

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Newent Town Council held on Monday 12 October 2015 at the Market House, Newent at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr E Wood (Mayor), Cllr D Blick (Deputy Mayor), Cllr R Beard, Cllr C Thomas, Cllr Mrs S Marcovecchio, Cllr Mrs K Draper, Cllr E Heathfield, Cllr Mrs C Howley, Cllr Mrs P Celino, Cllr J Celino, Cllr Mrs M Duncan

Apologies: Cllr Mrs J Davies, Cllr Miss M Shere

11.00 Approval of Minutes of Council meeting – 14 September 2015

Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting of 14 September 2015 was proposed by Cllr Wood and agreed after the following amendment:-

P. 60 Forest of Dean District Council – consultation on proposals to share services.

Cllr Heathfield advised the vote had not been unanimous as he had not raised his hand.

11.1 Matters Arising

P.59 9.1 6.4 – the Cycling Club to attend the next meeting to give presentation

P.60 9.6.2. – the Mayor advised that he and the Clerk had met with a person interested in becoming Newent's Town Crier. It was proposed that he attend a future meeting of the Council to give a "Shout" about Newent and to introduce themselves to Members for consideration as suitability to the Post. This was agreed.

P.60 9.6.7 Forest of Dean District Council – Local Plans Allocation Submission Draft 2015

The Clerk advised that the Town Council's comments had been included in the draft Plan and that the Plan had been submitted to the Secretary of State on 28 August 2015.

The Clerk read the District Council's response to the Town Council's submission – *"There is a need for new development to consider both the local need for younger children arising from a development and more general "youth/adult provision. It is necessary for new development to be able to show that the needs arising can be met. It is not however possible to provide over and above any additional need arising from the development so if there are already adequate facilities it is likely that no additional provision will be sought."* Members considered that the District Council had not taken account of their comments relating to the provision of recreational space and that a response be made that the Town Council was not satisfied with the Officer's comment.

P.63 Confidential 9.9.8 quotations for mobile radios

Cllr Blick advised he wished to raise a matter under confidential business.

11.2 Approval of Minutes of Council meeting of 28 September 2015

Cllr Wood proposed approval of the minutes of the Council meeting of 28 September 2015 which was agreed by 11 votes in favour 1 abstention after the following amendment:-

P.73 10.2.9 Amendment of fishing rules at Newent Lake

Last para.....add and Andrew Ellis

11.3 Matters Arising

P.69 10.1.1. Newent Rugby Club – request to place further container on Recreation Ground

The Clerk advised that the Rugby Club had suggested a number of dates with which to meet with the Advisory Group.

P.70 Cllr Beard advised that a meeting had taken with the Skate park representatives on the Recreation Ground. He reported that whilst the Council was fully supportive of provision for a skate park, it was found that the site was not totally suitable and other sites were being considered.

11.4 Finance & Sundry Payments

Cllr Wood declared an interest in this matter and left the meeting for the duration that this item was under discussion.

Finance & Sundry Payments were agreed and considered lawful to a figure of £18,011.87

11.5 Correspondence

11.5.1 Gloucestershire County Council – Armed Forces Covenant – signing for Parish Councils

The Clerk advised following the last meeting that both Lydney and Cinderford Councils had signed the Armed Forces Covenant

Cllr Celino spoke strongly in favour of the Council supporting the Armed Forces and in so doing signing the Armed Forces Covenant and stated that there would be no cost incurred in doing so. Cllr Blick formally proposed that the Council do so which was seconded by Cllr Mrs Howley and unanimously agreed.

11.5.1 Mr P Garwood – request to place bench at Newent Lake

Mr Garwood advised that he would like to place a Memorial bench at the Lake in the vicinity of a bench dedicated to County Archivist Kate Haslem at Newent Lake.

Cllr Blick expressed concern at the increasing number of benches at the Lake. He proposed that a bench - if not a memorial one at the far end of the Lake, be moved to the wooded area of the Lake near the brook, and this would leave a space for a new bench. This was agreed.

11.5.2 TGC Renewable Energy – Community Benefit Deed

The Clerk advised, following the Council questioning if Cllr Lawton had been involved in the planning process, that he had confirmed he had not been involved in this. In this circumstance, Cllr Beard proposed that the Council sign up to the Community benefit deed. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Howley and unanimously agreed.

