

## NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Newent Town Council Meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at the Market House, Newent at 7.30 pm.

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

Also present – Assistant to the Clerk and 2 members of the public

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Public Participation Session: No items raised.

35.0 Apologies – Cllr Mrs G Moseley

35.1 Declarations of Interests

Cllrs Beard, Heathfield and Mrs Draper declared interests in Newent Initiative Trust – request for second instalment of allocated funding and Cllr Miss Shere declared an interest in the request for Neighbourhood Watch signs at Cliffords Mesne.

35.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 24 October 2016 were approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Wood, 10 in favour, 2 abstentions.

35.3 Clerk's update and matters arising from previous Minutes.

There were no further updates from the last meeting.

35.4 Newent Community School – Deputy Head Mr Rhys Phillips

Mr Phillips advised he had been appointed as Vice Principal of the School in September at the same time as Mr Alan Johnson had been appointed Principal and that it was a somewhat unusual situation to see a change of this kind with two senior roles. He added that Mr Johnson was also an Ofsted Inspector. Their agenda at the School was to raise standards and to work with the local community. They have no institutional history, were open minded and wished to take in the views of the community.

Members commented on what had already been seen in terms of improved standards regarding conduct and discipline. Other comments included emphasis needed to be given to not just the Arts status as had been in the past, but also Technology and the requirement to keep Staff fully trained in this fast moving subject. Cllr Heathfield advised that he was involved in the setting up of a Youth Advisory Group and was currently finalising details of bringing the various youth groups together when he would be consulting with the School. Mr Phillips advised that the School had a Communities Government Group which could be linked into this.

Further discussion took place regarding the importance of appropriate school uniform and that there was a perception that students were responsible for the dropping of litter in the town. Mr Phillips advised that it was everyone's responsibility to keep litter free and that this message was continually shared with the students together with the effects of litter on the environment.

Mr Phillips was asked about current pupil numbers at the School to which he responded the School was currently under capacity, however, they were optimistic numbers will increase given the quality now reached by the School.

Cllr Wood thanked Mr Phillips for attending the meeting. Mr Phillips advised that the School would like to continue to invite the Council to School events and to contact them if it had any concerns about the School in any way where he would be happy to address and act upon them.

### 35.5 Finance

#### 35.5.1 To approve accounts to be paid

Payments made since last meeting	Chq No	£
Wages		1438.71
Glos County Council	13747	2577.29
HMRC	13748	1944.62
Glos County Council	13749	2337.29
Little Pickles Nursery	13832	100.00
Rialtas (replacement chq	13833	already approved
J L Lighting	13834	943.20

Payments to be considered	Chq No	£
Grant Thornton	13835	720.00
Glebe Chapel	13836	450.00
Elmcroft Tree Nursery	13837	553.80
EE	13838	29.66
G D Parker	13839	33.16
GAPTC	13840	95.00
Mainstream Digital	13841	6.50
National Test Services	13842	158.40
Paperstation	13843	60.33
M Shere	13844	20.15
D Morley	13845	14.30
K Noble	13846	9.92
Grundon	13847	130.82
P Pain	13848	200.00
Highleadon Filling Station	13849	225.15
Dean Truck	13850	1800.00
Ron Smith & Co	13851	73.95
Weld Smart	13852	1350.00
T A Waters	13853	235.20
J Woods	13854	50.00

**Resolved:** The above expenditure is approved to a value of £15,557.45

**Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Wood, All in favour

#### 35.5.2 To review the budget update report

The Budget update report was considered.

**Resolved:** To query with the Clerk payment of Gas/Electricity to the Cemetery Chapel and Workshop.

**Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Wood, all in favour

### 35.5.3 To approve Standing Order/Direct Debit payment schedule

Approval was sought to the Standing Order/Direct Debit payment schedule for 2016/17

Payee	Payment Method	Amount
Barclaycard	Direct Debit as required	Variable
Lloyds Bank – Bank Charges	Standing Order – monthly	£5.00
Public Works Loan	Direct Debit – twice yearly	£946.02

**Resolved:** That approval be given to the Standing Order/Direct Debit payment schedule for 2016/17.

**Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Blick, seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, all in favour

### 35.6 Correspondence

#### 35.6.1 Gloucestershire County Council – Draft minerals Local Plan consultation

This matter had been deferred following Cllr Moseley's concern regarding fracking. As she was not present no further discussion took place.

**Resolved:** No further discussion to take place.

**Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Wood, All in favour

#### 35.6.2 BT – Removal of telephone kiosks consultation

Consultation to remove redundant telephone kiosks at Ross Road, Newent and The Scarr Newent given low/no usage.

