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Minutes of the meeting of Newstead Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 11th February 2026 at the Newstead Centre, Tilford Road, Newstead

Present: Cllrs; Emma Astill (Chairman), Tim Moore (Vice Chairman), Ernest Hardy, Glynis Williams, Melanie Sherlock, Callum Astill, Patricia Andrews & Bruce Andrews. Also present: County Councillor Stuart Bestwick and Borough Councillor Martin Smith and Jack Maloney Clerk & RFO.

- 25.158 To receive apologies for absence
Cllrs. Kyle Futers and Sue Pickering
- 25.159 Declaration of members' interests for this meeting
None
- 25.160 To receive reports from County and Borough Councillors
Cllr Smith informed the Council that the Council Tax Reduction Scheme will continue under the existing arrangements from Gedling. He advised that the reorganisation of leisure centres is progressing, with Richard Herod Centre scheduled to close and Calverton Centre currently under review and potentially facing closure. He also noted that a public consultation on local government reorganisation is available on the Gedling website for a six week period. Cllr Moore offered to add further details and a link to the website to enable residents to submit comments.
Cllr Bestwick confirmed that funding for the Lengthsman service remains unchanged and that, unfortunately, it would mean that working hours would be reduced. He reported that numerous potholes have been identified and encouraged direct contact with him to report any additional issues. At present, only Category 1 potholes, defined as those exceeding 4 cm in depth, are being repaired.
- 25.161 Public session: Members of the public can take this opportunity to discuss Parish matters with Councillors
No public were present
- 25.162 Correspondence received
The Clerk informed the Council that a resident had been in contact to raise concerns about motorbikes being ridden over and damaging the playing field at the pit, a response was made outlining that it is a police matter and encouraging the resident to make a report. The Clerk has been in contact with PC Hannah Stubbs to invite her to a Parish Council meeting but unfortunately the PC and PCSO are not on shift for any of the upcoming meetings. PC Stubbs confirmed that she is liaising with the police off road bike team to arrange a date for them to attend the village. Cllr Astill said that she had been contacted by some residents requesting a date for the next litter pick, the Council asked the Clerk to add this to the next agenda.
- 25.163 To receive an update from the Clerk regarding the bank between Hazelford Way and the Village
The Clerk had contacted the officer at Gedling directly to ask for an update regarding the fly tipping and general maintenance of the area. They confirmed they had visited the site at the beginning of the month, removed waste and swept the footpath. The Council expressed that there were still works required, Cllr. Bestwick suggested he could meet a member of the Council along with the officer at Gedling to make them aware of these.
- 25.164 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of the 14th January as accurate
With one minor spelling correction, the Council resolved to accept the minutes as accurate.

Finance

- 25.165 To note/approve the payment of invoices received in January 2026
The Clerk highlighted that 10 bags of grit had been ordered and paid for under delegation, as the stock was depleted, at a cost of £60. The Council noted the invoices paid in January
- 25.166 To review the bank reconciliation, financial summary and the budget status
Cllr E Astill reviewed the bank reconciliation and signed it as accurate.
- 25.167 To review cashflow and consider reserves
The Clerk highlighted that the remaining funds in the general fund were insufficient to cover outgoing payments until the end of the financial year. They explained that this was due to an outstanding refund from HMRC from 2024, which is being chased. The Council resolved to use the general reserves if required as these will be replenished once the refund is received in the next financial year.

General Matters Concerning the Parish

- 25.168 To assign jobs for the Lengthsman
The Council resolved to add clearing the path on the circle around chapel to the Lengthsman's jobs.
- 25.169 To discuss the funding bid submission for the playground renovation project
The Clerk explained that due to the lease between Nottingham County Council and Gedling Borough Council not being agreed in time, the submission would now be delayed until the May submission deadline. All consultations and reports produced by the Clerk and Newstead Parish Council are completed, ready and waiting for the new deadline.
- 25.170 To consider the replacement of the missing Newstead entrance sign
The Council discussed the missing sign. As this is a high-cost item that has not been included in the next financial year budget, the Council agreed to consider purchasing a replacement if funding becomes available. After confirmation from Nottingham County Council that the signs had been gifted to the Parish, the Council also resolved to add the remaining signs to the asset register and ensure they are insured.
- 25.171 To finalise the purchase and installation of a Sherwood Forest plaque
The Council resolved to purchase a plaque to celebrate Newstead being in the historic Sherwood Forest boundary. Cllrs Smith, Bestwick & Pickering offered to contribute funds to the Council to cover the purchase. The Councillors agreed to find a suitable location for the plaque to be fixed before Sherwood Forest Day on the 20th February.
- 25.172 To discuss the proposal to display a local poem
The proposed plaque will display the poem written by Newstead resident and veteran of the First World War, Sam Dixon. The Council asked the Clerk to gather costings for a printed metal plaque to fix to the railings of the war memorial. Cllrs Bestwick, Smith and Pickering kindly offered a donation of £25 each towards the plaque.
- 25.173 To note the date and time of the next meeting: 11th March at 7:30pm
The Council noted the date and time of the next meeting