

DRAFT NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 14th January 2026 at Newton Village Hall

Present: Councillors Paul Presland (Chairman), Russell Bower, Louise Evers, Janys Sherwood, Rita Schwenk and Phil Taylor.

Attending: James Finch (Suffolk County Councillor), Lee Parker (Babergh District Councillor), Dave Crimmin (Clerk) and 2 members of public.

26/001 Apologies for Absence

None required.

26/002 Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensation

Cllr Schwenk declared a pecuniary interest in item 26/006a as her property neighbours the proposed development and left the meeting while the item was discussed. No requests for dispensation were received.

26/003 Minutes of Meeting held on 10th December 2025

The councillors approved the meeting minutes and resolved that the chairman should sign them as a correct record.

26/004 Councillor Vacancy

The Clerk reported that no application had been received for the councillor vacancy.

26/005 Public Participation

The councillors reviewed Lee Parker's previously submitted report, and he updated councillors on the LGR, mayoral and SCC elections, proposed rise in car parking charges and changes in waste bin collections from June 2026. Lee will get an update on issues at Nut Farm for the councillors. The councillors reviewed James Finch's previously submitted report, and he updated councillors on bus services, SEND, primary school applications and SCC voting against their election being held in May 2026.

The owner of the Saracens Head, Beverley Faulkner, updated councillors of her decision to sell the pub as a going concern with the sale being handled by Christie & Co.

26/006 Planning

- a. The councillors reviewed the additional information added by the applicant's agent for **Planning Application DC/26/04864 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.**

It was noted by the councillors that the agent updated the LPA with the discussion points raised by the residents and councillors at the meeting on the 10th December 2025.

With reference to the email from the agent querying the response that "The councillors do not consider that there is an affordable housing need in the village.", when the response from the Strategic Housing Team Manager had cited the 3 residents registered from Newton, on the Housing Register.

The councillors re-affirmed that their view was based on the following:

- The 4 affordable homes developed in 2022 by a council initiated Local Housing Needs Survey (LHNS) in conjunction with Suffolk ACRE and Babergh, identified 5

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Newton residents requiring affordable housing, none of whom were on the Housing Register. A further 6 were registered on the Housing Register. For the 11 requiring homes, it was agreed that 4 dwellings would be developed. Once development was complete, only one Newton resident moved into the scheme. **The councillors noted again that the applicant, contrary to NNDP NEWT 2.3, did not produce a detailed needs assessment (LHNS) for the application.**

- The councillors would also raise the point that in the Section 106 agreement for B/15/01718 Chilton Woods - development for the erection of 1,150 dwellings, that a total of 268 dwellings are to be affordable. The councillors would point out that the Chilton Woods development is 1.4 miles from the Newton parish boundary.

The councillors resolved to stand by their response sent to the LPA on the 12th December 2025 and unanimously objected to the application as it does not comply with the Newton Neighbourhood Plan

- The council has received no further planning application since the agenda was posted, requiring a response before the next meeting.
- The councillors reviewed the status of previous applications, appeals and enforcement referrals (Appendix B).

26/007 Saracens Head as an Asset of Community Value

Following the notice given that the owner of the Saracens Head was looking to sell the business, the council's interim moratorium had been evoked by Babergh District Council. This gives the council up until the 12th February 2026 in which to request an extension period (until the 1st July 2026) so that the community can consider a bid for the property. The owner does not have to accept any subsequent bid from the community. The councillors resolved to extend the moratorium period to the 1st July 2026, during which time it can be assessed if the council or a group in the community wish to make a bid for the pub.

26/008 Emails circulated

Following a review of the emails circulated, the councillors agreed to turn down the offer of an extra paper bank in the village hall car park as the banks are being removed after June 2026. The councillors noted Babergh's plans to pay NPC recycling credits for the two years following the withdrawal of the bottle and paper banks.

26/009 Clerk's Report (Appendix A)

Following a review of the Clerk's report there were no further actions requested of the Clerk.

26/010 Finance

- The councillors authorised all payments made, as itemised in the RFO Report (Appendix C). They also noted the income received since the last meeting, the bank reconciliation and the actuals vs. budget for the receipts and payments.
- The councillors reviewed the agreed Expenditure Budget of £31,573.68 and the NPC Reserves policy before resolving to set a Precept of £30,381.54 for 2026 / 27. This will mean that a Council Tax Band D household will pay an increase of £13.47 per year or £1.12p per month. An increase of 13.52% will be shown on council tax bill.

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26/011 Walking Infrastructure Project

The councillors reviewed the indicative costs of the improvements to the walking infrastructure in Newton, which total £313,015 + VAT for the 3 elements of the project. The elements are:

- the widening of the existing footpath from Church Road eastwards for approximate 130 metres
- Signalised crossing
- New footpath on Green from School Lane to the Saracens Head as well as the relocation of the bus stop and shelter on the Green.

The councillors reviewed the organisations whom NPC should approach for grants towards the project and requested the Clerk to proceed with the applications. James Finch is pursuing funding from SCC's Active Travel programme towards the scheme, and he will review the overhead charge being applied to the scheme costs.

