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Minutes of the meeting of Newstead Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 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. Also present: Jack Maloney Clerk & RFO.

25.174 To receive apologies for absence

Cllrs Kyle Futers, Patricia Andrews, Bruce Andrews, Sue Pickering, Stuart Bestwick and Martin Smith

25.175 Declaration of members' interests for this meeting

Cllrs E Astill and Williams declared an interest in items 25.181 and 25.183 as members of Newstead Events.

25.176 To receive reports from County and Borough Councillors

None.

25.177 Public session: Members of the public can take this opportunity to discuss Parish matters with Councillors

No public were present.

25.178 Correspondence received

Cllr C Astill had received a complaint from a resident about a bin discarded near Hazelford Way, Cllr Moore explained that when he'd met with the officer from Gedling earlier they had agreed to remove it on their next visit.

25.179 To receive an update regarding the bank between Hazelford Way and the Village

Cllr Moore reported that he had a successful meeting with the officer from Gedling Borough Council responsible for maintaining the area, they reviewed work that been carried out at the top of the terrace earlier in the day and agreed this looked good. The corner around Foundry Terrace was addressed as this is the area that has been neglected, with the asbestos and other fly tipping brought to their attention. Cllr Moore had posed the question about the fence being removed so the Parish Council could try to help maintain this area as well.

25.180 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of the 11<sup>th</sup> February as accurate

The Council resolved to accept the minutes as accurate.

#### Finance

25.181 To note/approve the payment of invoices received in February 2026

The Council noted the invoices paid in February. The Council resolved to pay the Clerks expenses of £7.98 for printer paper. The Council noted the £75 grant received from the Borough Councillors for the Easter event and resolved to donate this to Newstead Events.

25.182 To review the bank reconciliation, financial summary and the budget status

Cllr E Astill reviewed the bank reconciliation and signed it as accurate. The Clerk highlighted that the Maternity pay refund from HMRC had been received so the Council has sufficient funds for the remainder of the financial year without having to borrow from reserves.

25.183 To review the outstanding unspent grants from 2024/25

The Clerk informed the Council that there are two unspent grants that are due to expire, one for £338.33 plus £50 which was paid to the Newstead Centre as printing credit which remains unspent. The recipient of this

grant has stated they do not plan to run any future sessions, and the money can be reallocated. The second was for £45, this grant will expire on the 19<sup>th</sup> March. The Council resolved that the credit for printing at the Newstead Centre should be gifted to Newstead Events and the unspent funds would remain in reserves to be allocated as additional grant funding for the next financial year.

25.184 To note the updated asset register

The Council noted that the welcome to Newstead sign and Sherwood Forest plaque had been added to the asset register. The Clerk informed the Council that the Village Welcome Sign was now covered by insurance with no change to the premium for this year.

### Cemetery

25.185 To discuss the conditions relating to the pre-purchase of cemetery plots

Cllr E Astill informed the Council that during preparation for a recent burial, when the grave was prepared it became clear the conditions were unsafe due to water levels and instability. This resulted in the family having to choose an alternative space at short notice, it was explained how stressful this can be at such a difficult time. The Council discussed several recurring issues linked to graves being bought many years before they are needed and the impact this has on the grieving families. The Council resolved to change the policy, ending the pre-purchase of cemetery plots and to only allocate graves at the time of burial, based on current ground conditions, accurate measurements and proper safety assessment. They highlighted a need for a clause that allows the pre-purchase of a plot in exceptional circumstances.

25.186 To approve the revised cemetery regulations

The Council acknowledged the proposed changes to the cemetery regulations to clearly communicate the agreed change in conditions to the pre-purchase of cemetery plots; however the Council determined the wording of clause 5.1 needed clarifying so postponed accepting these changes until this is updated.

### General Matters Concerning the Parish

25.187 To receive an update on the Lengthsman jobs

The Clerk informed the Council that the Lengthsman would be replacing the capping stone at the cemetery, refilling the grit bins, clearing the paths near Chapel Terrace and painting the fence at the war memorial.

25.188 To discuss a litter clearing initiative in the Village

The Council discussed a way for more residents to be able to get involved with removing litter from the village without having to make a huge time commitment by introducing a 'Clean Your Street' day where residents would remove litter from the road they live on. The Council resolved to set a date of 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> March and that this would be communicated through social media and word of mouth. The Councillors would make litter picking equipment available to residents that would like to use it.

25.189 To consider remedial works for the MUGA based on the inspection

The Council resolved to approach CAST to see if they would be capable of addressing any of the hazards highlighted in the MUGA inspection, then consider any further works once they had attended.

25.190 To finalise the purchase and installation of the World War 1 poem

The Clerk approached three companies for quotes to fabricate a plaque to display Sam Dixon's World War 1 poem at the war memorial, one company informed that their material would not be suitable for the proposed use. The other two provided quotes for differing sizes of plaque. The Council considered the options and resolved to purchase the slightly larger plaque for £104.99 along with metal fence clips for installation, a budget of up to £30 was allocated for the fixings.

25.191 To discuss a commemorative item in memory of Philip Burnham

The Council discussed the tireless work Philip Burnham had done for the village of Newstead while he was a Councillor and that a tribute to him at the meadow would be a fitting way to honour him and his contribution to the local area. The Council resolved to set a budget of up to £75 to purchase a plaque to fix to the gate to

the meadow.

25.192 To note the date and time of the next meeting: 8<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30pm  
The Council noted the date and time of the next meeting.

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