

## NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Newent Town Council Meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at the Market House, Newent at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillors Mrs J Davies (Mayor), E Wood (Deputy Mayor), Mrs R Wadley, E Heathfield, Mrs C Howley, V Vesma, Mrs S Marcovecchio, Mrs K Draper, Mrs M Duncan, D Blick. Mrs G Moseley joined part way through the meeting

Also present – The Clerk and 3 members of the public

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Public Participation Session: No items raised.

87.0 Apologies – Cllr Beard

87.1 Declaration of Interests

Cllrs Mrs Draper and Mrs Howley declared an interest in the accounts to be paid.

Cllr Blick declared an interest in the councillor vacancy co-option.

87.2 Presentation on the project to potentially reintroduce Pine Martens into the Forest of Dean and Wye Valley

Ms Litchfield and Mr Stringer from the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust were welcomed to the meeting. A handout was circulated which gave an overview of the project and why the Trust are looking to reintroduce Pine Martens and the key benefits.

A community consultation has taken place throughout the Forest of Dean, which will finish at the end of December.

A number of questions were raised including; will there be an impact on residential areas? – Pine Martens tend to stay clear from populated areas, although there can sometimes be an issue with small holdings. Will the Pine Martens destroy Red Squirrels? – They have lived alongside Red Squirrels, but will hunt Grey Squirrels. Has a survey been undertaken on the impact on song birds? – 10-20% of the Pine Marten diet is birds.

This is a 5-year introductory project which has an exit strategy if the Pine Martens start causing a problem to the eco-system.

Ms Litchfield and Mr Stringer were thanked for attending the meeting.

(2 members of the public left the meeting at this juncture)

## 87.3 Councillor vacancy co-option

The applicant was welcomed to the meeting and was given the opportunity to address the Council. A ballot vote was taken.

(Cllr Blick did not participate in the voting).

**Resolved:** Aaron McDowell Jones was co-opted onto the Council and duly signed the Acceptance of Office. **Record of Voting:** 8 in favour, 1 against.

87.4 Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018 were approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Mr Blick, 9 in favour, 2 abstentions.

## 87.5 Clerk's Update and Matters Arising

**The Big Lunch** – The event will now take place on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

**Parking** – The Forest of Dean District Council have agreed to waive the parking charges on 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

## 87.6 Finance

## 87.6.1 To approve accounts to be paid

(Cllrs Mrs Draper and Mrs Howley left the meeting whilst the accounts to be paid were discussed)

Payments made since last meeting		£
National Testers Ltd	14912	4.50
National Testers Ltd	14913	137.70
GMT Solutions	14914	81.84
Peninsula	14915	173.42
RJH Technical Consultancy Ltd	14916	1251.00
EE	14917	31.28
Trade UK	14918	41.96
Ermin Plant	14919	114.73
Trade UK	14920	14.99
Chris Hyett	14921	124.91
Glos Assoc Parish & Town Councils	14922	20.00
Highleadon Filling Station	14923	305.16
Mainstream Digital	14924	6.13
Kompan	14925	146.40
Geoffrey Urch Landscaping	14926	180.00
Society of Local Council Clerks	14927	220.00
G D Parker	14928	91.67
Viking	14929	248.79

Glebe Chapel	14930	450.00
K Draper	14931	6.00
C Howley	14932	11.83
Abbey Surfacing	14933	32832.00
Perpetua Press	14934	112.32
Abbey Business	14935	36.51
Landmarc	14936	290.70
Domain Communications	14937	157.25
G I Markey	14938	986.00
Viking	14939	907.20
D Morley	14940	30.00
K Noble	14941	58.51

**Resolved:** The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £39,072.80. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Wood, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, 8 in favour, 1 abstention.

#### 87.6.2 To review budget update report

Cllr Vesma queried the utilities bills for The Lodge and asked how much was spent on heating. The Clerk confirmed that the majority of the expenditure was due to the increase in business rates and a problem with the security lighting. The heating is turned on low during very cold weather.

**Resolved:** The report was reviewed and noted. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, 10 in favour, 1 abstention.

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

##### 87.7.1 Forest of Dean District Council – Invitation to attend meeting with Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service Governance Review in Coleford on Tuesday 18th December at 6 pm

No Councillors are available to attend.

##### 87.7.2 To consider request for installation of a memorial bench at the Lake

**Resolved:** The request is approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Wood, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, 10 in favour, 1 abstention.

