

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Newent Town Council meeting held on Monday 11 January 2016 at the Market House, Newent at 7.00 pm.

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

Also Present – The Clerk, District Councillor Mrs Gooch and 2 members of the public

16.00 Apologies – None

16.1 Declarations of Interests

Cllr Beard declared an interest in item 5.1 accounts to be paid.

Cllr Davies declared an interest in item 7.3 by virtue of being related to a landowner.

16.2 Approval of the Minutes of Council meeting held on 14 December 2015

Cllr Howley queried the proposer recorded under 15.6.2 which was confirmed to be correct.

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 14 December 2015. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Wood, 11 in favour and 2 abstentions.

16.3 Clerks Update and Matters Arising

Drainage on Library car park – The Foreman has spoken to property services at the County Council and the site will be inspected. However, Newent Library have to report the problem before any action can be taken.

Planning application P1090/15/FUL – The Clerk contacted the Planning Officer with regards to the queries raised. The Public Rights of Way Officer objected to the application due to the issue with the public footpath. A new application has been submitted and will be considered later in the meeting.

Closure of Lloyds Bank – The Clerk wrote to the bank and a copy of the response had been received and circulated to all Councillors.

Barclays Bank will only confirm that there are no current plans to close the branch.

Mark Harper MP is holding a meeting on 15th January 2016 at 11.30am with constituents who have raised concerns regarding the closure of the bank. The meeting is by invitation only and the Town Council have been invited to send a representative. It was agreed that Cllrs Mrs Marcovecchio and Miss Shere will attend the meeting.

Parking at Glebe School – The Clerk had contacted the Road Safety Partnership and they have confirmed that the Police are in contact with the school regarding the issues.

The school have formed a Parent Focus Group and will be looking at a project to encourage parents to park further away from the school entrance and reduce car trips by walking and cycling.

The faded zig-zag lines have been reported to Highways, requesting they are re-painted.

No further items raised.

16.4 Finance

(Cllr Beard left the meeting whilst this item was discussed)

16.4.1 To approve accounts to be paid

Payments made since last meeting	Chq No.	£
Newent Initiative Trust	013338	5000.00
Gloucestershire County Council	013339	1701.39
HMRC	013340	2193.24
Wages Wks 38-41		6449.71
Payments to be authorised	Chq No.	£
Orange	013344	25.91
Mainstream Digital	013345	79.10
BJ Unwin	013346	360.00
Highleadon Filling Station	013347	252.37
Viking Direct	013348	118.43
ADT	013349	190.73
Southern Electricity	013350	440.46
GD Parker	013351	69.90
Dean Truck Repairs	013352	600.00
Forest of Dean District Council	013353	2591.33
Ermin Plant Hire	013354	430.08
Glebe Chapel	013355	450.00
Roger Beard	013356	21.45
Voice of Newent	013357	100.00

Cllr Duncan queried the cost of the election expenses and the Clerk clarified the reason for the payment.

Resolved: The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £21,074.10. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Wood, All in favour.

16.4.2 To approve Standing Order Payments

Resolved: Monthly wages for the Town Clerk and the Assistant to the Clerk are paid by Standing Order and the forms signed. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Wood All in favour.

16.5 Correspondence

16.5.1 Forest of Dean District Council – Budget Plans 2016/17

No comments raised.

16.5.2 Gloucestershire County Council – Budget Plans 2016/17

No comments raised.

16.6.3 Forest of Dean District Council – Growing the Economy Action Plan 2015-19

Cllr Heathfield expressed his support for tourism in the area and endorsed the document. Cllr Celino felt the Council should also consider a future plan and suggest an advisory group is set up.

Resolved: An advisory group consisting of Cllrs Celino, Heathfield and Thomas prepare a 3 year plan in consultation with Newent Initiative and the Town Team for the Council to consider. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Celino, Seconded by Cllr Beard, All in favour.

16.6 Planning

16.6.1 Planning applications to be considered

P1854/15/FUL – Land at 32 Ford House Road, The Scarr, Newent
Erection of a replacement workshop, demolition of existing and erection of stables. Change of use of part of the land from horticultural to class B2 use
Resolved: No Objection. **Record of Voting:** All in favour

P1900/15/TPO – 5 Friars Walk, Newent
Removal of 1 tree covered by A1 of G41 TPO 54
Resolved: No Objection. **Record of Voting:** All in favour

P1906/15/FUL – Cargill Meats Europe Ltd, Freemans of Newent, Town Farm, Gloucester Street, Newent
Construction of a storage shelter and removal of existing storage tanks and associated apparatus
Resolved: No Objection. **Record of Voting:** All in favour

P1821/15/LBC & P1819/15/FUL – 20 Church Street, Newent
Change of use of upper floors from Museum to three self-contained flats
Resolved: No Objection. **Record of Voting:** All in favour

16.6.2 To note planning decisions

The following decisions were noted;

Planning applications granted by Forest of Dean District Council

P1709/15/TPO - 7 The Butts, Newent
Reduction of x 1 Beech tree back to previous pruning points at 7 The Butts covered by G41 TPO103.

