

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Newent Town Council Meeting held on Monday 09 October 2017 at the Market House, Newent at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillors Mrs J Davies (Mayor), E Wood, D Blick, R Beard, Mrs Howley, Mrs M Duncan, E Heathfield, Mrs G Moseley, Mrs R Wadley, Mrs Marcovecchio, C Thomas, Mrs K Draper, V Vesma

Also present – The Assistant Clerk and 4 members of the public

Public Participation Session: No items

59.0 Apologies – Town Clerk

59.1 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Beard declared an interest in agenda item 5.1 Accounts to be paid

59.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 25th September 2017

Resolved: The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 25th September 2017 were approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Blick Seconded by Cllrs Howley, All in favour.

59.3 Clerk's Update and Matters Arising

58.6.2 Gloucestershire – Health and wellbeing for the future ; Community Hospitals in the Forest of Dean public consultation

Cllr Blick reported that he had attended a meeting regarding the consultation, however it had been poorly attended and would be re-arranged.

59.4 Finance

59.4.1 To approve accounts to be paid

Cllr Beard left the room whilst this matter was under discussion.

Payments made since last meeting	Chq No.	£
Wages		1558.00
Barclaycard transaction		
Fasthost internet		3.00

Cheques to be paid

GSM	14343	10759.20
Ermin Plant	14344	244.80

Glebe Chapel	14345	450.00
Viking Stationery	14346	135.29
Ron Smith & Co	14347	62.81
Snowboy	14348	348.00
Kedel	14349	55.05
G D Parker & Co	14350	43.67
Southern Electricity	14351	79.24
Highleadon Filling Station	14352	265.83
EE	14353	30.56
GCC	14300	1977.83
HMRC	14301	1742.36
R Beard	14354	50.05

Resolved: The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £17,805.38 **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Blick, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour

59.4.2 To consider the External Audit report

Cllr Mrs Davies reported that the External Audit report had been recently returned without comment. She congratulated the Clerk and Cllr Mrs Howley who had assisted in the completion of the accounts. Cllr Mrs Davies went on to advise that now the Council had an External Audit report without comment it had been awarded the Local Council Award Scheme Foundation level.

59.5 To consider response required to correspondence/consultations received

59.5.1 Citizens Advice Bureau – invitation to AGM on 18 October at 4 pm held at the Forest Road Centre, Cinderford

Unfortunately no-one was available to attend the AGM. In the circumstances it was proposed that encouragement should be given to the Citizens Advice Bureau to continue to have a presence in the town.

Resolved: A letter be sent to the Citizens Advice Bureau apologising for the Council's non attendance at the AGM but that the Council would like them to continue their presence in the town.

Record of Voting: Proposed Cllr Beard, seconded Cllr Blick, All in favour.

59.5.2 Forest of Dean District Council – Consultation on road closure request for part of Church Street to George Hotel on 26 Dec 2017

Resolved: No objection to the road closure for Boxing Day Hunt meet.

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

59.6 Planning

59.6.1 Planning applications to be considered

1. P0085/17/Discon The Poplars, High St, Newent
Discharge of conditions 04 (archaeology); 05 (archaeological programme); 06 (brickwork); 07 (floor samples); 08 (repairs – alterations); 09 (lime ceilings –walls); (architectural); 11 (meter boxes); 12 (external joinery); 13 (parking/manoeuvring or vehicular access), of planning permission P0294/16/FUL and P0295/16/LBC

Resolved: What does on-site parking entail? **Record of Voting: All in favour**

2. P1543/17/FUL The Poplars, High Street, Newent
Removal of condition 05 (Archaeological Programme) of planning permission P0294/16/FUL and Listed Building Consent P0295/16/LBC

Resolved: What does on-site parking entail? **Record of Voting: All in favour**

3. P0084/17/Discon Fledgelings, High Street, Newent
Discharge of conditions 03 (contract for demolition); 06 (brickwork approved); 07 (floor samples); 10 (architectural character features); 12 (external joinery) of planning permission P0300/16/FUL and P0301/16/LBC

Resolved: What does on-site parking entail? **Record of Voting: All in favour**

4. P1537/17/FUL Fledgelings, High Street, Newent
Removal of condition 05 (Archaeological programme) of Planning permission P0300/16/FUL and Listed Building Consent P0301/16/LBC

Resolved: What does on-site parking entail? **Record of Voting: All in favour**

5. P1392/17/FUL Okle Clifford Farm, Okle Green, Upleadon, Newent
Conversion of barn to form two dwellings, construction of detached garage and formation of a new pond and access track

Resolved: Object – no suggestion of renewable energy. **Record of Voting: All in favour**

