

## NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Newent Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 29 May 2018 at the Church Rooms, St Marys Church, Newent at 7.30 pm.

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

Also present – District Cllr Mrs J Gooch, The Assistant to the Clerk and 3 members of the public

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### Public Participation Session

A member of the public who advised he was an Allotment holder stated he had concerns regarding the recent path clearance beyond the 1 metre boundary between the allotments and the neighbouring hedge. His main concern centred on the consequences to wildlife, particularly that of slow worms and hedgehogs whose habitat he stated had been destroyed by recent work undertaken at the Allotments by the Council. The compost heap which had been full of slow worms had since disappeared together with a pallet under which hedgehogs lived, and these creatures no longer had homes. He added that given the Council were currently planning a Community and Wildlife Day – with emphasis on the welfare and importance of wildlife in our community, this action contradicted the message behind this event.

The gentleman was thanked for his attendance at the meeting and for bringing this matter to the attention of the Council.

### 75.0 Apologies – Cllrs Blick and Beard

### 75.1 Declaration of Interests

Cllrs Heathfield and Mrs Draper declared interests in agenda item 20 – Newent Initiative's Role.

Cllr Wood declared an interest in accounts to be paid

Cllrs Mrs Moseley and Mrs Davies declared interests in agenda item – 15 Grass cutting at the Allotments

Cllr Mrs Howley – who had been granted a dispensation to speak to item 15 on the agenda concerning the cutting of grass on the allotments.

### 75.2 Forest Economic Partnership presentation

The Mayor introduced Mr Andrew Callard, Chair of the Forest Economic Partnership.

Mr Callard advised that Newent was the first of the Forest towns to invite him to talk about the Forest Economic Partnership. He explained it was a District wide partnership and that he wanted as many people as possible to come forward to advise how they would like to see the Forest in 2050.

Different parts of the Forest have different ideas and therefore he wanted a decision made with one voice and for people to come together and to break down assumptions. Gloucestershire 2050 – a county-wide consultation to explore ideas and shape our long term future was currently taking place – ending on 31 July 2018. There was a need to commit to an agreed plan in order to be able to control our destiny.

Mr Callard advised the Partnership had a Steering Group and four sub-groups including Education and Skills, Infrastructure and roads – what is the Forest like to live work and play? A Connectivity group – what might we need to trade to get the connectivity we want. They were also connecting outwards – and currently preparing for a visit from the Secretary of State for Wales.

Questions were taken from Members concerning:-

Broadband updates – the sub-group had asked Gloucestershire to give statistics for the Forest of Dean and were currently looking at the problems encountered.

Funding – funding is available, need to respond to invitations for it. e.g. 5<sup>th</sup> generation mobile phones – could offer Forest of Dean as a test area, would be interest to Innovate UK

Future of Agriculture in the Forest – nothing specific in sub- groups but open offer to come and join. Important that different sectors are included.

The Mayor thanked Mr Callard for attending the meeting and explaining the work of the Forest Economic Partnership.

#### 75.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14 May were approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Howley, Seconded Cllr Mosely, all in favour following correction of a minor spelling error and an omission to include Cllr Mrs Howley on the Christmas Lights Committee

#### 75.4 Clerk's Update and Matters Arising

The Assistant to the Clerk reported that Cllr McFarling had requested dates of the Council meetings and that he would respond to specific queries once he had liaised with the street cleaning Officers concerned.

The Assistant to the Clerk further advised that Planning Enforcement at Forest of Dean District Council had responded with regard to the Council's concern with regard to the siting of the entrance to the Bellway Home site. He advised the Council was currently considering an Approval of Reserved Matters application for the planning reference P0969/14/OUT; this application seeks to approve details which includes accesses to the site. If the application is granted, Planning Enforcement would be able to look into the matter should it be alleged that the access be contrary to the drawings approved.

All other actions completed and letters sent.

## 75.5 Finance

### 75.5.1 To approve accounts to be paid

Payments made since last meeting		£
Wages		5450.44
Barclaycard Transactions:		£
Fasthost Internet		3.00
Fasthost Internet		13.19
Selecta DNA		20.00
Cheltenham Mowers		635.00
ICO		35.00
Payments to be considered	Chq No.	£
Ron Smith & Co	14670	14.75
MKM	14671	30.14
GMT Solutions	14672	81.84
EE	14673	32.89
Screwfix	14674	29.99
E H Wood	14675	93.00
Grundon	14676	145.97
Highleadon Filling Station	14677	205.07
Suttons	14678	90.00
Rajapack	14679	258.48
BOF	14680	202.80
Millington & Ramstedt	14681	98.80
Mainstream Digital	14682	42.83
Legal & General	14683	1037.50
Cash	14684	95.57
Glebe Chapel	14685	450.00
Newent Onion Fayre	14686	45.00
HMRC	14621	1922.99
GCC	14622	2077.25

**Resolved:** The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £13, 111.50 **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, 10 in favour, 1 abstention.

