

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Newent Town Council Meeting held on Monday 26th June 2017 at the Market House, Newent at 7.30 pm.

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

Also present – The Clerk, 8 members of the public, PC Saunders, Sergeant Burns and 1 member of the press

Public Participation Session: None.

53.0 Apologies – Cllr Wood

53.1 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Beard declared an interest in planning application P0581/17/FUL.

53.2 Concerns regarding the increase in criminal incidents and Police provision in Newent

PC Saunders read out a comparison of crime statistics from this year to last year. The biggest increase was in burglaries; however, the overall figures had only increased slightly.

Cllr Mrs Draper expressed concern that the figures were not a true record for the incidents in the area. PC Saunders confirmed the figures only related to crimes, not incidents, in Newent Central. Crime figures for the whole area would be provided.

The Police have increased the presence in the area and will be re-opening the Police point in the Library. Targeted patrols will be taking place and burglaries are being looked into including in the rural areas.

Cllr Mrs Duncan stated that 12 incidents of rural crime had taken place in a 7 day period. Farmers do not receive any feedback. PC Saunders confirmed that if machinery is found, the Police try to trace the owner.

(1 member of the public left the meeting at this juncture)

Cllr Mrs Howley stated that a resident who uses the adult gym early in the morning now feels uncomfortable doing so, due to the recent incidents. Safety concerns are starting to impinge on residents' lives.

Cllr Beard applauded the article in the Forester and explained that the Council was critical of policing and not the Police. The political correct response from Mr Surl did not give any reassurance. The Mounted Police presence in the town is welcomed and a further request for their attendance will be made.

Cllr Beard raised concerns regarding the new LED street lighting and asked if the Police were consulted. PC Saunders agreed to find out. Cllr Mrs Moseley stated that the general provision of street lighting on footpaths is not adequate.

Cllr Beard also raised concerns that the CCTV cameras are not monitored at Waterwells and enquired if this could be possible. PC Saunders agreed to look into this, but felt it was unlikely. The cameras are recording and used as evidence.

(Sergeant Burns joined the meeting at this juncture)

Cllrs Mrs Duncan and Mrs Moseley both enquired about the provision of a Police Station in Newent due to the increasing population. It's unlikely a Police Station would be reinstated due to the cost.

Cllr Draper asked if Officers still had to log in at Coleford. This was confirmed, although this is being looked into.

Sergeant Burns explained that the demand on Police Officers has changed and they are dealing with a lot more internet crime.

Cllr Blick stated that in the past the Officers were known by the residents and children and hoped that this would continue. PC Saunders stated he had already started building relationships with residents.

Cllr Mrs Howley mentioned the open day and it was confirmed that a vehicle will be present on the day.

Cllr Mrs Davies thanked the Officers for attending and stated that the Council felt reassured and hoped that a closer working relationship with the Council can be progressed.

(PC Saunders, Sergeant Burns and 3 members of the public left the meeting at this juncture)

53.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 12th June 2017

Resolved: The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 12th June were approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Beard, 10 in favour, 1 abstention.

53.4 Clerk's Update and Matters Arising

Councillor Vacancy – An advert is being published in this week's New Ad. Deadline for applications is 14th July.

Replacement of street lights – Concerns were raised and the response circulated.

53.5 Finance

53.5.1 To approve accounts to be paid

Payments made since last meeting	Chq No.	£
Wages		4262.03
Barclaycard Transactions:		
Fasthost Internet		3.00
Drainage Superstore		167.88
Dulux Decorator Centre		574.19
Payments to be considered		
Viking	14137	102.84
Perpetua Press	14138	70.80
GDR Solutions	14139	144.00
RBS	14140	432.00
Buildbase	14141	25.56
Forest Products	14142	23.88
Freedom Embroidery	14143	960.00
Ermin Plant	14144	151.20
Veg Out Zone (replacement cheque)	14145	250.00

Resolved: The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £7,167.38. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Blick, All in favour.

53.5.2 To review the budget update report

The circulated report was noted and no concerns raised.

