

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Newent Town Council Meeting held on Monday 9th January 2017 at the Market House, Newent at 7.30 pm.

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

Also present – The Clerk and 1 member of the public

Public Participation Session: No items raised.

38.0 Apologies – Cllr Mrs Draper and Heathfield

38.1 Declaration of Interests

Cllrs Mrs Howley, Blick, Mrs Moseley and Mrs Davies declared an interest in the item to consider providing quarter allotment plots.

The Monitoring Officer from the District Council had granted a dispensation for all Councillors to be able to debate and vote on the budget and setting of the Precept.

38.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 12th December 2016.

Resolved: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12th December 2016 were approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Wood, 10 in favour, 1 abstention.

38.3 Clerk's Update and Matters Arising

Cllr Blick stated that he and his family spent 15 minutes clearing litter from Toby's Hole on Christmas Day, which had been taken from the recycling bank and set on fire.

Freedom Leisure – 58 children participated in the orienteering session at the Lake.

Photocopier – The company have agreed to cover the cost of the stapler, which will be fitted later this week.

Changing of Banks – Barclays have now confirmed that due to a change in policy only 3 signatories are allowed on the account. The Clerk raised concerns that this may cause some issues if Councillors are away. A discussion took place and it was agreed that the Council should support the local bank. **Resolved:** A Barclays account should be opened, with the Town Clerk and two Councillors as signatories. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Blick, All in favour.

38.4 Finance

38.4.1 To approve accounts to be paid

Payments made since last meeting	Chq No.	£
Wages		5,416.40
HMRC	13787	1565.52
Gloucestershire County Council	13788	2047.55
Payments to be considered	Chq No	£
Trade UK	13949	31.92
Autorama	13950	150.00
Highleadon Filling Station	13951	190.17
HD Masonry	13952	200.00
Wye Valley & F Dean Tourism Association	13953	144.00
Viking	13954	37.63
Grundon	13955	161.64
SLCC	13956	200.00
CF Corporate Finance	13957	366.00
EE	13958	29.66
SSE	13959	281.41
Trade UK	13960	8.63
Ermin Plant	13961	38.56
Beacons & Lightbars	13962	118.56
Glebe Chapel	13963	450.00
Mainstream Digital	13964	76.11
G D Parker & Co	13965	24.68
SSE	13966	234.97
Ermin Plant	13967	801.54

Resolved: The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £12,574.95. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Davies, All in favour.

38.4.2 To consider proposal for new fees & charges

As requested at a previous meeting, the Clerk confirmed the expenditure on electricity and for maintaining the lake in good condition for the fish to thrive between April – 15 December was £2,451.98. The electricity expenditure at the Market House for the same period was £359.03.

The Council acknowledged that it had to start charging for use of facilities to help cover the maintenance costs. It was acknowledged that the Angling Club do make donations from the fishing competitions held at the Lake. A lengthy debate took place and some concerns were raised that people would not be able to afford to pay for fishing permits, especially children.

Resolved: As from the new fishing season, permits will be charged at £10.00 for adults and £5.00 for children. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Wood, Seconded Cllr Vesma, 10 in favour, 1 against.

Resolved: £10.00 will be charged per event at the Lake. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Wood, 10 in favour, 1 against.

Resolved: £10.00 refundable deposit will be charged for any keys issued. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Wood, All in favour.

38.4.3 To consider request for end of year finance training

The Clerk requested approval to attend an end of year finance course for the new finance package along with Cllr Mrs Howley.

Resolved: It was agreed for Cllr Mrs Howley and the Clerk to attend finance training at a cost of £360.00. **Record of Voting:** Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Davies, All in favour.

38.5 Correspondence

38.5.1 Gloucestershire County Council – Budget consultation 2017/18

No comments were made.

38.6 Planning

38.6.1 Planning applications to be considered

P0098/16/Discon - land Watery Lane, Newent
Discharge of condition (06) construction method statement of planning permission P1513/13/OUT. **Resolved:** No objection. Request that a routing agreement is enforced to ensure construction vehicles do not use Conigree Road to get to the site. Enquire if Newent School's Art Department could be asked to design some pictures to go on the hoardings at the front of the site. Remind Planning that 30mph limit will need to be moved to accommodate the entrance to the development and that there is no footpath from development site on to Watery Lane. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

P1758/16/FUL - Land at Watery Lane, Newent

Removal of condition (09) low carbon energy relating to planning reference. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

P0294/16/FUL - The Poplars, High Street, Newent

Conversion of annexe to form a two bedroomed house and refurbishment of existing dwelling – revised plans/information. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

P0295/16/LBC - The Poplars, High Street, Newent

Listed Building Consent for conversion of annexe to form a two bedroom house and refurbishment of existing dwelling – revised plans/information. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

P0300/16/FUL - The Fledgelings, High Street, Newent

Conversion of ground floor retail unit to a two bedroom flat and refurbishment of existing first and second floor maisonettes – revised plans/information. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