59.6.2 To note Planning decisions

PERMITTED

P0055/17/Discon 47 Orchard Road, Newent
Discharge of conditions 05 (hard and soft landscaping) and 06 (materials) of planning permission P1657/15/FUL (allowed on appeal APP/P1615/W/16/3151357)

P1114/17/FUL Rymes Farm, Solar Park Land at Rymes Farm, Malswick, Newent
Variation of condition 02 (approved plans) to amend site layout and configuration of modules and variation of condition 03 (permission term) to extend term from 25 years to 30 years of planning permission
P1977/14/FUL (Retrospective)

59.7 To consider complaints regarding Christmas Lights event – Cllr Mrs Draper

Consideration was given to complaints received regarding the ethics and welfare of utilising camels for public entertainment at the Christmas lights switch-on event. Members were furnished with a written response from the owner of the camels who gave assurance regarding the animals' welfare. Members also considered the cost implications of cancelling the animals at this stage.

Resolved: the event to go ahead as planned with the inclusion of camels.
Record of Voting: Proposed by Cllr Beard, Seconded by Cllr Blick, 9 in favour, 1 against, 3 abstentions.

Three Members of the public left at this juncture.

59.8 To consider advertising in the 2018 Forest of Dean Wye Valley Visitor Guide – Cllr Thomas

Cllr Thomas spoke in favour of not advertising in this publication next year.

Resolved: The Council declined to advertise in the publication next year,
Record of Voting: Proposed by Cllr Thomas, Seconded by Cllr Wood, All in favour

59.9 To consider quotation for replacement IT equipment

Cllr Blick questioned that only one quotation had been sought and that it was the Council's practice to have three quotations. Also that the matter should be discussed in Committee. The Assistant Clerk advised that the Town Clerk had sought one quotation as the matter had been considered urgent and also that comparative quotations would be difficult to obtain for this item.

Resolved: that the quotation be put to one side until two further quotations had been obtained. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Davies, All in favour

59.60 To consider adopting the General Power of Competence

Members were furnished with details of how to use the General Power of Competence and the benefits of its use. It was considered it would be advantageous to adopt the Power. In this regard Members considered the criteria to be eligible to use the Power – that the number of Councillors

elected at the last ordinary election or at a subsequent by-election must equal or exceed two thirds of its total numbers of Councillors and that the Clerk must hold at least one of the sector-specific qualifications ie CILCA. Additionally a Council must resolve at a Council meeting if it meets the criteria and then must review and make a new resolution at the Annual Meeting of the Council after an ordinary election has taken place, which is usually every four years.

Resolved: that the Council currently meet the criteria to be eligible to utilise the General Power of Competence and that it adopts the Power.

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

59.61 To approve newsletter – Cllrs Mrs Moseley and Vesma

Consideration was given to approval of the newsletter

Resolved: that it be approved subject to minor amendments: **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded by Cllr Heathfield. All in favour.

59.62 To receive committee and representative reports

Committee and Representative reports were received as follows:-

Cllr Heathfield - Boundary Review

Cllr Beard - Glos Market Towns Forum

Cllr Beard advised that the Business Club were interested in putting in electric charging points in the town – there could be funding for this.

Cllrs Mrs Davies, Howley & Beard – Attendance at Gloucestershire Police Headquarters, Waterwells, Quedgeley, Gloucester

Members advised that Newent's cameras are unlikely to need to be upgraded in the short term but part of a four year plan and that the mobile cameras can feed into them. The ANPR camera can be a stand alone unit and feed back directly to Waterwells. A specification to ensure it integrates with their system needs to be undertaken for the Police – up to £2000 is available in the Council's earmarked reserves and they were very optimistic that funding will be obtained from the Police Commissioner.

Cllr Mrs Draper - Christmas Lights Committee

Cllr Mrs Draper advised that a star had been purchased for the late Clive Bryant and that the Committee would be writing to his family. Two further

lights had been purchased and two bands and a disco had been ordered. The road would be closed between 3pm and 7 pm. The 4x4's were undertaking the roadblocks. All costs were within budget.

Cllr Mrs Howley - Flu Jabs at Health Centre

Cllr Mrs Howley advised that following the flu jab sessions at the Health Centre, the public are to be invited to attend the Library for tea/coffee where Sheppard House would be in attendance giving awareness on Dementia.

59.63 Notices and Information

Cllr Mrs Davies advised that Sgt Mark Burns would periodically like to meet with Council members for a chat and coffee for mutual updating of community matters. It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Duncan, Mrs Howley, Mrs Marcovecchio and Wood would meet with him – a date to be arranged with him.

Cllr Mrs Davies advised that Members would have received an email regarding the forthcoming Civic Carol Service and asked for them to advise her if they will be attending.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.50 pm