53.6 Planning

53.6.1 Planning applications to be considered

(Cllr Beard left the meeting whilst the first application was discussed)

P0581/17/FUL St Mary's Church, Church Street, Newent, Glos

Installation of frameless glass screen and doors to the inner side of the external archway into the porch (tower). **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

P0922/17/TCA Porch House, 35 Church Street, Newent

20% crown reduction of x 1 Acacia tree. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

P0904/17/FUL Haulwyn House, Cliffords Mesne

Erection of two storey and single storey extensions including construction of a porch with associated alterations. Erection of a two bay car port with associated driveway. Demolition of existing porch and garden room. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

53.6.2 To note planning decisions

PERMITTED

P1099/16/FUL Land to Southwest of Meadow Grove, Newent

Change of use of field to multi-use recreation ground and amenity area, multi-use games area and associated works

Cllr Mrs Duncan raised concerns regarding the replacement of windows in a property on the High Street and asked the Clerk to contact the District Council.

53.7 Estate Management

53.7.1 To receive the Estate Supervisor's report and agree any actions

Cllr Beard enquired if the Market House paint had been approved by the Architects, which the Clerk confirmed it had.

Resolved: The island in the lake is cut back. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Blick, Seconded Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, All in favour.

Cllr Mrs Duncan requested that the area around the new trees is not cut back too much, to ensure there is some protection.

Cllr Vesma reported that the tree in the Market Square is dead. The Clerk confirmed that the County Council, who own the tree, are arranging for it to be removed.

53.7.2 To consider providing further quarter allotment plots and to agree expenditure to advertise vacant plots

Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio explained that there were currently 2 full and 2 half plots available and there is no waiting list. The Clerk had asked the Allotment Association for their thoughts on splitting another plot into quarters and they were not in favour. The National Allotment Association does not encourage splitting of plots, however, it would be easy to reinstate if required. A lengthy discussion took place.

Resolved: One full plot is split into 4 quarter plots and is advertised in the newsletter. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Vesma, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, 10 in favour, 1 against.

53.8 To appoint 1 additional member to serve on the Christmas Lights Committee

Cllr Mrs Draper stated that the last Committee meeting had to be cancelled as a quorum was not present.

Resolved: Cllr Mrs Howley is elected onto the Committee. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Davies, All in favour.

53.9 CCTV provision

Cllr Mrs Howley explained that other Councils in the area had upgraded their CCTV systems and after talking to the Police Specials recently they suggested that ANPR cameras would be beneficial. Cllr Mrs Howley suggested that the money received from the solar farm could be used towards the upgrade of the cameras.

Cllr Beard supported the idea, however felt that the Police needed to commit to monitoring the footage and the cost should be match funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Resolved: The money received from the Solar Farm is earmarked towards the upgrading of the CCTV system. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, 10 in favour, 1 against.

Cllrs Beard, Mrs Howley, Mrs Davies and the Clerk will look into the options for the upgrade and any possible grants.

Resolved: The Council engages with the public to raise funds towards the CCTV system. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, 10 in favour, 1 abstention.

53.10 To consider advertising in the 2018 CDC tourism yearbook

Resolved: An advert is agreed at a cost of £155.00 + VAT. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, 10 in favour, 1 abstention.

53.11 To receive committee and representative reports

Cllr Heathfield	Youth Advisory Group meeting
Cllr Mrs Howley	Newent Open Day. A thank you letter will be sent to Three Shires for donating some plants.
Cllr Vesma	Business Club relaunch

53.12 Notices and Information

Cllr Thomas requested that the alcohol consumption order is discussed at the next meeting and it was agreed this should be added to the agenda.

Cllr Mrs Howley informed the Council that a meeting of the Newent United Charity will be taking place on 20th July and anyone who needs financial assistance can apply for funding.

Cllr Mrs Davies recently attended a Royal British Legion presentation evening and an art exhibition at The Shambles.

District Councillor Lawton's Help for Heroes Tea Party is taking place on Saturday between 2 pm – 4.30 pm.

Cllr Mrs Duncan had contacted the Rights of Way Officer at the County Council regarding an overgrown footpath and it was cleared within a week.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.24 pm.