P0301/16/LBC - The Fledgelings, High Street, Newent

Listed Building Consent for conversion of ground floor retail unit to a two bedroom flat and refurbishment of existing first and second floor maisonettes – revised plans/information. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

P1746/16/Nonmat - Land at Cleeve Mill Lane, Newent

Non-material amendment to planning permission P0107/16/FUL to amend the finished floor levels of Plots 6 and 7. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

38.6.2 To note planning decisions

The following decisions were noted;

P1508/16/FUL - 1 Broad Street, Newent
Installation of ATM machine

P1509/16/LBC - 1 Broad Street, Newent
Listed Building Consent for the installation of ATM machine

P1510/16/ADV - 1 Broad Street, Newent
Non illuminated "Free Cash Withdrawal" Bespoke sign about the ATM fascia

P1314/16/FUL - Phase 5 Newent Business Park, Gloucester Street, Newent
Erection of a building for use as a Builders Merchant

P1490/16/FUL - High Bank, Gloucester Street, Newent
Erection of a two storey side extension with integral garage and single storey rear extension. Demolition of existing garage/carport and shed

P0907/16/FUL - New Development Land at Graces Pitch, Newent
Proposed erection of a 3 bedroom dwelling, associated car parking and landscaping

Notice of Appeals;

Planning Inspectorate ref: APP/P1615/W/16/3161431 - Westdean Homes Ltd, Land at Graces Pitch, Newent

Development: Variation of condition (02) approved plans of planning permission P0701/16/FUL to replace a boundary screen wall with a 1.8m close boarded fence and to add 1.8m close boarded fence to the top part of the retaining wall

Planning Inspectorate ref: APP/P1615/A/14/2228822 - Gladman Developments Ltd, Land North of Ross Road, Newent

Development: Outline application for proposed residential development of up to 85 dwellings, associated access, parking, landscaping, public open space and associated works. **Resolved:** Cllr Mrs Duncan will apply to make a representation at the appeal and will attend on two of the days. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

38.6.3 Forest of Dean District Council – Changes to Allocations Plan submission

Resolved: No further comments were raised. The Town Council would, however, send a letter of support to John Teire for his response. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

38.7 Estate Management

38.7.1 To consider providing four quarter allotment plots and to agree expenditure to number all the plots

(Cllrs Blick, Mrs Davies, Mrs Howley and Mrs Moseley left the meeting whilst this item was discussed)

Resolved: The two vacant plots (32A & B) are divided to make four quarter plots and reviewed after a year. Tenants will be charged at a pro-rata rate. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Miss Shere, Seconded Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, All in favour.

Prices for plastic and metal posts for numbering the plots are to be sought for consideration.

38.7.2 To approve changes to vehicle lease contract

The Clerk explained problems which have arisen with insurance on the Transit van, which would increase the expenditure by an extra £1,000 per year. In consultation with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor a decision was made to return the vehicle and request a replacement to reduce the cost.

Resolved: The decision to return the Transit van, to be replaced with a Nissan Cabstar was ratified. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Vesma, Seconded Cllr Howley, All in favour.

38.8 To consider the draft budget for 2017/18 and setting of Precept for 2017/18

A draft budget proposal had been circulated which had been prepared by the Working Group. Cllr Mrs Davies gave a statement on the process of how the budget was derived. Cllr Wood thanked the Working Group for all their time in preparing the budget.

A very long debate took place, with numerous questions and concerns being discussed. Some Councillors felt that the budget needed to be increased further in some areas.

A lengthy debate took place on two proposals made for increasing the town promotions budget. Councillors expressed their views before a vote was taken.

Cllr Vesma made a proposal for the town promotion budget to be increased by a further £8,000 and a split from the tourism budget, which Cllr Vesma proposed should be £2,000. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Vesma, Seconded, Cllr Blick, 4 in favour, 7 against. The proposal was rejected.

Cllr Beard made a proposal to increase the town promotions budget to £5,000. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Thomas, 2 in favour, 5 against, 4 abstentions. The proposal was rejected.

Councillors agreed that an extra £2,000 should be added to the contingency budget.

Resolved: The budget for 2017/18 of £219,527 (£210,022 with income deducted) is approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Vesma, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

Resolved: The Precept request for 2017/18 is £210,022.. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Moseley, All in favour.

38.9 Dementia friendly Newent – Proposal to engage with all businesses and for a pilot briefing session to take place in February

Cllr Vesma requested permission for the Working Group to be able to liaise with all businesses in the town, as very few are members of the Business Club. Cllr Vesma also explained that a pilot briefing session would be arranged in February. **Resolved:** The Working Group to liaise with all businesses within the Town to progress the Dementia Friendly Newent project. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Vesma, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

38.10 To receive committee and representative reports

Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio	Meeting to progress tribute to Carl Hester and Charlotte Dujardin
Cllrs Beard, Thomas & Miss Shere	Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum

38.11 Notices and Information

Cllr Vesma will be attending an Onion Fayre Committee meeting tomorrow.

Cllr Mrs Davies has resigned from the Allotments Association.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.28 pm.