

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Newent Town Council Meeting held on Monday 11th September 2017 at the Market House, Newent at 7.30 pm.

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

Also present – The Clerk and 13 members of the public

Public Participation Session: A resident who lives behind the Black Dog spoke in objection to the planning application. Several concerns were raised including the negative impact on the surrounding dwellings and sheltered housing accommodation, harming the heritage values of the pub, lack of parking and the application contravenes the Enabling Planning Policy

Another resident raised concerns regarding the Black Dog planning application and the impact the development will have on those who live in the neighbouring sheltered housing accommodation.

A resident spoken in support of the Newent in Bloom grant application and urged the Council to support the application.

A resident spoke in relation to Eastnor House reopening and asked for the Council's support to prevent Marlow Child and Family Service reopening an inadequate facility.

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

57.0 Apologies – Cllrs Wood, Vesma and Mrs Howley

57.1 Declaration of Interests

Cllrs Heathfield and Mrs Draper declared an interest in the grant application from Newent Initiative Trust.

Cllr Beard declared an interest in the accounts to be paid.

57.2 Newent Business Club – Town centre viability presentation

Darren Maller from the Business Club attended the meeting and spoke about concerns for the town in light of Barclays Bank closing and how the Town Council and Business Club should be working together.

Mr Maller began by thanking Cllr Mrs Howley for being the leading force behind the Open Day and the Business Club had received many positive comments.

The Business Club made some suggestions to improve the viability of the town including, further regular promotional events, free car parking on Saturdays or designated short stay bays, promoting services through social media, installation of electric vehicle charging points and signage to direct people to the town centre.

Cllr Mrs Draper stated that the Town Council has tried to work with the Business Club in the past, but there was a lack of support.

Cllr Beard explained that the Open Day was only supposed to be a one-off Council event and it was hoped the Business Club would take over the lead for future years, which has not been the case. Cllr Beard also suggested that the Business Club investigates the grants for the charging points and the Town Council could then support an application. Mr Maller replied stating that the Business Club has a lack of resources and support from the businesses in the town

Cllr Beard stated that the Town Council had set up a working group to look into the options with regard to the banking facilities for the town and people need to stay positive. Cllr Mrs Moseley gave feedback from the recent working group meeting and explained that a template letter had been produced and was being circulated to businesses and residents and other local Parish Councils.

Cllr Mrs Duncan confirmed that the Town Council had been working with the Health Centre and had negotiated with the District Council for free parking for the flu vaccinations and suggested that the Business Club measure the footfall on those dates.

Mr Maller finished by stating that the Business Club used to be voice of Newent but with the lack of business support it is more of an interest group, as they have a lack of resources and time. Cllr Mrs Draper reminded Mr Maller that the Councillors are volunteers and also have many commitments.

Mr Maller was thanked for attending the meeting.

(Mr Maller and one member of the public left the meeting at this juncture)

57.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 24th July and 14th August 2017

Resolved: The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 24th July were approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, All in favour.

Resolved: The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 14th August were approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Blick, Seconded Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, 9 in favour, 1 abstention.

57.4 Clerk's Update and Matters Arising

From the meeting on 24th July;

Cycle Path by Gloucester Road Junction - Response from Gloucester County Council 'we are hoping to make the installation all things being equal. The scheme is currently being designed in detail by a private company and you will be updated in due course'.

From meeting on 14th August;

Flu vaccinations – As previously stated, the Forest of Dean District Council have agreed to allow free parking on the two dates in October.

57.4 Finance

(Cllr Beard left the meeting whilst the following item was discussed)

57.5.1 To approve accounts to be paid

Payments made since last meeting		£
Wages		5760.98
FODDC	14255	97.50
Barclaycard Transactions:		£
Fasthost Internet		3.00
Payments to be considered		
	Chq No.	£
Ermin	14257	23.40
LGMI	14258	1144.80
Kompan	14259	19.20
Viking	14260	281.47
EE	14261	30.41
Buildbase	14262	96.99
LK Flooring	14263	3440.58
Water Plus	14264	36.65
R Beard	14265	19.50
Streetmaster	14266	801.60
Abbey	14267	20.71
Mainstream Digital	14268	7.14
B & B Services	14269	86.40
Glebe Chapel	14270	450.00
Chris Hyett	14271	124.91
HMRC	14283	1701.50
GCC	14284	1914.35

Resolved: The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £16,161.09. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, All in favour.

57.5.2 Internal check report

Cllrs Mrs Marcovecchio and Mrs Moseley had completed the internal check and found everything in order and are happy all the processes comply with the audit requirements.

57.5.3 To appoint working group to review fees and charges

Resolved: Cllrs Mrs Howley, Mrs Davies, Heathfield and Mrs Marcovecchio are appointed. **Resolved:** All in favour.

