



Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish held at 7pm on the 8th May 2024 at the Newstead Centre, Tilford Road

1. To approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on the May 2023. and discuss any matters arising – a full copy of the minutes can be found on the Newstead Parish Council website
<https://newsteadparishcouncil.org.uk/>

Those present approved the minutes as accurate

2. To receive the Councils Annual Report
The Council noted the report from Cllr Futers, which is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

3. To receive reports from the Borough and County Councillor's
Report from the County Councillor

Cllr Barnfather commented on the recent elections held to appoint a Mayor of the East Midlands Combined County Authority, which consisted of Nottingham City and County, together with Derby City plus County. Cllr Barnfather explained the intention of the combined authority was to bring down existing powers from Westminster and brought with it substantial funding to the tune of £4 billion pounds. Claire Ward (Labour) had been elected, who would chair a 12 strong cabinet, consisting of two members from each of the different authorities. Of the £4 billion, £1.5 billion had been earmarked for local transport schemes including half a billion towards improvements to highways. By comparison the budget held by Notts County Council for highway improvements was just £37 million. Closer to home Cllr Barnfather made reference to the new video, which highlighted how the new Notts County Council Head Office at Top Wighay would look once completed. In terms of matters affecting Newstead, the new interactive bus stop display on Hucknall Road had been installed. Tree works have been agreed on the land behind Chatsworth Terrace. In terms of the Youth Club, a Team leader had been appointed with two



further part time posts to be appointed. The original Youth Club Committee has now been disbanded with any remaining funds being transferred to NCC Youth Services, but specifically ringfenced for use in Newstead. Money from this had been used towards a trip to Hagg Farm. Cllr Barnfather has also agreed £500 towards upgrading the wi-fi in the Youth Club. As agreed at the last meeting, Cllr Barnfather had indicated to the Estates Dept that the Allotment Association should be first choice as regards the land next to the small children's play park. A grant of £200 had been made to the 1st Able Scout Group.

Report from the Borough Cllr

Cllr Martin Smith advised he was delighted to be re-elected and had tried his best to follow up the concerns both from the council and residents direct. He had recently chased up the position in respect of the small children's play park. Following an email from the Locum Clerk, he had chased Gedling BC in terms of the lease position of the site, which he understood had not yet been renewed. He advised this was currently sitting between the legal departments of the two authorities involved and he would monitor this, as without a lease agreement being in force, it would not be possible to secure funding for the improvements.

Finally, on a personal note, Chris and Martin both emphasised how much they enjoyed working with the Council.

4. Questions, comments, and statements from members of the public
No members of the public were present at the meeting.



Appendix

Newstead Parish Council Annual Report 2024

During May 2023, all wards in Newstead Parish area were uncontested, so no elections for Parish seats were required.

The present climate continues to be financially challenging and it was with much regret that Newstead nursery was forced to close in May last year, due to lack of funding. However, I am now pleased to advise that a new use for the building has been found with CAST shortly to take up residence.

This year has seen some historic events, with the coronation of King Charles III and in summer the Council were able to provide much input toward the Summer family fun event.

The Council were also delighted to welcome a new Cubs and Beavers group, run under the auspices of the 1st Able Scout group, who continue to meet at Newstead Youth Club, usually on a Monday evening. We have also been able to support the group with the hire of the centre and other items used for activities for the young people of the parish.

Over the past twelve months, the Parish Council has continued to provide its regular services.

Our thanks go again to Cllr Sherlock, who has continued to care for the village planters, and we hope our parishioners were able to enjoy the flowers as they bloomed. During June, Cllr Williams organised the return of the garden competition, which saw a number of entries and was an inspiration for all.

The Council's web page and Facebook page were moved to a new host and continues to provide residents with a central point for updates on key projects and activities of the Council and as a signposting service for further support. Thanks to Cllr Moore for assisting in making this site much more user friendly and informative for our Parishioners. My thanks are also extended to Cllr Astill for continuing to maintain the Facebook page with regular postings of informative information for residents. We hope our parishioners appreciate these improvements and continue to post comments to various events/topics raised.

Other activities of the Council, to name a few, include: • Reviewing planning applications • the services provided by the Lengthsman, which includes cutting hedges, clearing gullies/drains, litter picking and other ad hoc jobs as required • Continued maintenance of several areas of the village including cutting of the village green and upkeep of Newstead Wildlife Meadow. Other projects have included the provision of a new metal bench near the junction of Fraser Street/Tilford Road and major tree works, which have been carried out in both the New Cemetery and Old Cemetery primarily to remove trees suffering from Ash Dieback. Due to the high costs involved, the work has been staggered over three years with the final phase taking place later this year.

Several litter picks have also taken place in the parish throughout the year, although these had not always been as well attended as hoped. The Council also hosted a 'Meet your Council event'.

The Council has awarded grants to The 1st Able Cub and Scouts group towards rent (£390) and also the Summer Family Fun Day (£300). As always, we continue to welcome and encourage applications.



The Parish Council continue to push for improvements to the small children's play park off Tilford Road and have been assured by Gedling Borough Council, as part of their Green Space Strategy, that they will be looking to carry out a major revamp of the park during 2025/2026. In the meantime, some work was carried out to repair the safety surfacing and the repair of some equipment.

December heralded another successful Christmas lunch event, which took place at the Newstead Centre and was attended by some 60 people. Many thanks to the staff at the Centre and fellow councillors, all of whom helped serve the Christmas lunch and ensured this was a most enjoyable event for all.

At present, there are currently three vacancies on the Council, and it is my hope these vacancies will be filled shortly.

I also thank my fellow Councillors for their hard work, dedication and support over the last 12 months and also our County Cllr Chris Barnfather and Borough Cllrs, Martin Smith, Sue Pickering and Stuart Bestwick, all of whom continue to appraise us of matters affecting both the Borough and County Council and in following up enquiries with the same councils.

Lastly on behalf of the Council I would like to thank our Clerk, Vikki Arkell, who has done an excellent job in her role especially given the arrival of baby Ezra in February this year. Many congratulations to our Clerk. I would like to thank her for the smooth handover to the Locum Clerk, Mrs J Johnson, who is presently assisting the Council in its day-to-day activities, whilst Vikki remains as the Responsible Financial Officer.

Signed

Councillor Kyle Futers, Vice Chairman
Newstead Parish Council