

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an Extraordinary meeting of Newent Town Council held on Wednesday 4 April 2018 at the Market House, Newent at 7.30 pm.

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

Also present – The Assistant Clerk, 1 Member of the Public, 1 Member of the Press

71.0 Apologies – Town Clerk

71.1 Declarations of Interest – None

71.2 To consider Office accommodation options for taking forward to public consultation

Prior to discussion the Mayor advised Members that a requirement for taking forward options for public consultation was that clear reasons were given for any favoured option(s). Further that at the public consultation stage, the Council would need to inform residents of costings and how this would affect Council tax. The Council would need to decide when the public consultation would take place and a Working Group formed in order to prepare the paperwork.

Members considered options for Office accommodation as follows:-

Barclays Bank, Broad Street, Newent

Those Members who had viewed the building considered that whilst the downstairs accommodation would suit the Council's needs very well, the upstairs had large unused space and was in disrepair. The building whilst in a central location, was old and as such, it was suggested that considerable monies would need to be spent on it, which would possibly be on-going.

Resolved: Barclays Bank be discounted as an option to take forward.

Record of Voting: Proposed by Cllr Blick, Seconded by Cllr Beard, 7 in favour, 4 against, 1 abstention.

New Build to rear of Library, Newent

Members considered a new build to the rear of the Library. Some concern was raised with regard to the loss of car parking spaces, and also that the location was on a flood plain albeit it was considered this could be overcome. It was suggested that as a Community building possibly Section 106 monies could be found towards its construction. A new build could be undertaken to the Council's specification and needs including a Council chamber. It would

fit into and become part of the current Community hub – Library, Doctors' surgery, Police Point.

Resolved: To take forward a New Build to rear of Library, Newent. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Draper, 9 in favour, 3 against.

New Build on the Paddock, Lakeside, Newent

Similar advantages to new build to rear of Library – a new build could be undertaken to the Council's specification and needs, including a Council chamber. It was suggested given the central location that the Council chamber could also serve as a meeting room for hire. The location would be accessible to public transport and also ample car parking. It was noted that plans had been made a number of years ago for a health centre to be built on this land.

Resolved: To take forward a New Build on The Paddock, Lakeside, Newent – proposed Cllr Beard, seconded Cllr Vesma. **Record of voting:** 8 in favour, 3 against, 1 abstention.

The Cemetery Lodge, Watery Lane, Newent

The Cemetery Lodge was already in the ownership of the Town Council and had been the Council Office for many years. It was adjacent to the Cemetery which was advantageous given the Council was also the Burial Board. All staff would be on one site. Storage facilities were also available. One Member who spoke in favour of it as its future Office did not consider it to be an out of town location and compared its location to that of the Community School directly opposite, and also that considerably more people visited the Cemetery than the Town Council offices. It was suggested by another Member that a steel framed shed could be built out into the back garden which could serve as a Council chamber.

Other Members considered that the building was too remote, and its access was not suitable for the elderly and/or disabled.

Proposed: The Cemetery Lodge be taken forward as an Option – proposed Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley. **Record of Voting:** 3 in favour, 7 against, 1 abstention, 1 member was distracted and left the meeting temporarily whilst voting took place.

Resolved: The Cemetery Lodge be discounted as an option to take forward.

It was agreed that Cllrs Beard, Heathfield, Blick, Mrs Davies, and Mrs Howley would form a Working party to prepare the favoured options for public consultation including full costings. A meeting of the Working Party to take place on Monday 30 April 2018 at 7.00 pm in the Market House.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.34 pm.