

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Newent Town Council meeting held on Monday 25 January 2016 at the Market House, Newent at 7.30 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, J Celino and Mrs P Celino

Also Present – The Clerk, Estate Supervisor, District Councillors Lawton and Mrs Gooch, 6 members of the public and 1 member of the press

17.00 Apologies – Cllr E Heathfield

17.1 Declarations of Interests

Cllr Miss Shere declared an interest in item 6.3 request from Cliffords Mesne Village Hall Committee.

17.2 Approval of the Minutes of Council meeting held on 11 January 2016

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 11 January 2016. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Wood, All in favour.

17.3 Clerk's Update and Matters Arising

There were no issues to report from the Clerk.

Cllr Celino enquired if Gloucestershire County Council had visited the car park, the Clerk confirmed that the Town Council had not received any information.

17.4 Finance

17.4.1 To approve accounts to be paid

Payments made since last meeting	Chq No.	£
Fresh-Air Fitness	013361	7358.26
Payments to be authorised	Chq No.	£
National Test Services	013362	141.30
Grundon Waste Management	013363	122.66
K Noble	013364	16.70
Dilwyn Dalby	013368	120.00
Perpetua Press	013369	66.00
LGMI	013370	204.00
GAPTC	013371	85.00
Millington & Ramstedt	013372	115.19
Gloucester Locksmiths	013373	102.00

Resolved: The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £12,557.16. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Wood, All in favour.

17.4.2 To review budget update report

The report was noted. A spelling error will be amended.

17.4.3 Precept – feedback from meeting with Forest of Dean District Council

The Clerk confirmed that she had attended a meeting with the District and Town Councils and the District Council have agreed to pay the Council Tax Support Grant separately to the Precept and this will be shown as separate miscellaneous income in the budget.

17.5 Correspondence

17.5.1 Newent Rugby Club – Lease renewal and development proposals

Cllr Wood proposed that this matter is deferred and considered once the Allocations Hearing has taken place and the decision on the Jones' field has been confirmed. This was unanimously agreed.

(2 members of the public joined the meeting at this juncture)

17.5.2 Billy Danter Funfair – request to hold funfair on 10th–12th March 2016.

Resolved: The request is approved subject to the usual terms.

Record of Voting: All in favour.

17.5.3 Cliffords Mesne Village Hall Committee – request for £500 contribution towards defibrillator

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

Resolved: The request for £500 is approved with £100 to be allocated from the commons budget and £400 from reserves. **Record of Voting:** 7 in favour, 4 against.

(3 members of the public left the meeting at this juncture)

17.5.4 Email from Penny Mail – Safety concerns regarding zebra crossing.

The Clerk had contacted Gloucestershire County Council regarding the concerns raised. The County Council are carrying out an accident report and have invited the Council to attend a site visit, which Cllrs Mrs Howley, Mrs Davies, Beard, Miss Shere and Mrs Marcovecchio agreed to attend.

Several Councillors expressed their concerns over the safety of the zebra crossing, which had been reported to Gloucestershire County Council before.

Cllr Celino proposed that the Council makes a request for 20mph signs from the Police and Crime Commissioner, which was agreed.

17.5.5 Newent in Bloom – Support for Newent Daffodil trail

Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio stated that 8,000 bulbs had already been planted in the arboretum and there were existing daffodils on Scraggs Bank.

Cllr Celino felt the event would bring more visitors to the town.

Resolved: The Council confirms its support. **Record of Voting:** All in Favour.

17.6 Planning

17.6.1 Planning applications to be considered

P0026/16/TPO – 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). **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** 11 in favour, 1 abstention.

P1907/15/FUL – Agricultural Building, Cliffords Mesne
Erection of a general purpose agricultural building. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

P1915/15/APP – Land at Watery Lane, Newent
Approval of reserved matters for outline permission P1513/13/OUT for erection of up to 30 dwellings and new access. **Resolved:** Objection for the following reasons; the location of the children's play area causes child safety concerns. There are two footpaths shown which lead into the Cemetery. The Town Council would not give permission for the cemetery to be used as an access to the development. The development entrance is also within a 60 mph speed limit and children walking to school would have to cross the busy Watery Lane, as there are no footpaths one side. There is also lack of parking provision. Councillors also questioned the need for the small play area especially as the development is close the recreational ground and any monies could be used to maintain that play area instead, The District Councillors were asked to support this request. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

P0001/16/DISCON – Land at Foley Road, Newent
Discharge of condition (03) construction management plan relating to planning permission P0974/15/APP for residential development (up to 120 dwellings). **Resolved:** No objection. **Resolved:** All in Favour.

