

## NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Newent Town Council Meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2017 at the Market House, Newent at 7.30 pm.

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

Also present – The Clerk and 2 members of the public

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Public Participation Session: A resident raised concerns regarding the closure of Barclays Bank and the possibility of the Post Office closing and whether a petition should be organised. The resident stated that the Business Club should be fighting very hard against the closure.

56.0 Apologies – Cllrs Vesma and Heathfield

56.1 Declaration of Interests

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

Cllr Mrs Wadley declared an interest in planning application P1105/17/FUL.

56.2 Finance

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

56.2.1 To approve accounts to be paid

Cllr Mrs Duncan asked what budget was being used for the works at the changing rooms. The Clerk confirmed the works are being funded by Section 106 monies.

Payments made since last meeting		£
Wages		2636.60
Barclaycard Transactions:		£
Fasthost Internet		3.00
The Ramp People		348.00
Payments made since last meeting	Chq No	£
Legal & General	14198	920.33
HMRC	14203	2006.96
GCC	14204	2225.16
Cash	14223	94.02
LK Flooring	14224	3800.57

Payments to be considered	Chq No.	£
Highleadon Filing Station	14225	195.24
Forest Drains	14226	55.00
Mainstream Digital	14227	9.66
Sage	14228	313.20
Chris Hyett	14229	124.91
Grundon	14230	277.75
Geoffrey Urch Garden Services	14231	360.00
CF Corporate Finance	14232	168.00
Total Design	14233	1080.00
EE	14234	30.41
GDR Solutions	14235	84.00
P Pain	14236	280.00
GD Parker & Co	14237	95.85
Abbey Business Group	14238	47.77
Glebe Chapel	14239	450.00
Ford Fuel Oils	14240	235.78
Direct Autos	14241	17.40
LGMI	14242	72.00
Steve Carrier	14243	1240.00
Newent Circle Club	14244	140.00
C & G Services	14245	703.20
Buildbase	14246	49.75
Joseph's Amazing Camels	14247	510.00
K Noble	14248	27.30
R Beard	14249	20.15
FODDC	14250	6.00
FODDC	14251	40.00
Newent Memorial Hall	14252	30.00
Trade UK	14253	39.98
Countrywide	14254	60.99

**Resolved:** The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £18,556.23. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Blick, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

### 56.3 To consider response required to correspondence/consultations received

#### Barclays Bank – Closure of Newent branch

A very lengthy discussion took place regarding the implications of the closure on the residents and businesses. There was a strong objection against the town losing the last bank and the Council should actively try to stop the closure. Concerns were also raised that the Post Office is for sale.

Cllr Mrs Howley had drafted a template letter that could be used by residents or businesses and sent to Mark Harper MP. Cllr Beard stated that alternative options should be explored, such as a cash collection service, community banking and a bank pod, which is in line with the thoughts of Winchcombe Council as they no longer have a bank.

Cllr Mrs Duncan felt the Council should challenge the statistics stated in the Barclays Bank letter and request to see the background data. The bank being closed on a Wednesday would not help the figures.

Cllr Blick suggested that if the Council built a new office in the town, it could incorporate a secure bank and post office. Barclays should be asked for financial assistance to ensure its redundant building is used for a business e.g. an antiques centre.

Cllr Mrs Moseley suggested a working group review the implications on the town, the possible future options and the Council's response to the situation.

Cllr Mrs Wadley stated that although she wrote to the MP on behalf of several residents when Lloyds were closing, it was only considered as one complaint and therefore as many people as possible should write to the MP.

Cllr Mrs Draper reminded the Council that the Coventry Building Society is available in the offices of Steve Gooch and suggested that Glastonbury Council are contacted to see how they dealt with the bank closures.

**Resolved:** A working group of Cllrs Mrs Howley, Beard, Mrs Moseley and Mrs Marcovecchio consider the Council's response and proactive future options and invite local Parish Councils to be involved.

The template objection letter is circulated for businesses and residents to send to the MP. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

## 56.4 Planning

### 56.4.1 Planning applications to be considered

P1105/17/FUL – New House, Graces Pitch, Newent

Erection of a detached house. **Resolved:** Objection. The site plans for this development have been amended on several occasions and the Town Council feels this application will cause over development of the site. The proposed property would change the street scene as it will be extremely prominent due to the neighbouring property being set below existing ground levels. The property will be extremely intrusive and overbearing on the neighbouring property. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

P0063/17/Discon New Development – Land at Graces Pitch, Newent

Discharge of condition 03 (materials) of planning permission P0907/16/FUL. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

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

(Cllr Mrs Wadley left the meeting whilst the following application was discussed)

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

Erection of 7 unit holiday accommodation and associated works. Revised Plans. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

#### 56.4.2 To note planning decisions

##### PERMITTED

P0942/17/FUL – Agricultural building at Kerrys Barn, Upleadon  
Retrospective relocation of an agricultural building

P0581/17/FUL – St Mary’s Church, Church Street, Newent  
Installation of frameless glass screen and doors to the inner side of the external archway into the porch (tower)

##### REFUSED

P0849/17/Nonmat – Rymes Farm Solar Park. Land at Rymes Farm, Malswick  
Non-material amendment to planning application P1977/14/FUL to allow changes to the drainage.

##### OTHER

EIA – Adopted Screening opinion - Land off Bradfords Lane, Newent  
EIA not required

##### GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Public path diversion and definitive map and statement modification order (Public Footpath GNE21 (Parish of Newent) Diversion Order 2017

Order made on 18 July 2017 under Section 119 of the Highway Act 1980 and Section 53A(2) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 if confirmed, will divert length of footpath described in Part 1 of the schedule to the line described in Part 1 of the Schedule.

56.5 To approve newsletter

The paragraph in the Mayor's message regarding the Open Day, the CiLCA award and the listening post information will be removed to make space for the inclusion of an open day article. The name of the School will replace the abbreviation. **Resolved:** The newsletter is approved with the above amendments. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

56.6 To appoint representative on to the Cliffords Mesne Village Hall Committee

**Resolved:** Cllr Mrs Wadley was appointed. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Wood, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

56.7 Notices and Information

Cllr Thomas referred to an email circulated earlier that day regarding the possibility of a tourist information point being installed in the Library. Cllr Thomas is arranging a visit to Stow on the Wold, where a similar scheme has taken place. Cllrs Mrs Howley, Mrs Moseley and Mrs Marcovecchio expressed an interest in attending and asked to be informed of the date.

Cllr Mrs Duncan had attended a Patients' Forum Discussion Group meeting and informed the Council that the flu vaccinations would be taking place on 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October. The Clerk was asked to contact the District Council to request free parking to encourage those eligible to attend. Cllr Mrs Duncan will be asking the local cafes to offer a 10% discount on tea/coffee for those who attend the clinic.

Cllr Mrs Davies confirmed that the dead tree from Johnstone Road had been removed and the land is owned by the District Council.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.37 pm.