

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Newent Town Council meeting held on Monday 25 April 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, E Heathfield, J Celino and Mrs P Celino

Also Present – The Clerk, District Councillor Mrs Gooch, 4 members of the public

Public Participation Session: A member of the public raised concerns regarding speeding traffic in the town and whether a further crossing could be installed. The Clerk will raise this with Highways.

22.0 Apologies – None

22.1 Declarations of Interests

Cllr Heathfield declared an interest in item 7.3 and had requested in writing a dispensation to participate in the discussion. The Proper Officer has granted the dispensation.

22.2 Approval of the Minutes of Council meeting held on 11 April 2016

Cllr Blick reminded Councillors that a proposer and seconder are needed for proposals.

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 11 April 2016. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Wood, 12 in favour, 1 abstention.

22.3 Clerk's Update and Matters Arising

P.158 –uplighters by Market House. Cllr Duncan enquired why the lights had been replaced when the Council agreed not to take over the maintenance. The Clerk confirmed the repairs were scheduled at the beginning of the year after complaints had been received. The Clerk had notified Gloucestershire County Council of the decision after the last meeting, so they had time to cancel the order if they decided to.

P.159 non-compliance of cemetery rules. Cllr Davies advised that one of the kerb sets had been removed. The Clerk confirmed letters had been sent to the families and all kerb sets have now been removed.

P.160 Cllr Celino enquired if the Listening Post could be held at the Library. The Clerk confirmed that a response from Library Services was still awaited.

Clerks Update:

Citizen Advice Bureau Grant – A thank you letter had been received.

22.4 Finance

20.4.1 To approve accounts to be paid

Payments made since last meeting	Chq No.	£
Wages		4944.62
HMRC	013504	112.40
Forest of Dean CAB	013494	1300.00
Payments to be considered	Chq No.	£
GAPTC	013495	1426.11
Zurich Municipal	013496	3948.54
Viking	013497	196.56
Upleadon Parish Council	013498	250.00
NALC	013499	17.00
Ermin Plant	013500	78.99
Rajapack	013561	240.00
Brandon Hire	013562	81.60
K Noble	013563	35.43
Glide Media	013564	360.00

Resolved: The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £12,991.25. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Wood, All in favour.

22.5 Correspondence

22.5.1 Newent Rugby Club – To consider lease renewal

Cllr Beard stated that all correspondence should be addressed to the Clerk of the Council and any response should be clearly marked 'subject to contract and without prejudice'.

A lengthy discussion took place and some concerns were raised regarding rushing into a lease without thoroughly looking at all the options and without taking legal advice. Councillors did express their support for the Club.

(1 member of the public left the meeting at this juncture)

Resolved: A Working Group is convened to review all the documentation and future options and report back to the Council with recommendations. The Working Group will consist of Cllrs Celino, Beard, Heathfield, Mrs Marcovecchio, Thomas and the Clerk. A representative of the Club would also be invited when appropriate.

Record of Voting: Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Celino, All in favour.

22.5.2 Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management – To consider membership renewal

Resolved: Membership is renewed at a cost of £90.00. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Wood, All in favour.

22.5.3 Local Council Advisory Service – To consider membership renewal

Resolved: Membership is renewed at a cost of £145.00 + VAT.
Record of Voting: Proposed Cllr Celino, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

22.5.4 Invitation to ‘Love Your Forest’ launch event

Miss Shere and Mrs Marcovecchio agreed to attend the event.

22.5.5 Gloucestershire County Council – Proposed plans for traffic calming on Onslow Road

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Highways to ask for statistics of how successful the proposed measures have been in other areas.

22.5.6 Haygrove Growing (UK) – Volunteering opportunities

Resolved: The offer is accepted and the volunteers help start levelling the area at the Jubilee Walk. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Heathfield, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in Favour.

22.6 Planning

22.6.1 Planning applications to be considered

P0029/16/Discon Westdean - Plot (New House) Graces Pitch, Newent, Discharge of conditions (03) materials, (04) hard and soft landscaping, (06) drainage and (07) carbon energy scheme relating to planning permission P0408/14/FUL for the erection of a dwelling

Resolution: No objection. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

P0348/16/FUL – 12 Winfield, Newent,
Replacement pitched roof from flat over existing garage

Resolution: No objection. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

(Cllr Gooch and 1 member of the public joined the meeting at this juncture)

P0032/16/Discon - Plot 1 Land off Court Lane, Newent
Discharge of condition (06) materials relating to planning permission P1125/15/FUL. **Resolution:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** 12 in favour, 1 abstention.

