

Clerks Report for Newent Town Council Meeting 26 June 2023

Office

We are delighted to welcome the arrival of our new Administrative Assistant, Charlie Reynolds who commenced employment at the end of May, Charlie has settled in very quickly and we are all utilising her IT skills. We note with sadness the departure, on retirement, Dee Morley, Dee has given 33 years' service to Newent Town Council, we wish her well in her retirement and must record our uttermost and sincere gratitude for her excellent and outstanding service to both the Council and the Community.

Finally, the position of Secretary to the Recreation Ground Trust has been handed over to the Clerk.

Grounds Staff

Cllr Escritt and the Estates Supervisor undertook the recruitment process for the employment of a ground's maintenance assistant for a temporary six-month contract, unfortunately it was unsuccessful and there were no suitable candidates.

Due to the ongoing workload and change in staffing, a contractor has been appointed two days a week on a temporary basis to help out.

Moving forward, with direction from the Staffing Committee the Clerk has been in contact with local training providers and the local school to investigate the possibility of recruiting an apprentice to join the Estates team.

The Market House renovations have now been completed ahead of schedule, the building is now looking bright and refreshed. The volunteer Market House Stewards are prepared and ready to go for the beginning of the season and looking forward to showing members of the public around the building and talking through the memorabilia displays inside, the first open day is Saturday 1st July.

The town floral displays have now been planted and the watering program is in place along with the planting of the wild flower area at the lake.

The Town market licence has been renewed for another 12 months, the first Artisan market with Green Tops Events is planned for the 15th July in the market square and beneath the market house, then the third Saturday of each month throughout the summer months.

Councillors

It is pleasing to note the enthusiasm and commitment being demonstrated by the newly formed Council, they have some excellent ideas which they intend to roll out in the near future, one of which is better Community Engagement.