11.5.3 Newent Initiative Trust – request to hold Brass Band concerts at the Lake during summer months in 2016

Cllr Wood proposed approval to the Brass Band concerts at the Lake during summer months in 2016 subject to the usual terms and conditions. This was agreed by 9 votes in favour, 2 abstentions.

11.6 Business

11.6.1 Planning applications – see attached

11.6.2 Outdoor gym – allocation of grant funding – Cllr Celino

Cllr Celino reminded Members that almost two years ago he had been approached by a member of the public who had enquired why Newent had not got an outdoor gym? He had looked into this type of facility including visiting nearby Ledbury who had recently installed such a gym on land in their ownership for the community and which appeared to be very popular. Following this he conducted a written Poll in the town centre and found that 96 out of 100 people who responded, were in favour of such a facility in Newent. Cllr Celino emphasised that whilst the facility was referred to as a “gym” the equipment was in fact meant for older people who wished to take some gentle exercise, and the equipment held no real resistance or facility to increase such. The former Boules Court at the Lake had been identified as being a suitable location to install the gym and a number of suppliers – of varying equipment had met with Cllr Celino and the Foreman on site to discuss suitability. A specification had been drawn up and they had come back with costings which had been put on hold for some time, whilst grant funding to assist with the purchase had been sought. Cllr Celino advised that such grant funding – through Gloucestershire County Council Active Together had now been approved by the local County Councillor and was awaiting confirmation. He further advised that he had sought and had received confirmation from the Suppliers that they were prepared to hold their prices to supply and install.

It was proposed at this point to discuss the Suppliers’ prices confidentially under Standing Orders, which was unanimously agreed.

11.6.3 To give further consideration to Council Offices following Advisory Group meeting

Cllr Wood proposed that due to possible financial implications, this matter be discussed confidentially under Standing Orders. This was agreed by 10 votes in favour, 1 against.

11.6.4 Upleadon Parish Council – proposed sale of Notice Board - £250.00

Following discussion at the previous meeting, a photograph of the noticeboard was passed around the table. Cllr Beard proposed the Council purchase the notice board at the asking price of £250.00 to be utilised in the Cemetery, which was seconded by Cllr Mrs Draper and agreed by 10 votes in favour, one abstention (Cllr Wood).

11.6.5 Policing Recreation Ground – Cllr Wood

Cllr Wood advised that anti-social behaviour on the Recreation Ground in the form of loud music into the early hours of the morning from cars frequenting the area, had been reported to him. The Clerk advised that a neighbour had reported such activity with car registration numbers to the Police but was told that low priority would be given to this. Whilst it was acknowledged there were two working cameras in the Recreation Ground, Cllr Wood felt that the Police were not giving a very good service to the community, as such he proposed that local beat Officer Rob Mortimer be asked to attend meetings of the Council regularly to communicate with the Council and to update Members of Police activity in the area. This was unanimously agreed.

11.6.6 Representative Reports

There were no representative reports

11.6.6 Any Other Business

It was proposed that the following items of business be discussed in Committee under Standing Orders;

11.1 Matters Arising - P.63 Confidential 9.9.8 quotations for mobile radios

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NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Planning applications received from Forest of Dean District Council for consideration by Newent Town Council at its meeting on Monday 12 October 2015.

1. DF15134 P1457/15/LBC Ms C Smith, Tedgewood Cottage, Upton Bishop, Ross-on-Wye
Flat 2, Stardens Manor, East Wing, Tewkesbury Road, Newent
Installation of an external flue system to a wood burning stove to be placed in the living room

Comment No Objection

2. DF3908 P1399/15/FUL Envex Contractors Ltd, The Knowl, Severn Stoke Bank, Severn Stoke Worc
Land adjacent to Graces Pitch, Newent
Erection of a pair of semi-detached dwellings. (Re-submission of P1933/09/FUL)

Comment No Objection

3. DF5201 P1408/15/LBC Mr G Griffin, Oldbury House, Court Lane, Newent
Listed Building Consent for new windows to property. (Retrospective application)

Comment No Objection

4. DF9955 P0737/15/FUL Mr M Sargeant and Mrs D Jones, Mayfield, Conigree Road, Newent
Two storey side and rear extension to include integral garage

Comment No Objection

5. DF14554 P0974/15/APP Persimmon Homes Persimmon House, Llantrisant Business Park,
Llantrisant, Rhondda
Land off Foley Road, Newent
Approval of Reserved Matters for the outline permission P0181/12/OUT for residential development
(up to 120 dwellings) and associated infrastructure

Comment No Objection