P1267/15/FUL - Land at Graces Pitch, Newent
Proposed erection of a 3 bedroomed dwelling, associated car parking and landscaping. **Resolution:** Objection. Lack of information supplied, unable to identify exact plot location. Site meeting requested. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

P0302/16/LBC - Good News Centre, High St, Newent
Listed Building consent for removal of existing damaged entrance screen/door and side window, replacement screen/door and window to match existing. **Resolution:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

P0470/16/FUL - 5 Croft Road, Newent
Extension to front and rear of dwelling. **Resolution:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

22.6.2 To note planning decisions

The following decisions were noted;

Planning application granted by Forest of Dean District Council

P0185/16/FUL 45 Culver Street, Newent
Erection of a detached dwelling with associated works including parking and landscaping

P0184/16/FUL Land Rear of Orchard House, Graces Pitch, Newent
Variation of condition (02) approved plans for revised plans for the garden layout relating to P0732/13/FUL for two dwellings

P0223/16/FUL 8 Broad Street, Newent
Removal of external fascia signs, hanging projecting sign and external ATM

P0218/16/FUL Newent Community School, Watery Lane, Newent
Replacement cladding on existing link bridge

Application withdrawn

P0299/16/TPO Southern Barn, Southend Lane, Newent

Reduction of line of Alders to a height of 3m (area A1 of DFTPO215 (216)1

Planning appeal allowed

Appeal Ref: APP/P1615/X/15/3128811 by Glebe Contractors, Woodland View Farm, Cliffords Mesne Road, Bouldson, Newent against a refusal by Forest of Dean District Council to grant a certificate of lawful use or development (LDC).

The use for which the Certificate of Lawful use or development is sought is use of land and buildings as an agricultural and landscape contractor's business and ancillary storage of materials.

22.6.3 To consider options for Section 106 monies and set up a working group to progress

Councillor suggestions had been circulated which included contributions towards; a skate park, refurbishment of the changing rooms and with a possible extension to include facilities for the Chill-Out zone, further improvements by Newent Cycling Club and improvements to the Community Centre. Councillors spoke of their support for the various options. **Resolved:** All the options will be considered once further research is completed on the changing room requirements and future use of the recreation ground. A Working Group would then be convened if required. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Wood, All in favour.

22.7 Estate Management

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

The update report had been circulated and noted. Cllr Blick stated that later in the year the hedge around the cemetery extension would need to be cut.

The cemetery gates had been locked for the past two months and the Council were asked if they wished to continue locking the gates. Anti-social behaviour has reduced, however some complaints have been received. **Resolved:** The gates are left open during the summer months. **Record of Voting:** Proposed: Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio Seconded Cllr Mrs Duncan, 7 in favour, 5 against, 1 abstention.

Numerous fence posts at the Arboretum (Bradfords Lane side) are rotten and need replacing. Due to the steep slope along the roadside it is recommended that the posts are replaced for Health and Safety reasons. A discussion took place regarding dogs off leads and it was confirmed that the dog owners are responsible for ensuring they are kept under control and do not enter the neighbouring field. **Resolved:** New posts are installed along the Bradfords Lane side of the Arboretum at a maximum cost of £800. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, All in favour.

22.7.2 To consider annual purchase of 6ml dust stone for repairs to lake pathway

Resolved: 20 tonne of stone is purchased at a cost of £370 + VAT. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Wood, 12 in favour, 1 abstention.

(Cllr Gooch left the meeting at this juncture)

22.8 Newent Traders

Cllr Celino had been approached by a trader asking if the Council could help to increase footfall in the town, as long term traders are seeing a large decrease in sales. A discussion took place and it was agreed to invite the Business Club to attend a future meeting with ideas of how to help the traders. The Clerk was also asked to request the footfall data from the District Council's High Street survey.

22.9 Representative reports

Cllr Wood	Meeting with Street Warden Manager
Cllr Wood	St George's Day Service at Gloucester Cathedral
Cllr Heathfield	Newent Initiative Trust. All are welcome to attend the AGM on 17 May 2016
Cllr Marcovecchio	Canal Trust Meeting
Cllr Blick	Flood Warden report – Watery Lane

22.10 Notices and Information

Cllr Wood informed the Council that Barnardos are making staff redundant.

Cllr Thomas expressed his annoyance and dismay at the recent article in the Forrester and the lack of support received at the last meeting with regard to the Newsletter.

The Listening Post will take place on 26th April and will be held in the Market House.

22.11 Staff Matters

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 this item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

This concluded the business of the meeting and it was declared closed at 8.44pm