P0098/15/DISCON - Land at Rymes Farm, Malswick, Newent
Discharge of conditions (04) - Construction Management Plan, (05) - Existing Access, (06) - Landscaping Scheme, (07) - Biodiversity Enhancement, (08) - Protection of trees, hedgerows, ditches and Great Crested Newts, (10) - Materials and (12) Information Board relating to planning permission P1976/14/FUL for a solar farm.

P0076/15/DISCON - Land off Foley Road, Newent
Discharge of Conditions 06 - (Foul and sustainable drainage), 08 - (Renewable Energy), 09 - (On-site storage for recycling materials) and 10 - (Vehicle access details) relating to appeal decision APP/P1615/A/12/2177029 (P0181/12/OUT).

P0053/15/DISCON - Land off Foley Road, Newent
Discharge of conditions (03) scheme for landscaping, (07) ecological details and (13) Construction Method Statement relating to appeal decision APP/P1615/A/12/2177029 (P0181/12/OUT)

P0974/15/APP - Land off Foley Road, Newent
Approval of Reserved Matters for outline permission P0181/12/OUT for residential development (up to 120 dwellings) and associated infrastructure.
P1589/15/FUL – Glenwood, Ross Road, Newent
Conversion and extension of existing garage to form annexe.

Applications withdrawn

P1457/15/LBC & P1262/15/FUL - 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.

16.6.3 Forest of Dean Allocations Plan Examination

(Cllr Davies left the meeting whilst this item was discussed)

Cllr Blick confirmed that Jones' field (23 acres) is now available for sale and would be a suitable site for much needed additional recreation ground, which would be beneficial to the sporting clubs of the town. The Council should send representatives to the Allocations Hearing to request the site is included in the allocation plan and an additional statement is submitted.

Cllr Celino queried AP67 still listing a Community Centre. It was confirmed that the Council did not object to this.

District Cllr Gooch was asked for any comments and Cllr Gooch expressed her support for Jones' field to be included in the plan for recreation use, as it would add a lot to the town.

Resolved: Cllrs Blick and Beard to attend the Hearing and to send an additional statement in consultation with the Clerk. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

16.7 Estate Management

16.7.1 Information board at The Lake

Cllr Thomas has now collated all the information and has a few more pictures to take. It was agreed that a quotation for printing should be obtained and reported back to Council.

16.7.2 To approve tree thinning at the Arboretum

Recommendations for thinning of trees by the Council's appointed consultant had been circulated for review. Both Cllrs Beard and Marcovecchio expressed concerns regarding the report and the amount of trees that are being suggested for removal. Cllr Beard suggested that Mr Wellington is approached for his background knowledge.

Cllrs Wood and Celino supported the expert's report.

The proposal for the report to be approved was voted on. **Record of Voting:** 3 in favour, 10 against

Resolved: The proposed tree thinning recommendations were not approved.

16.8 Emergency Plan

Cllr Celino explained that the Emergency Plan had been created in 2012 to help respond to major events that may arise. Support from all Councillors is needed and many Councillors will have a communication role within the plan. A copy of the Emergency Plan will be circulated to all Councillors for review and any amendments to contact details should be sent to the Clerk. Once the plan is updated, an exercise to test the plan will be carried out. Cllr Celino confirmed that the necessary emergency equipment is kept at the Council Office and is checked on a quarterly basis.

16.9 Meeting with District Council's Flooding Engineer

Cllr Blick gave a review of the flooding issues and the proposals over the past 3 years and confirmed that £40,000 had been allocated to assist with flood measures for the town. A new Flood Engineer, Mr King, who is also a shared officer with other District Councils, has been appointed by Forest of Dean District Council. Cllr Blick and District Councillor Gooch are meeting Mr King next week to walk the town to see the problem areas. Cllr Blick is confident that works will finally progress and requested that he is notified of any further flooding issues so the information can be passed on.

Cllr Blick confirmed that the car park next to the library is not at risk of flooding.

Cllr Beard stated that the recent water levels were well below the bridges in the town and flooding was not due the restrictions of the bridges.

16.10 Representative reports

Representative reports were given as follows;

Cllr Shere Cliffords Mesne Village Hall Committee

Cllr Celino Business Club – Cllr Celino confirmed he wished to step down as the representative and Cllr Thomas agreed to take over.

Cllr Blick Regeneration of Town Centre meeting

16.11 Staffing matters

Resolved: This item is discussed in Private Session. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

This concluded the business of the meeting and it was declared closed at 8.35 pm.