

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Newent Town Council Meeting held on Monday 10th October 2016 at the Market House, Newent at 7.30 pm.

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

Also Present – The Clerk, Inspector Chester and 2 members of the public

Public Participation Session: Cllr Beard was thanked for driving Cllr Heathfield to the final of the Christmas lights competition in Colchester.

33.0 Apologies – Cllr Mrs Davies

33.1 Declaration of Interests

Cllrs Beard and Heathfield declared an interest in the accounts to be approved.

33.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Council meetings held on 26th September 2016.

Resolved: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26th September 2016 were approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Wood, All in favour.

33.3 Clerk's Update and Matters Arising

Damaged finger post behind the Lodge – The post is not repairable and has been replaced with a new post under an insurance claim. The Clerk has requested that the area behind the Lodge is tidied up and items that are no longer usable will be disposed of, excluding any fixings from the Chapel.

Town map – There is already a map on the side of the Library, so any other suggestions would be welcome.

Allotment hedges – The allotment boundary hedges have not yet been cut, which was wrongly reported in the Estate Supervisor's report.

Meeting re street hygiene – Cllr Mairilyn Smart was contacted and replied as follows, "Rachel Capon has visited the Town Council many times explaining the situation on the current street cleaning contract. Perhaps you would let me know what additional information you require which I can then discuss with Rachel". Cllr Blick asked that the details of the specification are reviewed against the Environmental Act 1990 with regards to sweeping and how this can be completed by using litter pickers only? Particular concerns have been raised regarding Gloucester Street and detritus in the High Street.

33.4 Anti-social behaviour and Police provision in Newent

Cllr Wood welcomed Inspector Chester to the meeting. Councillors were given the opportunity to raise questions for Inspector Chester to answer, which included;

- Are the Clowns dangerous or just a prank? No-one has been harmed.
- Have burglaries increased in the town? Burglaries have reduced and most are opportunists. Residents who are going away should leave lights/radios on timers and cars on the driveways, to give the impression the house is occupied.
- Is there any evidence that there is a bigger drug problem in Newent compared to other towns in the forest? Newent does have a number of Class A dependents. Any reports of cannabis growing should be reported to the Police.
- Update on the antisocial behaviour at the Lake. Patrols were increased over the summer especially on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, which included Mounted Police. There have been some concerns regarding potential grooming which the Police are dealing with. It is important that any incidents are reported to the Police, this will ensure resources are allocated to the area.
- Concerns were raised regarding the difficulty of getting through using 101. Incidents can be emailed and reported later if residents are unable to get straight through. However, if a crime is in progress or if someone is in imminent danger then dial 999.
- What is the operational set up and the response times? All officers are based in Coleford, however, Inspector Chester is hoping to make the Police Point in the Library a start and finish point. PC Mortimer may be based at the Police Point whilst on light duties. The 20-minute response time targets cannot be met if coming from Coleford, although for urgent matters officers from Gloucester etc can respond.
- Are the 'trouble makers' in the town local? The majority are local people.

Inspector Chester was thanked for answering all the questions.

(Inspector Chester left the meeting at this juncture).

33.5 Finance

(Cllrs Beard and Heathfield left the meeting whilst this item was discussed)

33.5.1 To approve accounts to be paid

| Payments made since last meeting | Chq No. | £ |
|----------------------------------|---------|----------|
| Wages | | 1,636.63 |
| HMRC | 13729 | 1682.14 |
| GCC | 13731 | 2116.88 |

| Payments to be considered | Chq No | £ |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|
| Mainstream Digital | 13806 | 77.96 |
| Highleadon Filling Station | 13807 | 183.21 |
| BuildBase | 13808 | 36.31 |
| EE | 13809 | 29.30 |
| Revive & Thrive | 13810 | 34.40 |
| Paperstation | 13811 | 97.47 |
| Ermin Plant | 13812 | 39.42 |
| Ermin Plant | 13812 | 97.76 |
| Ellis Dawe & Son | 13813 | 501.17 |
| G D Parker | 13814 | 39.38 |
| B & P Caterers | 13815 | 112.50 |
| Loop Scorpio | 13816 | 120.00 |
| Glebe Chapel | 13817 | 450.00 |
| R Beard | 13818 | 256.10 |
| C&G Services | 13819 | 346.69 |

Resolved: The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £7,857.32. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Wood, All in favour.

33.5.2 To review the budget update report

Councillors commented that the layout of the report was an improvement, although yearly totals needed to be added. No concerns were raised.