17.6.2 To note planning decisions

The following decisions were noted;

Planning applications granted by Forest of Dean District Council

P1720/15/FUL – Ferndene, Strawberry Hill, Newent
Erection of two seasonal temporary structures and removal of existing three glasshouses

P1649/15/FUL – May Cottage, Cliffords Mesne
Erection of a replacement garage/store and demolition of existing

P1515/15/FUL – 56 Three Ashes Lane, Newent
Two storey extension to dwelling

P1912/15/NOMAT – Springfield Grange, Cliffords Mesne
Non-material amendment to planning permission P1280/15/FUL to amend greenhouse colour from off-white to olive green

P1873/15/TPO – Newent Lake, Lakeside, Newent
Works to trees identified in the submitted details covered by A2, A6 and W3 of G41 TPO54 and not addressed by application P1869/15/TCA

P1900/15/TPO – 5 Friars Walk, Newent
Removal of 1 x conifer tree covered by A1 of G41 TPO54

P1741/15/FUL – Wildsmith Meadow, Malswick, Newent
Proposed extensions to building to improve facilities and provide disabled toilet, including associated works

P1521/15/FUL – 8 Lakeside, Newent
Conservatory to rear of dwelling

Permission not required

P1719/15/LD2 – Application under Section 192 to determine whether or not planning permission is required for lowering of kerb access to existing off-road parking

Permission refused

P1725/15/LD2 – Cherry Tree Cottage, Cliffords Mesne
Application under Section 192 for formation of playroom above existing garage including new gable, external staircase and two roof lights

17.7 Estate Management

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

A horse chestnut tree at the recreation ground needed to be felled due to safety concerns as it has bleeding canker. **Resolved:** The tree is felled as recommended. **Record of Voting:** 11 in favour, 1 abstention.

Resolved: The Clerk is authorised to place the order for the works to a maximum cost of £700. **Resolved:** All in favour.

As requested, the Estate Supervisor had costed the works for installing a gravel pathway between the changing rooms and portacabin and confirmed it would cost £450. Concerns were raised regarding the cost and it was suggested that the Rugby Club is asked to make a contribution. Cllr Blick queried if the pavement from Church Street could be recycled and used and it was agreed to explore this with Gloucestershire County Council and report back at the next meeting.

Cllr Beard also suggested that it would be more cost effective to buy a large quantity of gravel and store it in the library car park, instead of making regular small purchases.

The Estate Supervisor reported that due to a shortage of stone, the revetments have yet to be started and the stone would need to be purchased from the Cotswolds and would cost an extra £240.

Resolved: A further £240 is approved for the revetment works and to be allocated from the lake trees budget. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

Cllr Blick enquired about the condition of the recreational ground and the Estate Supervisor confirmed it was fine.

Cllr Duncan asked if the diesel tank had been installed at the cemetery and the Estate Supervisor confirmed it will be progressed in the new financial year.

Cllr Beard asked if the Estate Supervisor had noticed an increase in graffiti in the town, which was confirmed and it had been raised with the District Council. The Estate Supervisor was asked to chase up the removal.

17.7.2 To review quotations and make decision for tree works at The Lake

Resolved: The quotation from company 1 is accepted. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

17.7.3 To review Environment Agency feedback and make decision regarding fishing rules

It was agreed that this should be reviewed at the end of March due to the budgetary implications.

17.8 Flood prevention scheme proposal

Cllr Blick gave some background to the previously circulated proposal, following discussions and a site visit with Mr King, the District Council's Flooding Engineer.

Resolved: The following proposal is requested to be undertaken by the District Council's Flooding Engineer;

- 1 To investigate, design, and construct a flood prevention bund, 20-40 metres upstream of Scraggs Bank footbridge.
- 2 To consult with GCC Highways at top of Watery Lane, adjacent to Bradford's Lane, to improve road drainage to the culvert.
- 3 To make recommendations and costings (approximate) to carry out flood prevention work at the Newent Car Park and Town Council Paddock.
- 4 To investigate holding pond drainage along the valley through farmland on the right of Cliffords Mesne road. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Blick, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

17.9 Request to establish a Staff Committee and to agree membership and Terms of Reference

Resolved: The establishment of a committee and Terms of Reference are approved. Cllrs Mrs Davies, Mrs Howley, Mrs Draper and Celino are the agreed members of the Committee. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

(Estate Supervisor left the meeting at this juncture)

17.10 To review and adopt Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

Resolved: The Standing Orders are adopted. The Financial Regulations are adopted subject to the agreed amendment to 4.1. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Wood, All in favour.

17.11 To appoint a website advisory group

Resolved: Cllrs Miss Shere and Beard in conjunction with the Clerk prepare the wording for the new website. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

17.12 Request for town promotional leaflets to be printed

It was agreed that the quotations for the printing of the leaflets and the set-up of the website should be discussed at the next meeting.

A discussion took place with regards to advertising in the Forest of Dean and Wye Valley Days Out Guide. **Resolved:** A 1/3 page advert is approved at a cost of £300, which will be allocated from the Mayor's budget. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

17.13 Representative reports

Representative reports were given as follows

Cllr Celino	Allotment judge – Cllr Celino confirmed he wished to step down as a judge and Cllr Mrs Draper agreed to take over.
Cllrs Bick, Miss Shere & Mrs Marcovecchio	Forest of Dean District Council's litter campaign launch
Cllr Davies	Onion Fayre – AGM to be held on 2 nd February at 7.30pm at the Market House, all are welcome to attend
Cllrs Miss Shere & Mrs Marcovecchio	Meeting with Mark Harper MP regarding Lloyds Bank closure
Cllr Celino	Listening Post – To take place on Tuesday 26 th January

17.14 Notices and Information

Cllr Davies explained that Sweet Memories had raised £251 for the Christmas lights event. Some of the money is going to be used to buy Easter eggs and raffle tickets will then be sold to raise further funds.

This concluded the business of the meeting and it was declared closed at 9.00pm