

**NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at Newton Village Hall

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

**Attending:** James Finch (Suffolk County Councillor), Lee Parker (Babergh District Councillor) and Dave Crimmin (Clerk).

**26/042 Apologies for Absence**

No apologies required.

**26/043 Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensation**

No interests were declared and no requests for dispensation were received.

**26/044 Minutes of Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

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

**26/045 Councillor Vacancy**

The Clerk reported that an application had been received today for the councillor vacancy, which will be reviewed at the next meeting in April.

**26/046 Public Participation**

The councillors reviewed Lee Parker's previously submitted report, and he updated councillors that Babergh has now agreed a balance budget, raised an objection to the proposed pylons between Norwich and Tilbury and is now reviewing the responses to its call for sites.

**Cllr Taylor arrived.**

The councillors reviewed James Finch's previously submitted report, and he updated councillors on a new SEN school in Bury St Edmunds, the resignation of SCC's chief executive and the fact that he is not standing in the forthcoming elections after 17 years' service. The councillors thanked James for all the support he has given Newton during his years of public service.

**26/047 Emails circulated**

Following a review of the emails circulated there was no further actions requested of the Clerk.

**26/048 Clerk's Report (Appendix A)**

Following a review of the Clerk's report there were no further actions requested of the Clerk. The Clerk further updated councillors that Babergh has extended the Asset of Community Value status on the Saracens Head until 10<sup>th</sup> March 2031.

**26/049 Planning**

- a. The councillors reviewed **Planning Application DC/25/05260 Valley Farm, Valley Road -** Erection of agricultural building (retention of).and resolved to object to the application due to the original specifications for the building not being adhered to.
- b. The council has received no further planning application since the agenda was posted, requiring a response before the next meeting.
- c. The councillors reviewed the status of previous applications, appeals and enforcement referrals (Appendix B). They requested Lee Parker to investigate the background of Planning Application DC/26/00074 which appears to have bypassed Newton Parish Council.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

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**26/050 Saracens Head**

On 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026, the council facilitated a village meeting, attended by 40 residents, to discuss the sale of the Saracens Head. The pub is designated as an Asset of Community Value because of its importance to our village. The freehold sale price is £700,000 + VAT and the selling agent is Christie & Co.

Everybody at the meeting agreed they would like to see the Saracens Head continue trading as a pub offering food and drink and owned / managed by people experienced in the hospitality sector. However, should no offers come forward, the local community would then have the option of raising the funds to purchase the premises. At the end of the meeting residents gave their email details to the Clerk, so that they could be kept up to date with developments.

**26/051 Finance**

- a. The councillors authorised all payments made and to be made, as itemised in the RFO Report (Appendix C) as well as a payment to Newton Village Hall for £405 relating to hall hire charges. They also noted the income received since the last meeting, the bank reconciliation and the actuals vs. budget for the receipts and payments.
- b. The councillors reviewed the late notice from Babergh of the increase in the bin emptying charges for 2026 / 27. They agreed to request permission from Babergh for a further dog bin to be installed along the road to the golf club by Saracens pond.
- c. After reviewing the NPC asset register, the councillors agreed that it was a true reflection of the assets.

**26/052 Walking Infrastructure Project**

The councillors reviewed the progress of applications for grants towards the cost of the Walking Infrastructure improvements. SCC Transport has agreed to pay for the costs (£25,956) of relocating the bus stop and shelter on the Green; Babergh's CIL Team have agreed that the project is eligible for a grant up to £100,000, subject to a successful application; Newton Green Trust has donated £80,000 towards the project and NPC has allocated £20,000 of its CIL receipts. Whilst Sport England has judged that the scheme does not meet its criteria, responses are awaited from SCC's Active Travel, Awards for All England and a local charity.

James Finch confirmed that SCC was going to support Newton's Walking Infrastructure scheme and cover the shortfall between the scheme costs minus the £225,956 raised by NPC's fundraising efforts. He will arrange for NPC to receive a written confirmation of the offer from the Directorate concerned. The councillors thanked James for all his efforts in gaining the support and looked forward to receiving the detailed plans of the scheme from Suffolk Highways.

