

## **NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of Newent Town Council held on  
**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 at Room G4 Newent Community School, Watery Lane, Newent at 7.55pm**

Present: Councillors Mrs C Howley (Chairman), Mrs R Wadley, Mr R Beard, Ms G Moseley, Mrs S Marcovecchio, Mr E Wood, Mrs M Duffield, Mrs J Gooch, Mrs K Draper, Ms C Stone and Mrs K Selwyn.

Also present – The Clerk and 4 members of the public.

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### **Public Participation Session**

Speaker 1. Spoke about the Newent Neighbourhood Flood Association and the work the group was undertaking regarding the early warning flood device system situated between the flood defence bund at Scraggs Bank and Peacock Gardens (along Peacock Brook).

#### **1. To note apologies for absence.**

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Mrs W Odhiambo and Mr D Tinson.

#### **2. Declarations of Interest on items on the agenda.**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **3. To approve the Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

The council resolved by a majority decision that the Minutes were a true and accurate summary of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

#### **4. Clerk's update and matters arising from previous Minutes.**

##### **4.1. To note the Clerk's Report**

The clerk's report was noted.

## 5. Finance

5.1 To approve the accounts to be paid.

Payee	Total (£)	Description
Chris Hyett	105.00	Pest control Cemetery & lake
Dee Morley	30.00	Christmas Carol Mince Pies
Ermin Plant	32.26 197.76	Secure Fencing Around Cemetery Telescopic platform: H&S equip
GMT Solutions	189.12	Bronze Plan:365: Server: Circleloop system
KJS Accountants Ltd	335.00	Accounting & Monthly finance check
MKM BS (Newent) Ltd	9.00 10.76 3.58 3.58	Ball Valve Connector Speedfit connector: Speedfit connector Speedfit connector:
Newent Community School	30.00	School Room Hire 14 & 28 November 2022
Network Connections UK Ltd	854.40	CCTV Maintenance 01.01.23- 31.03.23
G D Parker & Co	17.97	Polish: hooks: Gaffa Tape
Peninsula H&S	173.42 22.28	December 2022 Business Safe Business Safe
<b>Total</b>	<b>2014.13</b>	

The Council by a unanimous decision approved the accounts to be paid to a value of **£2014.13**

5.2 To note the RFO Report

The RFO report was noted.

### Bank Reconciliation of 31.12.22

5.3 To note Bank Reconciliation for **31.12.22**

The Bank Reconciliation for **31.12.22** was noted

Current Account: £76,814.35

Deposit Account: £ 224,574.41

**Total**                    **£ 301,388.76**

5.4 To note Cashbook for **31.12.22**

The Cashbook for 31.12.22 was noted

5.5 To note Earmarked Reserves **31.12.22**

The Earmarked Reserve for 31.12.22 was noted.

Closing Balance **£192,604.19**

5.6 To note Income & Expenditure Report **31.12.22**

The Income & Expenditure Report for 31.12.22 was noted.

## **6. General Power of Competence**

6.1 To approve that Newent Town Council meets all the conditions required to be met to adopt and exercise the General Power of Competence further to Section 8(2) of the Localism Act 2011 and the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence)(Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012

The council resolved by a unanimous decision to approve that Newent Town Council meets all the conditions required to be met to adopt and exercise the General Power of Competence further to Section 8(2) of the Localism Act 2011 and the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence)(Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012

## **7. To approve the budget, and resultant PRECEPT of £354,432.61 for 2023/2024**

Councillor Mrs J Gooch requested a Named Recorded Vote on this item.

The Chairman identified that the Precept will need to be rounded up to the nearest decimal point as the Forest of Dean District Council were requesting whole numbers.

Councillors went through the draft Precept budget by each page and discussed the Precept and the work that the council will be aiming to undertake in the next financial year.

Further discussions occurred regarding the setting of the Precept.

Proposed: Councillor Ms C Stone  
Seconded: Councillor Mrs R Wadley

Favour: Councillors Mrs C Howley, Mrs R Wadley, Mr R Beard, Ms G Moseley, Mrs S Marcovecchio, Mr E Wood, Mrs M Duffield, Mrs K Draper, Ms C Stone and Mrs K Selwyn.

Against: Councillor Mrs J Gooch

Abstain: 0

The council resolved by a majority decision to approve the budget, and resultant PRECEPT of £354,433.00 for 2023/2024.

Councillor Mr R Beard left the meeting.

**8. To approve the Internal Auditor**

8.1 To approve Gloucester Association of Parish & Town Councils (GAPTC) as the Internal Auditor.

The council resolved by a unanimous decision to approve Gloucester Association of Parish & Town Councils (GAPTC) as the Internal Auditor.

**9. Newent Neighbourhood Development Plan (NNDP) Steering Group**

9.1 To note the minutes of the meeting 16.11.22

The minutes of the meeting held on the 16.11.22 were noted.

Councillor Mr R Beard returned to the meeting.

**10. Policy Reviews and updates**

10.1 To approve the Standing Orders January 2023

The council resolved by a unanimous decision to approve the Standing Orders January 2023, subject to the following changes:

Page 6 e to read:

“Members of the public may make representations at a meeting which they are entitled to attend without prior notice”.

Page 15 d to read:

**“Dispensation requests shall be in writing and submitted to the Proper Officer as soon as possible or 2 (two) days before the meeting.**

10.2 To approve the Financial Regulations January 2023

The council resolved by a unanimous decision to approve Financial Regulations January 2023.

10.3 To approve the Scheme of Delegation January 2023

The council resolved by a unanimous decision to approve Scheme of Delegation January 2023.

10.4 To approve the Grants & Donation Awarding Policy January 2023

The council resolved by a unanimous decision to approve the Grants & Donation Awarding Policy January 2023.

10.5 To approve the Training Policy

The council resolved by a unanimous decision to approve the Training Policy.

10.6 To approve the Recording of Council Meetings by Newent Town Council

The council resolved by a unanimous decision to approve the Recording of Council Meetings by Newent Town Council.

10.7 To approve the Freedom of Information Policy Statement

The council resolved by a unanimous decision to approve the Freedom of Information Policy Statement.

**11. Civility & Respect Pledge**

11.1 To sign the Civility & Respect Pledge developed in collaboration with The National Association of Local Councils (NALC), Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and other partners

The council resolved by a unanimous decision to approve the signing of the Civility & Respect Pledge developed in collaboration with The National Association of Local Councils (NALC), Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and other partners.

**12. Estate Supervisor's Report**

To note the Estate Supervisor's Report

The Estate Supervisor's Report was noted.

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.49pm**