33.5.3 To consider External Audit report

The comments were noted and are in the process of being actioned.

33.6 Correspondence

33.6.1 Newent & District Rotary Club – Request to plant purple crocus bulbs on B4215/4216 junction and at the Lake as part of the Rotary ‘Purple4Polio’ campaign

Resolved: Permission is granted for bulbs to be planted on the left of the pathway before Toby’s Hole. Cllr Blick will meet with the Rotary Club to confirm the location. Permission for planting by B4215/6 would need to be granted by Gloucestershire County Council. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Blick, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, All in favour.

33.6.2 Mrs Muirhead – Request for installation of a memorial bench at the Lake

Resolved: Permission is granted only if a spare plinth is available. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded, Cllr Wood, All in favour.

33.6.3 GAPTC – Consultation on capping Parish and Town Councils' precepts 2017/18

The Council will express concerns that if Town and Parish Councils are capped it could have a significant impact on the flexibility of service provision and a detrimental impact on services provided at a local level.

33.7 Planning

33.7.1 Planning applications to be considered

P0072/16/Discon - Rymes Place Farm, Malswick
Discharge of condition (04) construction management plan (06) landscape, mitigation and biodiversity enhancement scheme (10) external appearance transformer and (12) Details Information board of planning permission P1977/14/FUL. **Resolved:** No objection.
Record of Voting: All in favour.

P1343/16/LD2 11 Pippin Close, Newent
Application under Section 192 for single storey side extension.
Resolved: No objection. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

33.7.2 To note planning decisions

The following decisions were noted;

Planning applications granted by Forest of Dean District Council

P0875/16/FUL Newent Rugby Club, Recreation Ground, Watery Lane, Newent - Siting of two metal storage containers

P105/16/LD2 Porthcressa, Culver Street, Newent

Application under Section 192 for a single storey extension to an existing porch – Certificate of Lawfulness of proposed use or development – ISSUED

Planning application refused by Forest of Dean District Council

P0473/16/FUL Merrylees, Tewkesbury Road, Newent
Proposed two storey extension and associated alterations

33.8 Estate Management

33.8.1 Newent Rugby Club – Installation of 1 container at the Recreation Ground

The Clerk confirmed planning permission had been granted and as the Town Council agreed that one container could be sited on the land in November 2015, a container would be installed in due course.

33.8.2 Fishing platforms – Grant application update

The Clerk confirmed that the Council had been award £4,185.00 from the Angling Trust to replace the fishing platforms at the Lake.

33.8.3 Gloucestershire County Council – Request to replace fencing in the Library car park and carry out tree works

Resolved: No objection to the fence being replaced and hoop barriers being installed, as per information provided. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

33.9 To agree public consultation process for Newent Rugby Club lease proposal

The Council agreed that a public consultation will be held on 19th November between 10 am – 2 pm in the Library, to gain public views on the request from Newent Rugby Club to extend the lease to use the Recreation Ground. Information boards will be produced and a questionnaire provided. The consultation is open to Newent residents only.

33.10 To consider exploring the possibility of a Newent Walking Tour App

Cllr Beard gave some background information regarding the App and how it is being used by other towns. Cllr Shere suggested Councillors visit the Real Towns website to see how the App works.

Resolved: The Council supports investigating the possibility further with Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Blick, All in favour.

33.11 To consider advertising in the Forest of Dean & Wye Valley Visitor Guide

Resolved: An 1/8 page advertisement at a cost of £222.00 is approved from the tourism budget. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Blick, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, All in favour.

33.12 To review committee and representative reports

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|-------------------------------|---|
| Cllr Miss Shere | 20 is plenty signs for Cliffords Mesne have been received |
| Cllrs Miss Shere & Mrs Davies | Meeting with new Head of Community School |
| Cllr Thomas | A Newent symphony has been written |
| Cllr Mrs Draper | Christmas Lights Committee |
| Cllr Heathfield | Christmas Lights Competition presentation |

Cllr Mrs Howley

Community School IT and meeting
new Head

33.13 Notices and Information

None.

Resolved: That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives 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 to be transacted.

A recorded vote was requested by Councillor Blick.

Record of Voting: Cllrs Wood, Mrs Marcovecchio, Mrs Duncan, Mrs Howley, Thomas, Beard, Heathfield, Miss Shere, Mrs Draper, Vesma in favour. Cllr Blick against. Cllr Mrs Moseley abstained.

33.14 To consider vehicle lease contract report