**26/053 Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Presland updated councillors on the meeting with Chris Bowden which covered the strategic direction that the review of the NNP could take. It is planned to give residents an update on the plan for the review at the coffee morning on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2026 starting at 10am (Minute 26/056).

**26/054 Maintenance Programme**

The councillors resolved the following works to be undertaken:

- Broxap - Annual Service and resetting of the chest press equipment - £913 + VAT
- Wickstead – Fix minor items highlighted in RoSPA report – Free of charge
- Premier Sports Surfaces – MUGA annual maintenance
- Elan City – new batteries for SID - £159.92 + VAT.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

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Councillors noted the response from Wicksteed that the “loose eye bolts” on the Tango Seat on the Swing are designed with a slight bit of twisting on them therefore there are no works required for this item. They have also given a maintenance guide for the zip wire and the swirl roundabout, which had major services and replacement parts last year, for our action.

**26/055 Asset Replacement**

The councillors resolved that the litter bin in the play equipment area be replaced with one matching the bin outside the MUGA as well as new signage for visitors entering the recreation ground.

**26/056 Litter Pick & Coffee Morning**

The litter pick will take place at 8.30am on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March starting from the Village Hall. The councillors reviewed the Risk Assessment for the event and were happy with the contents. Cllr Taylor will put out the “men at work” road signs for the event. The Clerk will prepare the bacon rolls and Cllr Schwenk will organise the tea and coffee.

The plans for the coffee morning, which is due to start at 10am, were reviewed by councillors. This year the event will be used by the Neighbourhood Plan working party to present villagers with an outline of the project and to start the consultation process. Lee Parker will also give a Babergh perspective to the review.

**26/057 Council mobile phone**

The councillors reviewed the Clerk’s proposal for a council mobile phone and resolved the purchase with a budget of £170 for the phone and £10 a month for usage costs.

**26/058 GDPR Data Map**

The councillors reviewed that GDPR Data Map and agreed that it accurately reflected NPC’s current responsibilities in terms of data protection.

**26/059 Year Plan**

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

**26/060 Walk of the Parish**

The councillors did not have any items to raise.

**26/061 Village Hall and Trust updates**

Cllr Taylor informed councillors that at their last meeting the trustees agreed to donate £80,000 towards the Walking Infrastructure project. The councillors greatly appreciated the trustees generosity towards the project. Cllr Schwenk updated councillors that the Village Hall were looking for a new treasurer.

**26/062 Questions to the Chair**

There were no questions raised.

**26/063 Next meetings**

NPC’s next scheduled meeting of NPC will be on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2026 in the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

**The meeting closed at 8.52pm.**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date

**NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL**Minutes of Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at Newton Village Hall**Appendix A Clerk's Report**

Minute	Action	Complete ✓
26/024	Minutes sent to BRN and updated on website.	✓
26/029	Sent NPC's views on planning application to the LPA.	✓
26/030	Financials re Saracens sale provided to councillors.	✓
26/031 a	Suppliers paid.	✓
26/031 b	SLA signed and returned to Sudbury Town Council.	✓
26/032	Application made to Newton Green Trust.	✓
26/034	Policies and Procedures updated on website.	✓
26/035	Website updated with GoStart details.	✓
26/040	Clerk's appraisal filed with job holder and Chairman.	✓
	<b>Clerk's Actions &amp; Delegated Power</b>	
	None.	
	<b>Clerk Hours</b>	
	1st April 2025 to 1st March 2026 - Paid 576 / Worked 602 / Holiday taken 36 hours.	

