

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Trustee Board of the Gilstrap and William Edward Knight Charities** held in the Civic Suite Castle House on Monday, 9 March 2026 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT:                      VOTING MEMBERS:  
Councillor I Brown, Councillor S Haynes, Councillor M Home, Councillor J Kellas and Councillor P Taylor

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:  
Councillor R Cozens, Councillor S Crosby, Councillor D Darby, Councillor D Moore and Councillor M Spoons

10     APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

The Trustees were asked to appoint a Chair for the Trustee Board of the Gilstrap and William Edward Knight Charities.

AGREED    (unanimously) that Councillor R Cozens be appointed as Chair to the Trustee Board of the Gilstrap and William Edward Knight Charities.

11     DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

NOTED:    that:

- a)    Councillor R Cozens, non-voting Member – declared a non-registrable interest regarding Agenda Item No. 8 – Funding Application – Friends of Newark Castle and Victorian Gardens, as she was the Portfolio Holder for Heritage, Culture & the Arts;
- b)    Councillor D Darby, non-voting Member – declared a non-registrable interest regarding Agenda Item No. 7 – Consultation on Improvements to Land off Cedar Avenue, as she was the Ward Member;
- c)    Councillor D Moore, non-voting Member – declared a non-registrable interest regarding Agenda Item No. 10 – Funding Application – the Gathering of the North Ltd. event in Sherwood Forest, as he is known to the applicant;
- d)    The following voting Members declared non-registrable interests, as elected Members of Newark Town Council.  
Councillor I Brown  
Councillor J Kellas  
Councillor P Taylor
- e)    The following non-voting Members declared an interest, as elected Members of Newark Town Council  
Councillor S Crosby  
Councillor D Moore

12 DECLARATION OF INTENTION TO RECORD THE MEETING

The Chair advised the Board that the meeting was being recorded and streamed online in accordance with usual practice.

13 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 JUNE 2026

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2026 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

14 APPOINTMENT OF CLERK AND DEPUTY CLERK

The Board considered a report from the Monitoring Officer, which sought approval of the appointment of the Clerk and Deputy Clerk to the Board of Trustees of the Gilstrap Charity and William Edward Knight Trust.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- a) the appointment of the Monitoring Officer as Clerk to the Board of Trustees and William Edward Knight Trust be approved; and
- b) the appointment of the Deputy Monitoring Officer as the Deputy Clerk to the Board of Trustees to the Gilstrap Charity and William Edward Knight Trust be approved.

The Chair, with the permission of the Board, agreed for the change to the order of business, Agenda Item No. 8 – Funding Application – Friends of Newark Castle and Victorian Gardens was taken as the next item of business. Agenda Item No. 7 – Consultation on Improvements to Land off Cedar Avenue followed, the agenda resumed its stated order thereafter.

15 FUNDING APPLICATION - FRIENDS OF NEWARK CASTLE AND VICTORIAN GARDENS

The Committee considered an application for grant funding from the Friends of Newark Castle & Victorian Gardens, for a project to support the promotion of education and understanding to one of Newark's most significant historic buildings and to tie together the historic landscape of the town. An amount of £50,000 was sought and information on funds raised so far was included in the report.

Mrs Sharon Morley, representative of the Friends of Newark Castle and volunteer, attended the meeting and provided information to the Board including the aims of the project and answered Members questions.

Members felt that the application was in line with the criteria to reflect the Gilstrap Charity's purpose and objectives.

AGREED (with 4 votes For and 1 vote Against) that the application for funding of £50,000 be granted to the Friends of Newark Castle & Victorian Gardens.

16 CONSULTATION ON IMPROVEMENTS TO LAND OFF CEDAR AVENUE

The Board considered a report from the Monitoring Officer which sought consultation on proposals to improve facilities at the land off Cedar Avenue.

On 20 January 2026 at a Cabinet meeting of Newark & Sherwood District Council, a report on a Parks & Open Spaces Development Plan was considered. The report was contained as Appendix 1 to report on the agenda. As part of the report, three strategic sites in the District were approved for potential investment in new facilities with consultation on those sites to be undertaken in 2026/27. One of the sites identified was the land off Cedar Avenue/Lincoln Road. The site was owned by the Gilstrap Charity and was an area of open space which currently holds a Multi-Use Games Area and a small youth shelter. Any decisions on improvement to the site or improvement of facilities ultimately required approval from the Trust. At this stage, proposals for improvement were at an early stage with no final funding source, design or maintenance agreed. However, the report referenced potential funding through the Pride In Place Programme which had been made available for Newark. The report suggested there may be a case for investigating the provision on site of a “pump-track” for BMX, skateboard and scooter usage. The report also recognised that wider consultation with communities and key stakeholders was required to further develop proposals.

It was proposed that the Trust supported the consultation being undertaken in respect of the site, noting that this was being undertaken at a formative stage and did not commit the Trust to any decision in relation to the approval of future changes to the site. Any final agreement to development of the site would be made at a future meeting of the Trust supported by evidence from the consultation, more detailed proposals on design, funding and maintenance and with regard to the Charities objectives.

Members considered the report and it was commented that there was a long history with Cedar Avenue Park. The park was an asset owned by the charity, which may be transferred to Newark Town Council for a relatively small sum of money. The charity currently paid the maintenance cost of the land. It was considered that the land should be protected from development and if any development was proposed, Newark Town Council needed to be engaged first. It was felt that it was not right for the Board to consider this without Newark Town Council being consulted to get their feedback in the first instance.

A Member requested that a pack of all previous reports relating to Land off Cedar Avenue be prepared for the Board Members and that members of the community be invited to tell the Board their vision, as previously tree planting was requested, that however was considered as an Anti-Social behaviour concern.

Councillors J Kellas and P Taylor declared a non-registrable interest on this item as they were Members of Newark Town Council.

**AGREED** (unanimously) that the item be deferred pending further information regarding clarity of Charity Commission; views of Newark Town Council; and whether this has been included within the Newark Neighbourhood Plan. A report to be submitted to the next meeting of the Board or an extraordinary meeting.

17 FUNDING APPLICATION - MATERNAL MINDS

The Committee considered an application for grant funding to support Maternal Minds CIC to deliver sessions to support mothers experiencing mild to moderate perinatal challenges. An amount of £4,000 was sought.

Members felt that the application was in line with the criteria to reflect the Gilstrap Charity's purpose and objectives.

The Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing & Leisure confirmed that she would also take this back and see if any additional work could be undertaken by Newark & Sherwood District Council.

AGREED (with 3 votes For and 2 Abstentions) that the application for funding of £4,000 be granted to the Maternal Minds CIC.

18 FUNDING APPLICATION - THE GATHERING OF THE NORTH LTD EVENT IN SHERWOOD FOREST

The Committee considered an application for grant funding to support the Gathering of the North Ltd event in Sherwood Forest. The application sought a total of £9,000 in grant funding to support a three day jousting event as part of a wider event to be held between the 23 and 25 May 2026 at Sherwood Forest in Edwinstowe. The event was a heritage event showcasing medieval history through authentic re-enactments and immersive experiences. The event was also funded through sponsorship and pitch fees, contribution from the RSPB and from the events team.

Members felt that the application was not in line with the criteria to reflect the Gilstrap Charity's purpose and objectives and therefore declined the application.

AGREED (unanimously) that the application for funding of £9,000 be declined.

19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

NOTED: the next meeting of the Board would take place on 22 June 2026

Meeting closed at 7.37 pm.

Chair