26/012 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Presland updated councillors that the following programme has been agreed for the working party:

- Meeting on 27th January 2026, with Clerk producing copies of the Working Group Terms of Reference and the NNP ahead of meeting
- Meeting with consultants LUC in the week commencing 23rd February 2026
- Presentation to residents at the NPC coffee morning on the 28th March 2026.

26/013 Risk Management Register

The councillors reviewed NPC's Risk Management Register as of January 2026 and were satisfied with the issues covered.

26/014 Statement of Internal Controls

The councillors reviewed the current system of internal controls and resolved that they were satisfied with the council's current measures.

26/015 Policies and Procedures

The councillors reviewed the Clerks proposals for the policies and procedures and resolved the following:

- Adoption of a Data Protection Policy for councillors and staff demonstrating governance rather than public communication
- Apart from Standing Orders and the Financial Regulations, combine all the remaining policies and procedures into a single document.

26/016 Publication Scheme

The councillors reviewed the changes proposed by the Clerk for NPC's Publication Scheme and resolved their adoption.

26/017 Year Plan

The councillors reviewed the 2025 / 2026 Year Plan and agreed that it accurately reflects the status of this year's projects.

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The replacement of a litter bins and signage in the playing field will be undertaken later in the Spring. Cllr Schwenk will investigate on behalf of the VHMC the issue of a collapsed sign outside the village hall entrance. ON behalf of the Trust, Cllr Taylor will be taking up the issue of cars parking on the Green. Councillors were very grateful that Cllr Schwenk and her husband cleared the fallen tree on the Green Lane footpath.

26/019 Village Hall and Trust updates

Cllr Taylor informed councillors that funding for the pond works was still awaited, which will mean that the scheme will recommence in September 2026. In the meantime, the Trust is considering work on the pond by Pond Cottage. Cllr Schwenk updated councillors that the corridor in the hall was painted over Christmas, a dehumidifier is being purchased, and a radiator is to be repaired.

26/020 Questions to the Chair

The councillors requested 20 more Welcome to Newton booklets.

26/021 Next meetings

NPC's next scheduled meeting of NPC will be on Wednesday 11th February 2026 in the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.16pm.

Appendix A Clerk's Report

Minute	Action	Complete ✓
25/200	Minutes sent to BRN and updated on website.	✓
25/203	Sent NPC's views on planning applications to the LPA.	✓
25/206	Paid suppliers and made donation.	✓
25/206	Confirmed 2026 grass and hedging contracts with suppliers.	✓
25/209	Babergh requested that NPC submit ACV application for Saracens Head on the 12th January 2026.	✓
	Clerk's Actions & Delegated Power	
	None.	
	Clerk Hours	
	1st April 2025 to 4th January 2026 - Paid 480 / Worked 466 / Holiday taken 36 hours.	

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BDC Ref	Application	NPC Ref	NPC Response	BDC Response
DC/25/03496	The Deans Sudbury Road - Removal of cement render cladding, basic repairs to frame, installing some insulation and recladding with Lime plaster. Repair to garden wall.	25/152b	Support	Permission 09/12/2025
DC/25/03880	The Deans Sudbury Road - Listed Building Consent - Removal of cement render cladding, basic repairs to frame, installing some insulation and recladding with Lime plaster. Repair to garden wall.	25/152b	Support	Permission 09/12/2025
DC/25/04148	Hollyhocks, Church Road - Demolition of existing rear extension & replacing with a new single storey rear extension, replacement roof to bay window, internal house alterations, extension and new roof to existing garage and a new detached outbuilding	25/173b	Support	
DC/25/04149	Hollyhocks, Church Road - Application for Listed Building Consent - Demolition of existing rear extension & replacing with a new single storey rear extension, replacement roof to bay window, internal house alterations, extension and new roof to existing garage and a new detached outbuilding.	25/173c	Support	
DC/25/04401	Squirrels Oak, Sudbury Road - Erection of a new single storey annexe (following demolition of existing garage).	25/188a 25/203c	Support Support	
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	Object	
Appeal Reference: 6001473	1A Links View - Appeal of refusal for the erection of a garage/workshop.	25/203b	Noted	
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	Support	

Appendix C RFO Report**Payments made since last meeting**

Purchase Card	Krystal – Website hosting	£8.40
Purchase Card	Microsoft – Office 365	£10.21
Purchase Card	McAfee – Virus Software	£139.38
Purchase Card	HP – 1-year laptop warranty	£87.60
Purchase Card	Monthly fee November	£3.00
Unity Trust	Service Charge December	£6.00

Receipts received since last meeting

Babergh	Recycling adjustment	£75.84
Unity Trust	Interest on Savings Account	£293.89
Allotments	Rent from 6 tenants	£90.00

Transferred £3,000 from Savings to Current.

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		Committed Spending			
Meeting Date	Minute	Supplier	Cost Net	VAT	Total
10/07/24	24/114	Newton PCC	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00
12/11/25	25/191	LUC	£9,608.81	£1,921.76	£11,530.57
			£200.00	£0.00	£200.00

Payments for your authorisation

Budget

End of Appendices

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