57.5.4 To appoint working group to review budgets

Resolved: Cllrs Mrs Howley, Mrs Davies, Heathfield and Mrs Wadley are appointed. **Resolved:** All in favour.

57.5.5 Update on changing banks and to consider options

The Clerk explained that although the Barclays account had been set up, the pin codes, bank cards and on-line banking had still not been arranged and the Business Manager is no longer able to deal with the account. The Clerk asked the Council to consider remaining with Lloyds, in light of the fact that Barclays would be closing the town branch.

Resolved: The Council bank account will remain with Lloyds Bank and the Clerk is to arrange for on-line banking. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllrs Mrs Marcovecchio, All in Favour.

57.6 To consider response required to correspondence/consultations received

57.6.1 Forest of Dean District Council – Invitation to Parish and Town Liaison Meeting on 26th October and to consider inviting the Leader of the District Council and relevant Cabinet Members to a future meeting

Resolved: Cllrs Mrs Wadley and Mrs Duncan agreed to attend the liaison meeting on 26th October. Cllr Gooch will be invited to a meeting to discuss car parking, planning issues and the street cleaning contract. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

57.6.2 Forest of Dean District Council – To agree date for Community Led Housing presentation

It was agreed the presentation should be held on 27th September at 7 pm in the Market House.

57.6.3 Freedom Leisure – Request permission to hold an orienteering challenge at the Lake on Friday 27th October 2017

Resolved: The request is approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

57.6.4 Concerns regarding the re-opening of Eastnor House, Botloes Green, By Marlow Child and Family Services

Cllr Mrs Duncan was aware of many issues arisen from the home and stated that it was in an inappropriate location and staff were inadequately trained. Cllr Mrs Duncan would be prepared to attend any meetings to represent the Council.

Several Councillors expressed their sympathy and support for the residents and agreed the location was not suitable.

Resolved: Cllr Mrs Duncan represents the Town Council at any meetings with Ofsted or Marlowe and a letter supporting residents' concerns will be sent if required. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, All in favour.

57.7 Planning

57.7.1 Planning applications to be considered

P0072/17/Discon – Cargill Meats Europe Ltd, Town Farm, Industrial Estate, Newent

Discharge of conditions, 03 (Water Drainage System) of planning permission P1601/16/FUL. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

P0958/17/FUL – 46 Scarr Road, Newent

Erection of a detached residential annexe building, ancillary to the main dwelling. Revised plans/information. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

P1287/17/FUL – 34 Glebe Court, Newent

Erection of a single storey kitchen extension. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

P1350/17/TCA – Porch House, Church Street, Newent

Works to x 1 Ginko tree to include a 20% crown reduction and reduction of long laterals by a maximum of 3 m. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** 8 in favour, 2 abstentions.

P1358/17/TP0 - Cargill Meats Europe Ltd, Freemans of Newent Ltd, Town Farm, Gloucester Street, Newent

Removal of x 1 Oak tree covered by G6 Of G41 TPO198. **Resolved:** No objection, providing an established Oak tree is planted. **Record of Voting:** 9 in favour, 1 against.

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). Additional information. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

P1339/17/FUL – Black Dog Inn, Church Street, Newent

Erection of four (2 bed) dwellings and four (1 bed) dwellings with parking and amenities within existing car park. Alterations and renovations of Black Dog Inn. Change of use of garage to one bed accommodation and:

P1340/17/LBC – Black Dog Inn, Church Street, Newent

Listed building consent for alterations and renovations of Black Dog Inn to bed and breakfast accommodation. Change of use of garage to one bed accommodation. **Resolved:** Objection. Neighbouring properties of St Bartholomew's, Kathleen House and Ross Willis Court would suffer from significant visual impact and reduction in privacy. There is inadequate parking provision. Concerns regarding ingress and egress of the site. Legal issues regarding the rights of way to existing dwellings which need addressing. There does not seem to have been any consideration of how emergency services would be able to access the existing properties at the rear of the site. Several points of the Enabling Development and the Conservation of Heritage Assets Policy statement would not be met. The Council also requests a site visit and that the applications are considered by the Full Planning Committee and not delegated. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

P1360/17/TCA – 23 Culver Street, Newent

Felling of x 1 Spruce tree. **Resolved:** Objection. The tree should be reduced/pruned as it is a healthy tree that is not dangerous. **Record of Voting:** 5 in favour, 3 against, 2 abstentions.

P0976/17/FUL – Site at Lower Newent Woods, Cliffords Mesne

Erection of 7 unit holiday accommodation and associated works. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** 8 in favour, 2 abstentions.