### 75.5.2 To review Budget update report

The Budget update report was reviewed.

**Resolved:** The Budget update report is approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Howley, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, All in favour.

75.6 To consider response required to correspondence/consultations received

75.6.1 District Cllr Gooch – to consider response to the Housing, Communities and Local Government (HCLG) high streets and town centres in 2030 Inquiry

Members considered the response to the Inquiry. **Resolved:** Members to send their comments to the Clerk so they may be collated and a suitable response be made. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Mrs Moseley, All in favour

75.7 Planning

75.7.1 Planning applications to be considered

P0660/18/FUL Yew Tree Cottage, Birches Lane, Newent, Glos  
Alterations and raising of ridge height and erection of a two storey extension, first floor extension and single storey extension to dwelling. (Revised scheme of P0194/16/FUL)  
(Part-retrospective). **Resolved:** No Objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, all in favour

P0581/18/FUL Lorenden, Culver Street, Newent, Glos  
Erection of a detached dwelling with hardstanding and associated works. Demolition of existing fire damaged dwelling. **Resolved:** No Objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, all in favour

P0255/18/FUL Wildsmith Meadow, Malswick Newent  
Replacement of 5 and one new floodlights. Erection of a 200 seater spectator stand with proposed additional car parking  
(Resubmission). **Resolved:** No Comment. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, all in favour

P0623/18/FUL Merrylees, Tewkesbury Road, Newent  
Erection of a two storey extension with associated works and alterations. **Resolved:** No Objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley, all in favour

P0728/18/FUL Newent Community School, Watery Lane, Newent  
Erection of secure 1.8m high Duex mesh fence and x 3 entrance gate. **Resolved:** No Objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, all in favour

P0583/18/FUL Hudgemoor Farm, Cliffords Mesne  
Change of use of garage/storage building into a two bed holiday let/annexe accommodation with associated works. Demolition of existing lean-to. **Resolved:** No Objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Mrs Moseley, all in favour

P0742/18/FUL 23 Lakeside, Newent

Reduce x 1 Larch tree covered by W1 of Tree Preservation Order G41 TPO54 to 4.5m above ground level. **Resolved:** Objection – Tree covered by TPO – too much reduction, detrimental to tree.

**Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Wood, Seconded Cllr Vesma, all in favour (further agreed to check siting of tree).

P0643/18/FUL Glebehyrst, Horsefair Lane, Newent

Erection of 4 residential dwellings, 4 detached garages with associated parking and ancillary works. Creation of new vehicular access. **Resolved:** Objection – housing too dense, not sustainable.

**Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, 10 in favour, 1 abstention

### **For noting - NTC Application**

P0696/18/TPO Land adjacent 78 Lakeside, Newent

Reduce x 1 Thuja tree covered by A2 of Tree Preservation Order G41 TPO54 by 2.5 m on the eastern side of the tree up to 3/4 height of the tree

## 75.7.2 To note planning decisions

### PERMITTED

P0408/18/FUL 6 Craddock Road, Newent

Erection of a single storey extension to existing garage

### REFUSED

P1564/18/FUL Land at Bradfords Lane, Newent

Outline planning permission for up to 50 dwellings, new planting and landscaping, informal open space, car parking, vehicular access point from Bradfords Lane and associated ancillary works. All matters to be reserved with the exception of the main vehicular site access (revised description)

### CERTIFICATE OF LAWFULNESS

34 Meek Road, Newent

Application under section 192 to establish whether the erection of a rear conservatory/sun lounge extension requires planning permission

## 75.8 Estate Management

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

The Estate Supervisor's report was considered and no actions proposed.

### 75.8.2 To consider quotations for electricity supply contract

The quotations for the electricity supply contract were considered.

**Resolved:** The recommendation by the Clerk be accepted – British Gas 2 year fixed contract, paid by Direct Debit. **Record of voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour

### 75.9 To receive and note Internal Audit report

The internal Audit report was considered and comments noted.

### 75.10 To complete and approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2017/18

The Annual Governance Statement for 2017/18 was considered and affirmed.

**Resolved:** The Annual Governance Statement for 2017/18 be approved Proposed Cllr Mrs Davies, Seconded Cllr Wood. **Record of Voting:** 10 in favour, 1 abstention.

### 75.11 To review and adopt the Accounting Statement for 2017/18

The Accounting Statement for 2017/18 was reviewed and Adopted.

**Resolved:** The Accounting Statement for 2017/18 was reviewed and Adopted. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Wood, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Howley, all in favour.

### 75.12 To review and adopt the updated Standing Orders

Members considered the updated Standing Orders. **Resolved:** The updated Standing Orders be adopted. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Wood, all in favour.

