

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Newent Town Council held on Monday 22 February 2016 at the Market House, Newent at 7.30 pm.

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

Also present: The Assistant Clerk and six members of the public

Apologies:- None

19.1 No items were raised under the public session.

19.2 Apologies - None

19.3 Declarations of Interests

Cllrs Mrs Howley and Mrs Marcovecchio declared interests in Planning application P0134/16/FUL – First Floor extension over existing single storey element – 2 Greenways Newent

Cllr Beard declared an interest in item 5.1 to approve accounts to be paid. The three Members left the room whilst these matters were under discussion.

19.4 Approval of Minutes of Council meeting – 8 February 2016

Cllr Wood proposed approval of the minutes which was unanimously agreed

19.5 Clerk's update and Matters Arising

P.132 Zebra crossing. Cllr Mrs Howley reported that a number of Members had met with Richard Waters of Glos County Council. It had been concluded that the road markings needed to be repainted and that some flashing beacon/warning signs could be installed to give greater visibility and awareness to motorists. In this regard it was acknowledged that visibility could be poor in times of strong sunlight. Mr Waters had stated such signage to cost in the region of £3000 and the Council may be able to obtain on a 50/50 cost basis with the County Council. Mr Waters to produce a report of his findings. It was suggested that some mobile speed signs activated by solar power could be sourced via the Police Commissioner's Department, however it was agreed that this matter be looked at again in the light of Mr Water's written report.

P.134 Proposed recreational development, Meek Road

The Clerk was asked to put this matter on the next agenda

P.134 Planning application – P0107/16/FUL Land at Cleeve Mill Lane, Newent

Erection of 17 no. 2 bed 3 person bungalow units for over 50's, with associated access, parking, landscaping and privately amenity.

Cllr Blick advised that it had been his understanding the housing had been for rent but had understood from the site meeting he had attended that 10 of the houses were to be sold on the open market. Members considered this to be misleading and it was agreed to bring this to the Planning authority's attention.

P.134 Planning application P0006/16/Discon – Land off Foley Road Newent Discharge of condition (13) construction method statement relating to planning permission P0181//OUT for residential development of up to 120 dwellings.

Cllr Celino advised that a member of the public had reported signage had been erected stating that the footpath across this development from Foley Road to Southend lane was to be closed from 11 March until 11 September 2016. It was unanimously agreed to report this to Public Rights of Way for clarification on whether this was permissible.

19.6 Finance

19.6.1 Payments made since last meeting:-

Wages wks – 46-47	£4,273.64	£
Forest of Dean District Council	Chq No. 013399	336.00
Payments for consideration:-		
L Wright	013400	521.50
Roger Beard	013401	59.80
Fresh Air Fitness	013402	6457.34
Highleadon Filling Station	013403	198.78
Millington & Ramstedt	013404	57.60
Dean Truck Repairs	013405	1200.00
ADT Fire & Security	013410	190.73

(Replacement for Chq 013349 not received by supplier)

19.6.2 To review budget update report

The budget update report was reviewed – amendments to be made:-

Direct Expenses – Temp Clerk to be replaced with Assistant Clerk

Misposting of costings – remove from New Play Area, post to Seniors Playground

19.7 Correspondence

19.7.1 Newent Rugby Club – Request approval to run a bar on 19 March, 9 & 23 April

A letter had been received that day from Mr H Sherman of Cliffords Mesne which Cllr Beard had requested distribution given the reference to this agenda item.

Mr Sherman detailed what he believed to be excessive parking of vehicles parked in Watery Lane and that should the Council decide to grant approval for the Rugby Club to run a bar on the dates requested, conditions should be placed upon organisers to provide a viable and effective plan to ensure that vehicles connected with any event at those premises would not be permitted to obstruct external roads and/or footpaths in the area.

Cllr Wood stated that any obstruction caused by inappropriate parking was the responsibility of the Police and proposed approval to the Rugby Club running a further bar on 19 March, 9 & 23 April which was agreed by 11 votes in favour, 1 against, 1 abstension. It was agreed to ascertain the licensee of the bar still to be Marcus Warder.

