



Needham Market Town Council

Needham Market town Council Office, Community Centre, School Street, Needham Market, Suffolk IP6 8BB
01449 722246
<https://www.needhammarket-tc.gov.uk/>
Town Clerk/RFO: Georgina de Cova
Assistant Clerk: Jessica Green

Needham Market Town Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 6th January 2026

Held at: The Green Room, Community Centre, School Street, Needham Market. Meeting started at 19:00

Councillors Present:

J Reardon (Chair), A Reardon, G Blake, K Hunter, C Goodchild, I Mason, R Darnell, L Chandler, and T Cooke

Also in Attendance:

G de Cova (Town Clerk and RFO) and District Councillors T Lawrence and R Piper

NMTC/25/166 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Ost, O'Shea, Harrison and Smith had all sent apologies prior to the meeting.

Cllr Blake proposed that the apologies be accepted. Seconded by Cllr Goodchild. Majority in favour.

It was **Resolved** to accept the Apologies for Absence

NMTC/25/167 To receive any Declarations of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests by Members

No declarations were received.

NMTC/25/168 To approve any Dispensations with respect to Disclosable Non-Pecuniary Interests

No dispensations were applied for.

NMTC/25/169 To receive reports, if any, from the County Councillor and District Councillor

A report from the District Councillors had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr A Reardon had a query regarding the pink bins

District Cllr Lawrence confirmed that between himself and District Cllr Piper, there was a total of £20000 budgeted for 2025/26 locality grants. He read out a list of organisations within the area which they cover that had benefitted from the money. They have no budget left for the year.

NMTC/25/170 To receive and confirm the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 9th December 2025

Cllr A Reardon suggested a small addition, which was agreed to be accurate.



Needham Market Town Council

Needham Market town Council Office, Community Centre, School Street, Needham Market, Suffolk IP6 8BB
01449 722246
<https://www.needhammarket-tc.gov.uk/>
Town Clerk/RFO: Georgina de Cova
Assistant Clerk: Jessica Green

Cllr Hunter proposed the minutes be confirmed, with the small addition to be added. Seconded by Cllr Goodchild. All in favour.

It was **Resolved** to confirm the minutes of 9th December 2025 as an accurate record, once the addition is made

NMTC/25/171 Matters arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting

No matters were raised.

NMTC/25/172 To receive questions from any members of the public present

No members of the public are present

NMTC/25/173 To receive a report from the Town Clerk

The Clerk gave a verbal report. She gave information on a communication received from a local business regarding maintenance of the areas surrounding the public car parks in Jubilee Crescent and asked if Council felt it were appropriate for follow up. Council agreed that it was a good opportunity.

AP: Clerk to contact the business.

NMTC/25/174 To discuss and agree the precept for the 2026/27 year

Councillors had been sent information on options for the precept for 2026/27 prior to the meeting. Based on the budget that had already been agreed, Councillors felt that a precept for 2026/27 of £190200 would be appropriate

Cllr Hunter proposed that the precept for 2026/27 be £190200. Seconded by Cllr Goodchild. Six in favour. Two objections

It was **Resolved** that the precept for 2026/27 be £190200

NMTC/25/175 To receive and approve the accounts for payment and confirmation

Councillors had been sent the Accounts for Payments and Confirmation prior to the meeting. Cllr A Reardon proposed that Accounts for Payment and Confirmation be approved. Cllr Cooke seconded. All in favour.

It was **Resolved** to approve the Accounts for Payment and Confirmation.

NMTC/25/176 To consider Grants/Donations for 2025/26

No requests had been received.

NMTC/25/177 To discuss and agree next steps in relation to Assertion 10 compliance, relating to the website

The Clerk confirmed that the website is WCAG 2.2 AA compliant, as per information received from the provider of the website. The only issue with compliance would be documents and



Needham Market Town Council

Needham Market town Council Office, Community Centre, School Street, Needham Market, Suffolk IP6 8BB
01449 722246
<https://www.needhammarket-tc.gov.uk/>
Town Clerk/RFO: Georgina de Cova
Assistant Clerk: Jessica Green

images uploaded to the website, as well as any tables or textboxes that were being used. The Clerk confirmed that herself and the Assistant Clerk would be looking into files that were uploaded, as well as other items on the website.

NMTC/25/178 To discuss any nominations for Assets of Community Value

Cllr Goodchild confirmed the scope of what could be considered as an Asset of Community Value. No nominations were received at this time.

NMTC/25/179 To discuss and confirm the Town Council's view on current accessibility at Needham Market Railway Station

Councillors discussed the accessibility at the Train Station, and it was decided that the view of the Council be the following:

"The Council reasserts support of the statement that the Train Station is not sufficiently accessible, and proposals to improve accessibility would have the support of the Town Council"

Cllr Goodchild proposed that the Council adopt this view. Seconded by Cllr Cooke. Majority in favour.

It was **Resolved** that the Council agree with the above statement for matters pertaining to the Railway Station going forwards.

NMTC/25/180 To agree earmarking of reserves and CIL priorities as discussed at Community and Assets in December

Councillors at the Community and Assets meeting held in December discussed the priority in which to approach works and new projects. Councillors agreed that CIL money should be prioritised on new projects, and any reparations needed on items should come from reserves.

NMTC/25/181 To agree a Working Group for the Needham Market Christmas Fayre 2026

Cllrs Blake and Cooke both volunteered to be Council representatives on the Working Group. Councillors were concerned that the main running of the event would fall on the Council Staff. Councillors felt that the Town Council should support the event.

AP: Cllr Cooke to contact Rev. Tracey James to get information on interested parties

NMTC/25/182 To receive reports from the following:

NMTC/25/182a Planning Committee

Cllr Hunter confirmed that the next meeting of the Neighbourhood plan review is to be held on Tuesday 20th January at 7pm in the Town Council Offices



Needham Market Town Council

Needham Market town Council Office, Community Centre, School Street, Needham Market, Suffolk IP6 8BB
01449 722246
<https://www.needhammarket-tc.gov.uk/>
Town Clerk/RFO: Georgina de Cova
Assistant Clerk: Jessica Green

NMTC/25/182b Governance and Finance Committee

Cllr Goodchild gave a small update on matters arising since the Governance and Finance Committee meeting held in December.

NMTC/25/182c Community and Assets Committee

The next meeting of the Community and Assets Committee is to be held on Tuesday 3rd March 2026, in The Green Room of Needham Market Community Centre.

NMTC/25/182d Civic Events Working Group

Cllr A Reardon confirmed a meeting was being held on Monday 12th January regarding the Needham Market 800 event. She also confirmed that the date for the Civic Service would be April 26th 2026.

NMTC/25/182e Climate Awareness Group

The next meeting is to be held soon, and they will be looking into improving the tree stakes and surrounds, as well as installing accessible signage for each tree.

NMTC/25/183 Matters to be raised by members

Cllr Goodchild requested that an items to discuss the 20's plenty campaign be put on a future agenda

Cllr J Reardon confirmed that quotations for the noticeboard and photocopier lease will be on the February Agenda.

NMTC/25/184 To confirm the Date, Time, and Location of the next Town Council Meeting.

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Town Council will be on Tuesday 10th February 2026 at 7PM in the Green Room of Needham Market Community Centre

Meeting closed at 20:00

Chairperson:

Date: