

## NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Newent Town Council Meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at the Market House, Newent at 7.30 pm.

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

Also present – The Clerk, 3 members of the public and 1 member of the press

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Public Participation Session: None.

52.0 Apologies – Cllrs Blick and Vesma

52.1 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Mrs Davies declared an interest in the accounts to be paid.

Cllr Thomas declared an interest in the item regarding the Royal British Legion.

52.2 Newent Town Football Club presentation

Cllr Mrs Davies welcomed Mr Phil Clarke, the Club Secretary, to the meeting.

Mr Clarke spoke about the club's achievements and improvements being made to the ground and changing rooms, which has secured the club to be promoted to a higher league.

Cllr Mrs Howley had invited the Club to the Open Day in July, which would be a good opportunity to promote the Club.

Mr Clarke was thanked for his time and the Club was congratulated again on their achievements.

(Mr Clarke left the meeting at this juncture).

Before the meeting continued Cllr Mrs Davies announced that the Town Clerk had completed the CiLCA qualification and was congratulated by the Councillors.

52.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May were approved.

**Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Moseley, 8 in favour, 2 abstentions.

52.4 Clerk's Update and Matters Arising

**Office Accommodation** – Costings for the Lodge are being prepared.

**Market House** – Painting will commence on 26<sup>th</sup> June.

**Councillor Vacancy** – No election has been called. The vacancy will be filled by co-option. **Resolved:** The vacancy is advertised in the next edition of the New Ad with a deadline of 2 weeks for applications. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

**Letters** – All letters requested at the last Council meeting have been sent.

**Police** – Mark Burns and PC Saunders who will be the new local officer for Newent, will be attending the next Council meeting.

Cllr Beard stated that unfortunately, he missed the deadline to add an item to the agenda, to discuss the serious concerns regarding the increased number of criminal incidents taking place in the town. The Town needs a manned Police Station. Cllr Duncan added that crime in the surrounding rural areas is also high.

Cllr Davies stated that there was antisocial behaviour and criminal damage caused in Watery Lane in the early hours of Sunday morning.

Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio raised concerns about residents taking action themselves.

Cllr Beard raised concerns about the changes being made to the street lights and requested clarification that there will be adequate lighting to ensure safety.

## 52.5 Finance

(Cllr Mrs Davies left the meeting whilst the next item was discussed)

### 52.5.1 To approve accounts to be paid

Payments made since last meeting	Chq No.	£
Wages		2391.25
Barclaycard Transactions:		
Fasthost Internet		3.00
Payments to be considered		
Fitzpatrick Woolmer	14121	744.00
Glebe Chapel	14122	450.00
Shaw & Sons	14123	64.98
Perpetua Press	14124	38.40
Forest Products	14125	15.60
EE	14126	30.56
G D Park & Co	14127	26.84
Pure Plumbing	14128	204.44
Abbey Business Group	14129	26.38
Mainstream Digital	14130	6.05
Highleadon Filling Station	14131	269.95
Grundon	14132	172.06

Millington & Ramstedt	14133	171.98
Ermin Plant	14134	105.18
J Davies	14135	29.90
K Noble	14136	37.70
Gloucestershire County Council	14167	2025.63
HMRC	14168	1732.58

**Resolved:** The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £8.546.48. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Wood, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, All in favour.

## 52.6 Correspondence

### 52.6.1 Forest of Dean District Council – Proposal for the Council to take over ownership of the public conveniences from April 2018

Further to a meeting held between the District Council, Cllr Wood and the Town Clerk, the District Council had supplied information regarding costings, which had been circulated. The District Council had confirmed that there was no intention of closing the public conveniences.

**Resolved:** The Town Council will not take over the ownership of the public conveniences at this stage, however, would reconsider in the future if the District Council were to consider closing the facilities.

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

### 52.6.2 Taynton PCC – Request for portion of community benefit from Grange Solar Farm

The Clerk confirmed that a payment of £4,976.00 had now been received.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding this matter.

Cllr Thomas proposed that a nominal one off payment is made to Taynton PCC. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Thomas, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Moseley, 4 in favour, 4 against, 2 abstentions. The proposal was rejected.

**Resolved:** No payment is made to Taynton PCC. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Wood, Seconded Cllr Beard, 4 in favour, 4 against, 2 abstentions. The Mayor used her casting vote to carry the proposal.

### 52.6.3 Letter regarding the proposal to list The Yew Tree Inn as an asset of community value and community first responders

Cllr Mrs Davies asked the Council to consider a response as the Clerk had responded to previous correspondence, as had the Mayor with the full support of the Council, however, the resident did not feel the matter was being addressed appropriately. **Resolved:** The

Council are unable to comment on the Yew Tree proposal as the Council have not been approached by the Village Hall Committee to participate with the proposal. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Wood, All in favour.

In response to the issue raised regarding the community first responders. **Resolved:** The Town Council are not medically qualified and have no jurisdiction over who the emergency services recruit. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Wood, All in favour.

#### 52.6.4 Royal British Legion – To consider becoming an affiliated member of the Newent branch

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

**Resolved:** The Council agreed to become an affiliated member.  
**Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, 8 in favour, 1 abstention.

### 52.7 Planning

#### 52.7.1 Planning applications to be considered

P0812/17/FUL - New Development – Land at Graces Pitch, Newent

Variation of condition 02 (approved plans) to allow amendments to replace two roof lights with a dormer window, place a brick pier where there was previously a timber post and enclose the roof void of the carport with timber boarding of planning permission

P0907/16/FUL. **Resolved:** No objection. Neighbouring properties should be notified of the change. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

P0765/17/FUL – Bibury, Glebe Road, Newent

Erection of two storey and single storey extensions to dwelling.

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

P0833/17/PQ3PA – The Barn, Brook Farm. Lower Bouldsen, Newent

Prior approval for the change of use of an agricultural building to a dwelling house (use class C3). **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

P0840/17/FUL – Link Hollow, Oaks Lane, Cliffords Mesne

Resiting of existing timber workshop/store, two storey alterations and extension to eastern gable to dwelling. **Resolved:** No objection.

**Record of Voting:** All in favour.

P0592/17/OUT – Land at Southern Barn, Souththend Lane, Newent

Outline application for the erection of four dwellings with associated garaging, parking and amenity space. **Resolved:** No objection.

**Record of Voting:** All in favour.

#### 52.7.2 To note planning decisions

##### PERMITTED

P0472/17/FUL - The Vines, Birches Lane, Newent

Erection of a side extension

P0498/17/FUL - Horsley Grove, Cliffords Mesne

Erection of a two storey extension and creation of balcony

P0577/17/FUL – 1 Broad Street, Newent

Installation of two bollards in front of the ATM

P0029/17/DISCON – 6 Vauxhall, Newent

Discharge of conditions 03 (external facing materials), 07 (foul and surface water drainage) of planning permission P1066/15/FUL

P0541/17/FUL – 11 Lancaster Terrace, Hill Top Lane, Newent

Proposed two storey extension to rear of property

P0007/17/DISCON – Newtown Farm, Tewkesbury Road, Newent

Discharge of condition 02 (foul and surface water drainage) of planning permission P0619/16/FUL

#### 52.7.3 Horsefair Lane travellers site

A discussion took place and it was agreed that no further action can be taken. However, as the site is now legal the Council should ensure rates are being paid and health and safety requirements are being adhered to.

### 52.8 Estate Management

#### 52.8.1 To consider updating town maps

The Clerk confirmed that the town maps were purchased and are owned by Newent Initiative Trust. The Town Council only own the frames.

The Clerk was asked to make contact with Mr Urch from the Newent Initiative Trust regarding this matter.

### 52.9 Flag flying protocol

Cllr Mrs Davies expressed disappointment that a resident had contacted the media regarding the Council's flag protocol, rather than just contacting the Council office to have the matter clarified. This was reiterated by several Councillors.

The Council currently follows the College of Arms as the Heraldic Authority for England, Wales and Northern Ireland in regards to the flag flying protocol.

A lengthy discussion took place as to whether the protocol should be amended and on what occasions should the flag be lowered to half-mast.

**Resolved:** The Council to continue with the current flag flying protocol.

**Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded, Cllr Mrs Howley, 8 in favour, 2 against.

#### 52.10 Newent Open Day

Cllr Mrs Howley gave an update on the progress of the Open Day. There are costs associated with the event and some sponsorship has been sourced, however, further funding is required. This event is to promote and benefit the businesses of the town. **Resolved:** A maximum of £1,000 is allocated from the Town's Promotions budget towards the event. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded, Cllr Mrs Draper, All in favour.

#### 52.11 Town cleanliness

Cllr Howley stated there are several areas in the town centre that could be cleaned up before the open day and suggested that Councillors get together to help clear some of the areas. Cllr Thomas suggested that a letter is sent to the local businesses asking them to clean the area by their buildings.

The Council staff will have a clean-up before the event in July.

#### 52.12 Newsletter

Future editions will also be sent to The Forester.

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

#### 52.13 To receive committee and representative reports

Cllr Mrs Draper	Christmas Lights Committee had to be cancelled as a quorum was not present
Cllr Beard	Positive meeting with the Rugby Club to discuss the Heads of Terms
Cllrs Mrs Marcovecchio and Wood	Allotment inspection

#### 52.14 Notices and Information

Cllr Mrs Davies stated that a resident had requested the Council discuss the recent report of animal cruelty by Hartpury students. The students have been expelled and Police are investigating, therefore there is nothing for the Council to discuss.

Cllr Mrs Davies had recently attended the inauguration of the Mayor of Ross on Wye. Cllr Mrs Davies has also been invited to present the cup at the junior angling competition, open the Onion Fayre and open the Tibberton Show.

Cllr Davies did attend the Market Square to see the Trash Convertor. Unfortunately, there had been a mechanical problem and the vehicle had been sited in the car park earlier in the day, which had not been conveyed to the Council.

Cllr Mrs Howley confirmed the lake information boards had arrived and were very impressive.

Cllr Mrs Moseley stated that a new Police Inspector for the area had been appointed.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.22 pm.