**Resolved:** No objection to removal.

**Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Heathfield, seconded by Cllr Blick, all in favour.

#### 35.6.3 Cliffords Mesne Neighbourhood Watch – Request for funding to purchase 12 Neighbourhood Watch signs at a cost of £120.00

Cllr Miss Shere left the room whilst this matter was under discussion.

Cllr Beard suggested that grant funding may be available for such signage through the Community Safety Partnership.

**Resolved:** To refer the Cliffords Mesne Neighbourhood Watch Group to the Community Safety Partnership for the funding of the Neighbourhood Watch signs.

**Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Beard, seconded by Cllr Wood, all in favour.

#### 35.6.4 Newent Initiative Trust – Request for second instalment of allocated funding

Cllrs Beard, Heathfield and Mrs Draper left the room whilst this matter was under discussion.

**Resolved:** that the second instalment of allocated funding in the sum of £4,500 be paid to Newent Initiative Trust.

**Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Wood, all in favour

### 35.6.5 Newent in Bloom – Request to install an amphibian habitat at the Lake

Members considered a request to install an amphibian habitat at the Lake to be a good idea but that it needed to be part of an overall plan and undertaken in a structured way. Plans would also be needed to illustrate the exact proposed location.

**Resolved:** To consult with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and to seek their advice.

**Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Howley, seconded by Cllr Beard, all in favour.

## 35.7 Planning

### 35.7.1 Planning applications to be considered

1. P1482/16/TCA – Library and Tourist Information Centre, High St, Newent  
Removal of x 1 Holly tree, x 3 Goat Willow trees and x 1 Lawson Cypress tree at Newent Library.

**Resolved:** No Objection      **Record of Voting:** All in favour

2. P1472/16/FUL – Tythings Cottage, Watery Lane, Newent  
New vehicular access and erection of detached garage

**Resolved:** No Objection      **Record of Voting:** All in favour

3. P1508/16/FUL & P1509/16/LBC – 1 Broad Street, Newent  
Installation of ATM machine and Listed Building consent

**Resolved:** No Objection      **Record of Voting:** All in favour

4. P1510/16/ADV – 1 Broad Street, Newent  
Non illuminated “Free Cash Withdrawal” bespoke sign above ATM fascia

**Resolved:** No Objection      **Record of Voting:** All in favour

5. P1490/16/FUL – High Bank, Gloucester Street, Newent  
Erection of a two storey side extension with integral garage and single storey rear extension. Demolition of existing garage/carport and shed

**Resolved:** No Objection      **Record of Voting:** All in favour

6. P0081/16/Discon – Land at Cleeve Mill Lane, Newent  
Discharge of conditions (04) drainage; (06) hard and soft landscaping; (08) bat tubes (09) sparrow new terraces; (11) Tree protection; (13) materials; (14) construction environmental management plan; (17) shared surface detail (18) street management; and (20) construction method statement attached to planning permission P0107/16/FUL for the erection of 17 no. 2 bed, 3 person bungalow units for the over 50's, with associated access, parking, landscaping and private amenity.

**Resolved:** No Objection      **Record of Voting:** All in favour

7. P0072/16/Discon Amended Description – Rymes Place Farm, Malswick, Newent  
Discharge of conditions 4 (construction management plan), 5 (access widening details), 6 (landscaping scheme), 7 (biodiversity enhancement scheme), 8 (protection

of trees, hedgerows, ditches, ponds and Great Crested Newts), 10 (external appearance of substation, cabins and switchroom) and 12 (information board) of planning permission P1977/14/FUL (revised description)

**Resolved:** No Objection      **Record of Voting:** All in favour

8. P1536/16/FUL – The Cottage, Tewkesbury Road, Newent  
Conversion and alterations to former coach house/garage to annexe

**Resolved:** No Objection      **Record of Voting:** All in favour

### 35.7.2 To note planning decisions

Permitted

P1066/16/FUL Plot 6 Graces Pitch, Newent  
Erection of detached dwelling to be located on existing building footprint (constructed under P1933/09/FUL) and erection of double garage

TG/DFTP0221 Freemans of Newent  
Tree Preservation Order 2016

Order made

P0047/16/Discon Land at Foley Road, Newent  
Discharge of conditions (01) relating to approval of reserved matters P0974/15/APP for residential

4. P0043/16/Discon Land at Foley Road, Newent  
Discharge of condition (02) Landscape and Ecological Management Plan relating to approval of reserved matters P0974/15/APP for residential development of up to 120 dwellings.