19.7.2 Mrs Yates – concerns regarding replacement of bench and siting of outdoor gym at the Lake

Request from Mr Yates that a recently vandalised bench at the Lake, to the rear of his house not be replaced due to the anti-social behaviour attracted to it. A further request that no seating be placed in the vicinity of the newly installed outdoor gym for the same reasons.

Whilst some sympathy was given to the problems attracted by the bench it was generally agreed that that the provision of the bench was a facility for the public to utilise. Cllr Wood proposed that the Council should not “give in” to vandalism and that it should be replaced and sited in its original location. This was unanimously agreed.

It was agreed that details including cost relating to the provision of a disclaimer to be erected at the outdoor gym site and the provision of a CCTV camera in the area be put on the next meeting's agenda.

19.7.3 Mr Lowe – concerns regarding replacement of bench and siting of outdoor gym at the Lake

Request from Mr Lowe that the recently vandalised bench at the Lake (referred to under 19.5.2) be replaced nearer to the Lake and not in its original position to the rear of his property, again for anti-social behaviour problems. He further advised that residents feared the site for the gym equipment “will also attract young people, therefore creating more noise and litter.”

Whilst some sympathy was given to the problems attracted by the bench it was generally agreed that the provision of the bench was a facility for the public to utilise. Cllr Wood proposed that the Council should not “give in” to vandalism and that it should be replaced and sited in its original location. This was unanimously agreed.

It was agreed that the provision of a CCTV camera in the area be put on the next meeting's agenda.

19.7.4 Forest of Dean District Council – invitation to participate in the Planning Peer Challenge

Invite the Council to attend a focus group meeting as part of the Planning Peer Challenge – a review of its planning services. Cllr Heathfield volunteered to represent the Council and it was unanimously agreed that he should attend – Wed 9 March 2016.

19.7.5 Newent Cycling Group – suggested accessibility improvements Bury Bar Lane/Bury Bar Gardens

The Cycling Group advised they were suggesting three moderate improvements to allow greater accessibility from Onslow Road Estate to Foley Road and Bury Bar Lane, improving the appearance and making safer access for all users including cyclists, people with prams, mobility scooters and wheelchairs.

1. At Bury Bar Lane remove the aluminium rails, install bollards and create a shared-use crossing of the existing footpath thereby linking Foley Road to Bury Bar Lane giving a direct route to town.

2. At Bury Bar Gardens, improve the access from Drovers Road, Onslow Road Estate to a spur of Foley Road. This route goes through a narrow pedestrian chicane, across rough chippings and then a muddy bank and is

currently only used by pedestrians who can negotiate the dangerous slippery slope.

3. Improve the surface of Bury Bar Gardens and change the chipping surface to tarmac.

Members showed overall support for the Cycling Club's proposals. However, Cllr Beard expressed caution in the need for clarification of ownership of land and Cllr Mrs Draper stated she could not support the installation of bollards at the top of Bury Bar Lane given it was her understanding appropriate access should have been made by the developer of the adjacent housing for emergency vehicles to enter from Foley Road. Cllr Wood had no objections to the bollards but proposed clarification be sought on the emergency barrier. Cllr Wood formally proposed approval in principle to the Cycling Club's proposals which was unanimously agreed.

19.7.6 Newent Cycling Group – suggested Court Road/Church Way Cycle route improvements

The Cycling Group feel an improvement is required on the section of the Newent Loop near Church Way and offer suggestions as follows. These would also be of benefit for utility cyclists, those with mobility scooters, wheelchair users and prams as well as pedestrians.

1. Improvements to the route the Loop currently uses from Court Road to Church Way, where cyclists are instructed to dismount. About 70 metres of the path is over 4 metres wide, more than the standard requirement for a shared path. About 10 metres is 1.9 metres wide, which could be widened and the sight lines improved by taking the route over two areas where shrubs are growing and installing a dropped kerb at Church Way. The advantage of this proposal is that cyclists are taken through the town with more potential for them to stop at the shops and cafes. No car parking spaces would be lost at the Wyedean housing development. Bollards can be installed to avoid this route being used by motorcycles.