P1346/17/FUL – 7, 8, 9 Whitegates, Newent

Change of use of agricultural land to form extended residential curtilage for 7, 8 and 9 Whitegates. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

P1405/17/FUL – Cemetery, Watery Lane, Newent

Variation of condition 02 (approved plans), 05 (landscaping scheme) and 06 (works to trees) to reduce the size of the garden of remembrance, relocation of infant graves and alterations to the landscaping of planning permission P1692/13/FUL – For information only.

57.7.2 To note planning decisions

PERMITTED

P0063/17/Discon – New Development at Graces Pitch, Newent
Discharge of condition 03 (materials) of planning permission P0907/16/FUL

P0812/17/FUL - New Development at Graces Pitch, Newent
Variation of condition 02 (approved plans) to allow amendments to place a brick pier where there was previously a timber pier and enclose the roof void of the carport with timber boarding of planning permission P0907/16/FUL. (Revised description)

P0061/17/Discon – The Cottage, Tewkesbury Road, Newent
Discharge of condition 06 (windows and glazing bars, verge, ridge, eaves overhang) 07 (external colour) of planning permission P1536/16/FUL. Discharge of condition 04 (windows and glazing bars, verge, ridge, eaves overhang) 05 (external colour) of Listed building consent P0044/17/LBCi

57.8 Estate Management

57.8.1 Newent Rugby Club – Request to operate a bar at all home matches this season

Some concerns were raised regarding the need for alcohol to be served at matches.

Resolved: Permission is granted, providing that a commercial waste service is arranged and the licensee details are provided to the Clerk. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, 8 in favour, 2 against.

57.8.2 To consider quotations for cemetery wall repairs

The Clerk informed the Council that a section of the cemetery wall had started to collapse into a neighbour's garden and a large section required repairing.

Resolved: Company A's quotation was accepted at a cost of £2,064.78 plus materials and waste removal costs. The Council request a sample of mortar mix.

Some of the monies will be taken from the cemetery extension earmarked reserves. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard Seconded Cllr Blick, All in favour.

57.8.3 To appoint a working group to review the fishing rules and permit allocation

Resolved: Cllrs Mrs Marcovecchio, Blick, Mrs Wadley and Mrs Howley are appointed. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

57.9 To consider grant application requests

(Cllrs Mrs Draper and Heathfield left the meeting whilst the next item was discussed)

A in-depth discussion took place and each application was carefully considered.

57.9.1 Newent in Bloom

Resolved: £1,500.00 is allocated. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Blick, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

57.9.2 Hope for Tomorrow

Resolved: Due to budget restraints, there would be no allocation of a grant. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Blick, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

57.9.3 Newent Initiative Trust

Resolved: £8,000.00 is allocated. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Blick, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

57.10 To approve amended Staff Committee Terms of Reference

Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio explained that that due to the difficulty in arranging meetings, the Committee request that the quorum is reduced to 3 members.

Cllr Blick proposed that the membership of the Committee should be increased to 7 due the Committee's spending power. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Blick, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, 2 in favour 8 against.

Resolved: The circulated amended Terms of Reference are approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Blick, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, All in favour.

(2 members of the public left at this juncture)

57.11 To approve the newsletter

The first sentence under District meets Town should read Councillors met a delegation....

The last sentence of the refurbishment of changing rooms should be removed and the company name.

Resolved: The newsletter is approved with the above amendments.

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

The Council unanimously voted to suspended Standing Order 3W, to allow the meeting to continue for a further 30 minutes.

57.12 To receive committee and representative reports

Cllr Heathfield	Youth Advisory Group
Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio	Staff Committee
Cllr Mrs Moseley	Barclays Bank Working Group
Cllr Mrs Duncan	Patients Forum
Cllrs Mrs Wadley	Cliffords Mesne Village Hall Committee

57.13 Notices and Information

Cllr Beard thanked the Onion Fayre Committee for all their work in organising another successful event and for clearing up so quickly. Cllr Beard was disappointed that the Forest of Dean District Council did not remove a few remaining black bags.

The Chairman of the Onion Fayre Committee thanked the Council for allowing the Council staff to help set up on the Friday.

Cllr Mrs Davies informed the Council that she was hoping to arrange a Civic Carol Service during the tree festival.

(Cllr Beard left the meeting at this juncture)

Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio informed the Council that Jemima Parry-Jones had been awarded a Conservationist of the Year Award in the Animal Hero Awards and the Clerk was asked to pass on the Council's congratulations.

Cllr Mrs Moseley stated she had received a visit from the new PCSO, Josh Griffiths, and several other Councillors confirmed they had also met him.

Cllr Thomas gave feedback from his visit to Stow on the Wold's Visitor Information Centre.

It was resolved that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted

57.14 To approved the final Heads of Terms for Newent Rugby Clubs use of the Recreation Ground

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.59 pm.