P1402/16/TCA Ivy Cottage, Lakeside, Newent  
30% Crown reduction of x 1 conifer tree at Ivy Cottage

### APPEAL DECISION

Ref: APP/P1615/W/16/3151357  
47 Orchard Road Newent GL18 1DQ

Appeal made against a refusal to grant planning permission. Appeal made by Mr T Chance against the decision of the Forest of Dean District Council – application ref P1657/15/FUL dated 3 November 2015 for the erection of four holiday chalets with parking spaces.

Appeal Granted. Application for costs refused.

## 35.8 Estate Management

### 35.8.1 To consider request to cut back trees in Library car park

Members were furnished with photographs of four trees in the Council's ownership in the Library car park two of which were dead and two of which required maintenance.

Members were advised the dead trees can be removed as part of the in-house winter tree work planned for December, however planning consent would be required for the maintenance work to the remaining trees. Due to access issues, and time constraints including the bird nesting season, the works would need to be undertaken by a contractor.

**Resolved:** The dead trees be removed in December as part of the planned in-house winter work, planning consent be sought for the work to the remaining trees, and that maximum budget be given for the work to be undertaken by a contractor in the sum of £600.

**Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Blick, seconded by Cllr Beard, all in favour

### 35.9 To consider Grant and Donation Policy

Members considered the Grant and Donation Policy document.

**Resolved:** that Grant applications be considered twice a year, in September and in March; that the organisation should show evidence that it had a bank account in its own name with a minimum of two authorised representatives required to sign each cheque; in addition to the reference to any unspent portion of the grant must be returned to the Council within 3 months of the completion of the project..... insert "Random auditing in this regard may take place."

**Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Duncan, seconded by Cllr Mrs Davies, all in favour.

### 35.10 Survey of dropped kerbs – Cllr Vesma

Cllr Vesma reported that he had had personal reason to involve the County Council regarding attention required to a dropped kerb, where a temporary fix had been undertaken, a permanent fix to be put in a highway maintenance programme next year. Cllr Vesma considered it may be an opportune time to undertake an inspection of all of the dropped kerbs in the town to bring to the attention of the Highways Department, possibly with the aid of wheelchair users.

**Resolved:** a meeting with the Highway Department already in place where this matter will be raised including Cllr Vesma having volunteered to undertake survey if required. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Wood and all in favour.

### 35.11 Update on Newent becoming a dementia friendly town – Cllr Vesma

Cllr Vesma advised he had met with the District Council who would be helping with the briefing on dementia. Sheppard House had been offered as a venue for training, as had the Church Rooms. This would take place during the week commencing 9 January 2017, a firm date yet to be decided. Discussion took place on the optimum venue.

**Resolved:** The Church Rooms be utilised for the training, given their central location.

**Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Blick, seconded by Cllr Heathfield, 10 in favour, 2 abstentions.

### 35.12 To receive committee and representative reports

Representative Reports were received from:-

Cllr Mrs Draper	-	Christmas Lights Committee
Cllr Mrs Duncan/ Heathfield	-	Meeting with 2Rivers re; Planning matters

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|-------------------------|---|---|
| Cllr Shere/Marcovecchio | - | Meeting "Love your Forest" project<br>Hubbub – an environmental charity raising<br>awareness about litter |
| Cllr Wood               | - | Tree planting at Newent Lake  |

### 35.13 Notices and information

Cllr Blick advised that he would be Busking in Newent in aid of Children in Need on Thurs 17 November.

Cllr Mrs Howley thanked everyone who attended the Tree planting at the Lake on the previous Saturday. A representative from the Woodland Trust had attended who showed the children in attendance how to plant a tree. With parents' permission, photographs of the children involved will be used for publicity purposes.

Cllr Beard reminded everyone of the forthcoming Public consultation regarding possible further use of the Recreation Ground by the Rugby Club. A substantial leaflet drop was taking place to further publicise the consultation.

Cllrs Mrs Marcovecchio and Miss Shere advised of an inspection they had undertaken of the Allotments with the Chairman and Secretary of the Allotment Association. It was noted that some of the plots were in a state of poor cultivation.

**Resolved:** that under the Public bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and representative of the press and broadcast media were excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business be transacted

**Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Wood, all in favour

### 35.14 Staffing

**Resolved:** that Standing Orders be temporarily suspended relating to the duration of the meeting not exceeding a period of two hours, for an extension period of 15 minutes.

**Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Wood, all in favour.