### 75.13 To consider, and if appropriate approve, the formation of a working group to pursue various long-term improvements in the Lake area for consideration by the Council – Cllr Vesma

Cllr Vesma requested consideration be given to the formation of a working group to look at long term improvements in the Lake area. He saw this vision as a 5 year project, the first step being the formation of a Working Group who could undertake initial exploratory work concerning better use of the car park and adjoining parts of the Lake area, to bring to a future budget meeting.

**Resolved:** A Working Group consisting of Cllrs Mrs Draper, Mrs Moseley, Thomas, Blick and Vesma be set up for this purpose. Proposed Cllr Mrs Wadley, Seconded Cllr Thomas, 7 in favour, 4 abstentions.

### 75.14 To revisit the decision taken by Council on 12 February 2018 regarding the cutting of grass at the allotments, as requested by 5 Councillors in accordance with Standing Order 7a

Cllr Mrs Moseley and Mrs Davies declared interests and refrained from discussion and voting.

Cllr Mrs Howley advised she firstly recognised the issue with the boundary hedge on the allotments. However, the maintenance issue of the area needed to be balanced with an awareness and care of the wildlife whose habitat was found here. She advised that Slow worms were legally protected and the Council needed to maintain their environment, as well as that of the hedgehogs who also had their home on the allotment site. She considered any clearance of long grass on the site needed to be done with awareness and care that wildlife may be living in it.

**Resolved:** A specification be drawn up for working in such areas giving due care to resident wildlife. **Record of voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, 8 in favour

(Cllr Mrs Howley refrained from voting)

Further discussion took place with regard to facilitating wildlife on the Allotments.

**Resolved:** 3 vacant allotment plots be designated as wildlife areas. Cllrs Wood and Mrs Marcovecchio to choose appropriate plots for reporting to Council. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, 8 in favour

(Cllr Mrs Howley refrained from voting)

73.15 To appoint a representative on the Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum to replace Cllr Thomas

Cllr Mrs Howley volunteered to act as a representative on the Gloucestershire Market Towns' Forum.

**RESOLVED:** Proposed the Cllr Mrs Howley be appointed as the Council's representative on the Gloucestershire Market Towns' Forum. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Mrs Moseley, all in favour

73.16 To consider purchasing large poppies for Remembrance Day – Cllr Mrs Howley

Cllr Mrs Howley advised she had spoken with the local representative for the British Legion who had confirmed he could obtain 40 poppies free of charge. Cllr Mrs Howley said she felt 100 poppies were required to commemorate 100 years and therefore if agreed, another 60 poppies would need to be purchased at £3.00 each, totalling £180.00. She further advised she had met with the Estates Supervisor and together had identified various suitable locations they could be sited and without the need to seek permission to do so. **Resolved:** 100 Poppies be purchased, funding from the Town Promotion budget. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Vesma, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, all in favour

73.17 Request for funding towards the Community and Wildlife Day – Cllr Mrs Howley

Cllr Mrs Howley requested consideration be given to contingency funding towards the Community and Wildlife Day. She advised of expected costings relating to advertising, erecting/taking down of bunting, and appointment of first aider, and whilst sponsorship was being sought, she requested consideration be given to allocation of a sum of money to use as contingency if sponsorship did not cover the eventual costs. **Resolved:** £1,000 be allocated for this purpose. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, all in favour.

73.18 Planting of borders and tubs in the town with spring flowers – Cllr Mrs Davies

The Mayor advised that Newent in Bloom were happy for the Town Council to plant bulbs in the town in the Autumn and proposed that as part of the August (Planning) meeting, Members have a town walkabout to look at the tubs and where best to plant. Cllr Vilnis suggested a Streetscape walkabout be incorporated at the same time. **Resolved:** A town walkabout be undertaken following the August (Planning) meeting with a view to identifying tubs/suitable bulb planting and at the same time a Streetscape walk be undertaken. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Davies, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Howley, all in favour

73.19 Newent Initiative Trust's role

The Mayor advised that it had been her intention given Cllr Beard had been a representative on the Newent Initiative Trust for many years, that he speak to this matter. As Cllr Beard was not present, she proposed the matter be deferred to another meeting when the agenda was less heavy and also when Mr Keith Urch – Chair of the Newent Initiative Trust could be present. It was agreed that Cllr Heathfield as a representative on Newent Initiative Trust would speak on its current role. **Resolved:** This matter be deferred until a further meeting. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Davies, All in favour

73.20 To receive committee and representative reports

Cllr Mrs Moseley advised she had recently attended a meeting of the Community Safety Partnership.

Cllr Thomas reported as Snow and Flood Warden that plans are to be drawn up for the siting of bunding in Peacock's Brook and Forest of Dean District Council have plans to clear out the gullies. He further reported that according to the Atkins Report of 2007, flooding at Peacocks Brook had been caused by gully conditions.



### 73.21 Notices and information

Cllr Mrs Moseley advised that she had been unaware of the date of the recent Meet and Mingle community meeting. Members needed to know of the dates in advance and this should be made available to the Clerk

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.