**Appendix B 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	
Appeal Reference: 6001473	1A Links View - Appeal of refusal for the erection of a garage/workshop.	25/203b	Noted	Dismissed 24/02/2026
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	
DC/25/05504	Village Hall, The Green - Resurfacing of car park.	26/029a	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	Monthly fee January	£ 3.00
Unity Trust	Service Charge February	£ 6.00

**Receipts received since last meeting**

NONE

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date

Newton Parish Council adopted the General Power of Competence on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023

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	<b>Bank Reconciliation at 28/02/2026</b>		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2025		37,365.79
	<b>ADD</b> Receipts 01/04/2025 - 28/02/2026		48,196.83
			85,562.62
	<b>SUBTRACT</b> Payments 01/04/2025 - 28/02/2026		24,282.05
<b>A</b>	<b>Cash in Hand 28/02/2026</b> (per Cash Book)		<b>61,280.57</b>
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 31/01/2026	0.00	
	Unity Trust Bank - Current Account 28/02/2026	1,779.93	
	Unity Trust Bank - Savings Account 28/02/2026	59,500.64	
	Lloyds Corporate Purchasing Card 28/02/2026	0.00	
			<b>61,280.57</b>
	Less unrepresented payments		
			61,280.57
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
<b>B</b>	<b>Adjusted Bank Balance</b>		<b>61,280.57</b>
	<b>A = B Checks out OK</b>		

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

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**Newton Parish Council**  
**Summary of Receipts and Payments**  
**Summary - Cost Centres Only**

Cost Centre	Receipts			Payments			Net Position +/- Under/over spend
	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	
Administration			0.00 (N/A)	3,934.00	2,971.18	962.82 (24%)	962.82
Annual Subscription			0.00 (N/A)	550.00	531.59	18.41 (3%)	18.41
Asset Management			0.00 (N/A)	4,510.00	1,047.00	3,463.00 (76%)	3,463.00
CIL		17,915.75	17,915.75 (179157)		3,158.83	-3,158.83 (-31588)	14,756.92
Clerk Salary			0.00 (N/A)	15,212.85	10,556.71	4,656.14 (30%)	4,656.14
Digital			0.00 (N/A)	860.00	930.06	-70.06 (-8%)	-70.06
Donations			0.00 (N/A)	800.00	918.00	-118.00 (-14%)	-118.00
Grants	212.64	213.00	0.36 (0%)			0.00 (N/A)	0.36
Open Spaces			0.00 (N/A)	4,565.00	2,816.40	1,748.60 (38%)	1,748.60
Other Income	535.00	739.64	204.64 (38%)			0.00 (N/A)	204.64
Other Payments			0.00 (N/A)			0.00 (N/A)	0.00
Precept	26,479.94	26,479.94	0.00 (N/A)			0.00 (N/A)	0.00
Projects & Events			0.00 (N/A)	750.00		750.00 (100%)	750.00
Recycling	425.00	269.01	-155.99 (-36%)			0.00 (N/A)	-155.99
<b>NET TOTAL</b>	<b>27,652.58</b>	<b>45,617.34</b>	<b>17,964.76 (64%)</b>	<b>31,181.85</b>	<b>22,929.77</b>	<b>8,252.08 (26%)</b>	<b>26,216.84</b>

Total for ALL Cost Centres	45,617.34	22,929.77
V.A.T.	2,579.49	1,352.28
<b>GROSS TOTAL</b>	<b>48,196.83</b>	<b>24,282.05</b>

Committed Spending						
Meeting Date	Minute	Supplier	Cost Net	VAT	Total	Budget
10/07/24	24/114	Newton PCC	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00	Donations
12/11/25	25/191	LUC	£9,608.81	£1,921.76	£11,530.57	CIL
11/02/26	26/032	Suffolk Highways	£20,000.00	£0.00	£20,000.00	CIL
			<b>£29,808.81</b>	<b>£1,921.76</b>	<b>£31,730.57</b>	

**Payments for your authorisation**

	Net	VAT	Gross	Budget
DF Crimmin	£169.49	£0.00	£169.49	Admin Expenses
DF Crimmin	£2,578.20	£0.00	£2,578.20	Salary
DF Crimmin	£78.00	£0.00	£78.00	WFHA
HMRC	£940.54	£0.00	£940.54	Clerk Tax & Er's NI
Garden Arbs	£450.00	£90.00	£540.00	Footpath Maintenance

**End of Appendices**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

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