2. Install a new path from the end of Court Road bypassing the Rectory and connecting with Court Lane. It would involve constructing a new bridge across Peacock Brook then a path to run parallel to the brook adjacent to the children's playground, then back to Court Lane over the present bridge. The total distance of the path would be about 85 metres.

3. Improve and upgrade the current path which runs from Court Road to Court Lane along the north side of the Church, GNE/200/3. This path is about 170 metres. These to be shared paths and signs can be put up to "share with care" or "cyclists give way to pedestrians" as appropriate.

Members considered the proposals and agreed unanimously in principle to them, subject to clarification regarding ownership of land and the feasibility of utilising the area behind the children's play area.

19.8 Planning

19.8.1 Planning applications to be considered

1. P0134/16/FUL Mr & Mrs Stringer, 2 Greenways, Newent
First Floor side extension over existing single storey element

No Objection

2. P0118/16/LBC Mr J Griffin, Oldbury House, Court Lane, Newent
Listed building consent for replacement of 4 UPVC windows to wooden at rear of original Building

No Objection

19.8.2 To note planning decisions

1. P1906/15/FUL Freemans of Newent, Town Farm, Gloucester St, Newent
Construction of a storage shelter and removal of existing storage tanks and associated apparatus

Decision: Granted

2. P0026/16/TPO Hereford and Gloucester Canal Trust
Former Railway Line, Old Station Road, Newent
Works to trees covered by G1 and A2 of TPO4 at Old Station Road, Newent (resubmission of P0157/13/TPO)

Decision: Granted

3. P1854/15/FUL Mr R Hunter – 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

Decision: Granted

Planning application decisions were duly noted.

19.9 Estate Management

19.9.1 To receive the Estate Supervisor's report and agree any actions

1. It was agreed that the town map could be repositioned on the wall between the Red Lion pub and the Bakery, following the landlord of the pub having raised no objection to this.
2. Confirmation of the removal of the Horse Chestnut tree was given – it was agreed that a Silver Maple and a Flowering Cherry be planted in replacement.
3. Details of the resurfacing of the paths at the Cemetery and surfacing of the new Cemetery extension were discussed, accompanied by illustrative maps of the new cemetery extension. Members were reminded that the car park needed to be enlarged prior to the cemetery extension being utilised, and therefore increased surfacing would be required. It was agreed that the Estates Supervisor be asked to draw up a suitable specification for approval by the Council in order that tenders may be sought for the work.

Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio reported anti-social behaviour taking place at the Cemetery in the evening relating cars parking/smashed bottles etc and requested if the gates could be locked to prevent this. It was agreed that the gates would be locked at 4.00 pm and re-opened the following morning, for a period of one month.

Cllr Blick expressed concern regarding the lack of action in improving the manual workforce welfare facilities at the Chapel building. He requested that this be put on the agenda for the next meeting with three quotations for the work required. This was agreed.

- 19.10 To revisit the decision taken at the Council meeting on 28 September 2015 for tree works at the Lake, specifically relating to T19 in the report, as requested in a motion signed by 6 Councillors in accordance with Standing Order 7a

Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio requested reconsideration be given to the agreed felling of this tree and proposed that the Council opt for crown lifting instead which had been an alternative option recommended in the tree surgeon's report. Members were advised that the Planning Authority who had given consent for the felling of the tree had confirmed there was no need for resubmission of an application to them in this regard. Members were further informed that the Contractor engaged to fell the tree had since written to confirm a reduction in his price of £90.00 if the alternative recommendation was agreed. The proposal was seconded and agreed by 12 votes in favour, 1 abstention.

- 19.11 Representative reports

There were no representative reports

19.12 Notices and Information

1. Cllrs Mr & Mrs Celino and Cllr Thomas to man the Listening Post this month
2. Cllr Mrs Celino questioned when the future of the Cemetery Lodge was going to be discussed again. Cllr Mrs Celino was advised of the procedure to put the matter back on the agenda.

This concluded the business of the meeting and it was declared closed at 8.50 pm