310	<i>Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.</i>
4. (-) Staff costs	12,960	14,076	<i>Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.</i>
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	<i>Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).</i>
6. (-) All other payments	22,208	15,415	<i>Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).</i>
7. (=) Balances carried forward	37,366	56,665	<i>Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).</i>
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	37,366	56,665	<i>The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.</i>
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	195,487	195,487	<i>The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.</i>
10. Total borrowings	0	0	<i>The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).</i>

For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	
11 Do the figures in the accounting statements above exclude any trust transactions?	✓		<i>For guidance refer to the Practitioners' Guide sections 2.31 to 2.33.</i>

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2026 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval.

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Date

01/04/2026

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

DD/MM/YYYY

as recorded in minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE

Signed by Chair of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Agenda Item 73e Significant Variances and period for Public Inspection

Please see the attached document that explains the significant variances.

The period for the Notice of Public Rights and publication of the unaudited AGAR will be commencing on **Wednesday 3 June 2026** and ending on **Tuesday 14 July 2026**.

Agenda Item 73f Earmarked Reserves being carried forward to 2026 / 2027

**Newton Parish Council
Reserves Balance
2025-2026**

<u>Reserve</u>	<u>OpeningBalance</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>Spend</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>CurrentBalance</u>
Earmarked					
Election Costs	1,500.00				1,500.00
Legal Fees	1,000.00				1,000.00
Newsletter	2,520.00	-360.00			2,160.00
CIL	13,517.34		3,158.83	17,915.75	28,274.26
Asset Replacement	2,000.00				2,000.00
Total Earmarked	20,537.34	-360.00	3,158.83	17,915.75	34,934.26
TOTAL RESERVE	20,537.34	-360.00	3,158.83	17,915.75	34,934.26
GENERAL FUND					21,730.49
TOTAL FUNDS					56,664.75

Agenda Item 73g CIL Return 2025 / 2026

Neighbourhood CIL Expenditure Report		
Newton Parish Council		
Reporting Year 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026		
A	Total CIL Income carried over from previous year	£13,517.34
B	Total CIL income received (receipts)	£17,915.75
C	Total CIL spent (expenditure)	£3,158.83
D	Total CIL retained at year-end (A+B-C)	£28,274.26
Neighbourhood CIL Expenditure		
	Item / Purpose	Amount Spent
	Play equipment maintenance	£2,908.83
	Neighbourhood Plan consultancy	£250.00
	Total Spent	£3,158.83
Neighbourhood CIL – Details of Allocated Funds (not yet spent)		
	Item / Purpose	Allocated
	Neighbourhood Plan consultancy	£8,274.26
	Walking Infrastructure project	£20,000.00
	Total Allocated	£28,274.26
Signed	 DF Crimmin	Parish Clerk
Signed	Paul Presland	Chairman
1st April 2026		

Agenda Item 73h RFO Report

Payments made since last meeting

Purchase Card	Krystal – Website hosting	£ 8.40
Purchase Card	Microsoft – Office 365	£ 10.21
Purchase Card	Parish Online – mapping software	£ 64.80
Purchase Card	Monthly fee February	£ 3.00
Elan City	SID batteries	£191.90
Sudbury TC	Community Warden costs Q4	£212.16
Unity Trust	Service Charge March	£ 7.00

Receipts received since last meeting

Babergh	Recycling	£291.81
Unity Trust	Interest	£301.23

Payments for your authorisation

	Net	VAT	Gross	Budget
Premier Sports	£495.00	£99.00	£594.00	MUGA maintenance
Elan City	£258.04	£51.61	£309.65	SID diagnostics check
Newton VH	£250.00	£0.00	£250.00	Donation for wi-fi

Agenda Item 74 Walking Infrastructure project

The applications to the National Lottery, Sport England and the local charity were all unsuccessful.

The following commitments have been confirmed:

- SCC has agreed to pay for the costs (£25,956) of relocating the bus stop and shelter on the Green.
- Babergh has confirmed that Suffolk Highways will be able to apply for up to £100,000 towards the cost of the new footpath and widening of existing footpath
- Newton Green Trust has committed £80,000 towards the scheme
- NPC has committed £20,000 towards the scheme
- Suffolk County Council has confirmed that they will provide the remaining funding from the Local Transport Grant.

Therefore, the £313,015 +VAT costs of the scheme are fully covered.

The legal issues relating to the land and Suffolk Highways undertaking the project are now being discussed.

Agenda Item 75 NNP

Following the meeting on Saturday 28th March 2026, the following list of points / issues were raised by the 40 odd residents who attended:

- Is there anyway we can push back against central gov. to challenge the need for so many new houses?
- We must ensure the correct infrastructure to reach the new developments
- If the Boxford end of the village was developed it would look terrible on entering the village.
- Need small shopping facilities for people who cannot access transport
- Need roundabouts at junctions of Valley Rd and junction of A1071.
- Linear development would be preferable along A134 HE23976 rather building behind existing houses.
- New dwelling accessibility onto an already busy road
- Heights of houses and bungalows with specified limits need to be considered
- Any new developments must have affordable housing
- Definition of affordable housing Cheaper/ rental Social etc
- Traffic speed across the Green /Volume of traffic across the Green
- Must consider the benefit of housing on a new single site that can develop its own character over time rather than infill sites.
- Stricter design regulations so new development is more in keeping with village character
- Wider paths to ensure safe access to new crossing and generally for walking along A134
- If all new dwelling developments are below 10 is there any obligation to build affordable housing?
- Affordable housing for people to downsize and for young people to stay in village/attract more young people to village.
- If a planning application is refused, could another applicant build more houses?
- Not happy with both large plots of land for housing at both ends of village?
- Is there such a thing as affordable housing to buy/
- Need to preserve our significant views
- Can the village rely on Babergh taking notice of the NNP regarding the numbers?
- If we can't carry forward the numbers of housing that have recently been built, should we not always object to proposed development that exceeds our ex

Agenda Item 76 New dog bin location

I have contacted Babergh seeking their agreement for NPC to instal a dog bin on the road to the Golf Club near the dog poo bag dispenser. Babergh are happy for NPC to proceed. A red dog bin like others in the village, will cost approx. £213 + VAT.