

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Newent Town Council Meeting held on Monday 27th March 2017 at the Market House, Newent at 7.30 pm.

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

Also present – The Clerk and 2 members of the public

Public Participation Session: A member of the public commented on the Annual Assembly with regards to the residents who attended stating they were passionate about the Town, although they have not attended this evening's meeting.

47.0 Apologies – None.

47.1 Declaration of Interests

None.

47.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 13th March 2017 and the Extraordinary meeting held on 14th March 2017

Cllr Moseley stated that under 45.11 it was also agreed to remove the Police item from the newsletter.

Resolved: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13th March 2017 were approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Wood, All in favour.

Resolved: The Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 14th March 2017 were approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Wood, 11 in favour, 2 abstentions.

47.3 Clerk's Update and Matters Arising

Grants – A thank you letter had been received from the Forest Sensory Services.

47.4 Finance

47.4.1 To approve accounts to be paid

Payments made since last meeting	Chq No.	£
Wages		4,151.03
Payments to be considered	Chq No	£
SSE	14037	83.39
Forest Products	14038	313.41
Screwfix	14039	130.98
Streetmaster	14040	78.00
EE	14041	29.30

Ermin Plant	14042	563.40
C Britt	14043	150.00
P Ingmire	14044	150.00

Resolved: The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £5,649.51. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Wood, All in favour.

47.4.2 To review the budget update report

No issues were raised. The Clerk confirmed that due to the end of year procedures, a budget report would not be available until the accounts have been closed.

47.5 Correspondence

47.5.1 Freedom Leisure – Request permission to hold an orienteering challenge at the Lake on Wednesday 19th April between Midday - 2 pm

Resolved: Permission was granted. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Wood, All in favour.

47.5.2 GAPTC – Call for resolutions for debate at the Annual General Meeting on 15th July 2017

Cllr Duncan suggested an item on planning pre-application meetings. The Clerk stated this was already common practice in the majority of Councils.

A discussion took place regarding Policing in the town.

Cllr Beard proposed that the re-establishment of a Police Station in Newent is taken forward.

Resolved: The establishment of small rural Community Police Stations is put forward for debate. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Blick, Seconded Cllr Mrs Duncan, All in favour.

Cllr Mrs Duncan confirmed that she would attend the meeting if the proposal is considered at the AGM.

47.5.3 Mr Freeman – To consider project for repairing health centre clock

Resolved: The Council supports the idea and will donate the clock parts for refurbishment. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Wood, All in favour.

47.6 Planning

47.6.1 Planning applications to be considered

P0210/17/FUL – Ravens Hill Bungalow, Cliffords Mesne, Newent

Erection of an agricultural storage shed – Revised Plans. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** All in favour.

P0309/17/FUL – Brookfield, Culver St, Newent

Erection of a single storey rear sunroom and change of existing garage roof from a low pitched roof to a flat accessible roof.

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

P0394/17/FUL – Woodland View, Birches Lane, Newent

Single storey extension to dwelling. **Resolved:** No objection.

Record of Voting: All in favour.

47.6.2 To note permitted planning decisions

PERMITTED

P1800/16/LD2 – 36 Knights Crescent, Newent

Application under Section 192 to establish whether a dropped kerb requires planning consent.

P1758/16/FUL – Land at Watery Lane, Newent

Removal of condition (09) low carbon energy relating to planning reference P1513/13/OUT

P1719/16/FUL – 9 Culver Street, Newent

Variation of condition (02) approved plans to amend house type C (permitted as being a 4 house terrace) into two semi-detached houses approved under APP/P1615/A/13/2201368

P0089/17/FUL – 47 Orchard Road, Newent

Erection of an implement shed

P0010/17/Discon – Phase 5 Newent Business Park, Gloucester St, Newent

Discharge of conditions (03) external facing materials, (07) protection plan, (08) cycle storage facilities, (09) pedestrian footpath, (11) construction method statement, (12) surface water drainage, (13) impact avoidance strategy and (14) biodiversity enhancement scheme of planning permission P1314/16/FUL

REFUSED

P0020/17/FUL – Conifer Bungalow, Anthonys Cross, Newent

Removal of condition (d) of planning permission DF2971/A dated 8th January 1980 (agricultural occupancy tie)

APPEAL DECISION

Cllr Mrs Duncan confirmed that the Council had received notification that the appeal for the erection of a 3 bedroom dwelling, associated car parking and landscaping at Graces Pitch had been granted.

Resolved: The Council propose a vote of no confidence in the Forest of Dean District Council planning department. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, 11 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention.

47.7 Estate Management

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

It was requested that the grass cutting commences as soon as possible. The Clerk confirmed it was scheduled to begin later in the week.

The report was noted.

47.8 To appoint 1 member on the Staff Committee

Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio stated it had been very difficult to arrange meetings. Cllr Thomas has resigned from the Committee.

Resolved: Cllr Miss Shere is appointed on to the Staff Committee.

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

47.9 To appoint member(s) to produce the monthly newsletter with Cllr Mrs Moseley

Cllr Thomas explained why he would no longer be involved in producing the newsletter.

Cllr Vesma agreed to help produce the draft newsletter.

47.10 To review and adopt Grievance Procedure and Disciplinary Policy/Procedure

A lengthy discussion took place regarding wording. Cllr Thomas proposed that the wording of the third bullet point under Appendix 1, misconduct, should be changed from breaches to infringements. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Thomas, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, 4 in favour, 8 against, 1 abstention. The proposal was rejected.

Resolved: The Disciplinary Policy/Procedure is adopted as circulated.

Record of Voting: Proposed Cllr Blick, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, 8 in favour, 3 against, 2 abstentions.

Resolved: The Grievance Procedure is adopted with the second paragraph under formal grievance amended to read 'giving a minimum of working 3 days...'. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Blick, All in favour.

47.11 To receive committee and representative reports

Cllr Mrs Draper	Christmas Lights Committee
Cllrs Mrs Marcovecchio & Miss Shere	Allotments Committee
Cllr Miss Shere	Meeting with BT regarding broadband in Cliffords Mesne
Cllr Mrs Moseley	Community Safety Partnership

47.12 Notices and Information

Cllr Mrs Howley informed the Council that several bird boxes at the Lake had been vandalised over the weekend.

Cllr Mrs Howley stated that an Open Day meeting will be taking place on 6th April and very positive feedback about the event had been received, with numerous businesses wanting to take part.

Cllr Mrs Davies informed the Council that a statement made at the Annual Parish Assembly by a member of the public was incorrect. The attendees who raised an issue at the Listening Post were asked to contact the Clerk and therefore the Councillors were not required to make a response as suggested.

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.

47.13 Staffing Matters