

## NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Newent Town Council held on Monday 14 December 2015 at the Market House, Newent at 7.00 pm.

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

Apologies – Cllr J Celino and Cllr Mrs P Celino

Also Present – Mrs D Morley and Miss K Noble, 2 members of the public, 1 member of the press

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15.00 Approval of Minutes of Council meeting – 9 November 2015

**Resolved:** To approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 9 November 2015, with an amendment to item p102 13.6.3. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Wood, All in favour.

15.1 Matters Arising

P 101 13.5.5 A further letter had been received with photos showing pooling water, which were circulated to Councillors. It was agreed to wait for the Estates Supervisor to meet with a County Council Officer to discuss this more fully before discussing at a future meeting.

P104 5 The Clerk was asked to contact the District Council for a response to the query raised.

15.2 Approval of Minutes of Council meeting – 23 November 2015

**Resolved:** To approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 23 November 2015. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Wood, All in favour.

15.3 Matters Arising

No items raised.

15.4 Finance/Sundry Payments

P106 the last item is a payment of travel expenses.

**Resolved:** Expenditure is approved as circulated, to a value of £11,304.75. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Wood. All in favour.

15.5 Correspondence

15.5.1 Chair Cliffords Mesne Village Hall Committee – FoDDC grant process to purchase defibrillator – approval from Newent Town Council

Cllr Miss Shere advised the Council that the grant request had been approved by the District Council, although the Town Council's support was still required. **Resolved:** The Council fully supports the request and grant application. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

- 15.5.2 Forest of Dean District Council – invitation to discuss plans for a new anti-littering campaign – Wednesday 13 January at FoDDC Offices

Cllrs Blick, Miss Shere and Mrs Marcovecchio will attend the meeting on behalf of the Council.

- 15.5.3 Newent Initiative Trust – Request for 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment of funding – April 2015-March 2016

Cllrs Beard and Mrs Draper declared an interest in this item and left the meeting whilst it was discussed.

Cllr Blick reminded Councillors that it was previously agreed that funding should only be spent on the Chill Out Youth Services. **Resolved:** The payment of £5,000 is approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Wood, All in favour.

- 15.5.4 Mrs S Langford – Cliffords Mesne Community Events – seating on Oaks Common, Cliffords Mesne

Photos of the proposed seat were circulated, Cllr Miss Shere expressed that the additional seating would enhance the village. The Clerk confirmed the Council does not own the land and only has Protective Powers. **Resolved:** The request is approved. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

- 15.5.5 Newent Rugby Club – Application to run a bar for fundraising purposes. **Resolved:** The Council approves the request for 9<sup>th</sup> January, 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 13<sup>th</sup> February and 20<sup>th</sup> February. **Record of Voting:** 10 in favour, 1 against.

## 15.6 Business

- 15.6.1 Planning applications – see attached

- 15.6.2 To give consideration to draft budget and to the setting of the Precept 2016/17

A full debate took place and concerns raised by Cllr Blick with regards to the inclusion of a Public Works Loan without detailed costings were discussed and the rationale for the request were explained by Cllrs Beard and Howley. The Council have to maintain the Council's assets and need to plan for the future as the general reserves are not adequate.

Cllr Heathfield put forward the case for requesting monies towards the Dolphin Club. Councillors agreed that the Club was a worthy cause and suggested an application is made for a contribution from the S137 funding in March.

Cllr Beard proposed that the budget is not accepted and this was seconded by Cllr Heathfield. **Record of Voting:** 2 in favour, 8 against and 1 abstention. This motion was not carried. **Resolved:** The budget of £203,435 was approved.

**Resolved:** The Precept is set at £191,765. **Record of Voting:** 9 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention.

### 15.6.3 Christmas Lights switch-on event

Cllr Mrs Draper thanked the workforce for all their work and everyone who participated and helped with the event were thanked.

Although there were some difficulties on the day with some traders, Cllr Mrs Draper had discussed and resolved any issues. Traders are now coming forward to help with next year's event and some traders have already started a raffle to raise funds. No negative feedback had been received after the event. The total estimated spend for the event is £4,364.52, excluding staff overtime. The overspend from the original budget was due to the purchase of extra lights which were being discontinued and would be required for future years.

Cllr Wood thanked the organisers and the workforce for all their work. A point for next year is that the traders need to be made aware that the car park is free and the District Council should cover the pay machines.

Cllr Mrs Davies said a special thank you to Cllr Mrs Draper for all her work, which was reiterated by all Councillors.

### 15.6.4 Closure of Lloyds Bank Newent branch

Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio raised concerns regarding the closure of the bank especially as it would have a great impact on the elderly residents of the town and neighbouring villages. The Clerk confirmed that District Councillor Gooch had written to Mark Harper MP and read out an extract from his response. The Post Office will be able to provide some services, but not to business customers, although the services at the Post Office are already stretched. **Resolved:** A letter is sent to Lloyds Bank expressing the Council's concerns. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour. The Clerk was also requested to contact Barclays Bank with regards to their long term plans in Newent for a decision to be made whether to move the Council's bank accounts.

### 15.6.5 Representative reports

Representative reports were given by

Cllr Beard	Community Safety Partnership meeting
Cllr E Heathfield	Gloucestershire County Council Local Transport Consultation meeting
Cllr Miss Shere	Cliffords Mesne Village Hall Committee

**Resolved:** The following item of business be heard confidentially in Committee.

**Record of Voting:** All in favour.

Cllr Wood	Meeting with Lydney Town Council re Tax Support Grant
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#### 15.6.6 Any Other Business

##### Parking at Glebe School

Concerns had been raised regarding this dangerous area. **Resolved:** A letter is sent to Gloucestershire County Council requesting action be taken. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Blick, Seconded Cllr Wood, All in favour.

## NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Planning applications received from the Forest of Dean District Council for consideration by Newent Town Council at its meeting on Monday 14 December 2015.

1. P/1741/185/FUL – Wildsmith Meadow, Malswick, Newent  
Proposed extensions to building to improve facilities and provide disabled toilet, including associated works.

Comment: No Objection

2. P1720/15/FUL – Kitchen Garden Plant Centre, Ferndene, Strawberry Hill, Newent  
Erection of two seasonal temporary structures and removal of existing three glasshouses.

Comment: No Objection

3. P1775/15/FUL – Bellstone, Redmarley Road, Newent  
Erection of an infill industrial unit for B1 and B8 use.

Comment: No Objection

4. P1792/15/FUL – The Old Quarry, Cliffords Mesne, Newent  
Erection of a detached garage and conversion of existing integral garage to living accommodation

Comment: No Objection

5. P1657/15/FUL Strawberry Hill Vineyard, 47 Orchard Road, Newent  
Erection of four holiday chalets with associated parking

Comment: No Objection

6. P1873/15/TPO Newent Town Council, Newent Lake, Lakeside, Newent  
Works to trees identified in the submitted details covered by A2, A6 and W3 of G41 TPO54

Comment: No Comment – own application

#### Forest of Dean Allocations Plan Examination – Hearings Programme

The Clerk read out a letter detailing the hearing programme. Cllr Beard stated that the Council had submitted comments and would like confirmation these have been included. The Clerk will email the relevant link confirming this. The Clerk was asked to clarify how representatives were included and if they are allowed to speak at the Hearing.