#### 87.8 Planning

##### 87.8.1 Planning applications to be considered

P1799/18/FUL – Horsley Grove, Cliffords Mesne  
Conversion of agricultural building into residential dwelling. Sub-division of existing residential dwelling to create two separate units.

(Resubmission). **Resolved:** No objection, providing the residents concerns are taken into account. **Record Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Wadley, Seconded Cllr Blick, 8 in favour, 3 abstentions.

P1664/18/FUL – 46 Scarr Road, Newent

Conversion of a redundant agricultural building to a detached dwelling with associated works and revised plans. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, 10 in favour, 1 abstention.

P1867/18/FUL – 16 Winfield, Newent

Erection of a single storey side extension and provision of pitched roof to existing front porch. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, 10 in favour, 1 abstention.

P1798/18/TPO – Track Rear of 55 May Hill View, Newent

Works to trees identified in the submitted plan, covered by A1 of TPO to crown lift to 4m above ground level, taking branches back no further than 0.5m beyond the boundary fence line of 55 May Hill View. **Resolved:** Object, as it is not made clear who owns the tree. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Wood, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, 7 in favour, 3 against, 1 abstention.

P1722/18/TPO Amended Description – 10 Lakeside, Newent

Re-pollard x 1 Lime tree covered by G5 of G41 TP054. **Resolved:** Object, the information previously requested has still not been provided and ownership of tree is not made clear. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Blick, 9 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention.

#### 87.8.2 To note planning decisions

##### PERMITTED

P1571/18/TPO – 4 Pippin Close, Newent  
20% crown reduction of 1 x Oak tree covered by A1 of TPO156

P1364/18/FUL – Co-op, Market Square, Newent  
Retention of automated teller machine

P1365/18/ADV – Co-op, Market Square, Newent  
Retention of one illuminated logo panel and one illuminated surround sign.  
(Both are attached to an automated teller machine)

P1679/18/Nonmat – Land North of Ross Road, Newent  
 Non-material amendment to P0328/18/APP to allow for the Welby House type to be superseded by the Windsor House type

P0114/18/Discon – 24 Vauxhall, Newent  
 Discharge of Condition 03 (External facing materials) of planning permission P1762/17/FUL

P1491/18/FUL – Woodgate Cottage, Cliffords Mense  
 Erection of a workshop and store. Demolition of existing barn (Resubmission)

#### PRIOR APPROVAL

P1500/18/PO3PA – Unit 1B Bellstone, Redmarley Rd, Newent  
 Prior approval for conversion of B1(c) light industrial to C3 residential –

Not Required

P1501/18/PO3PA – Unit 2A Bellstone, Redmarley Rd, Newent

Prior approval for conversion of B1(c) light industrial to C3 residential –

Not Required

#### TREE PRESERVATION ORDER

P0239 Tree Preservation Order 2018 (Botloes Green)  
 Order dated 5 June 2018 confirmed 20 November 2018 as an unopposed Order without modification

(Cllr Mrs Moseley joined the meeting at this juncture)

Cllr Mrs Duncan updated the Council on a planning site meeting she had attended regarding the proposal to build 230 dwellings on land off Southend Lane. Many concerns were raised, unfortunately no Councillors are available to attend the Planning Committee meeting. An application for Section 106 monies is being submitted for the replacement of the play equipment at the Lake.

#### 87.9 Estate Management

87.9.1 Report from Estate Supervisor regarding further driveway repair works requested by a resident

A discussion took place and the report was reviewed. **Resolved:**  
 The Council will not carry out any additional works at the property as the damage is from wear and tear.

**Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Wood, Seconded Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, 11 in favour, 1 abstention.

87.9.2 To approve further expenditure for preliminary reports for the Community & Recreation Ground facility

An invoice for preliminary reports had been received for £3072.48, which is more than the allocated expenditure limit. The project is being funded by Section 106 monies, but these cannot be accessed until the preliminary reports are completed. A lengthy discussion took place and Councillors were concerned at the risk of spending the money without being guaranteed it will be refunded. The Clerk stated that the Forest of Dean District Council had confirmed the Section 106 funding for the project. **Resolved:** The expenditure is approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Vesma, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, 9 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstentions.

87.9.3 Maintenance of Arboretum hedge adjacent Bradfords Lane

Cllr Blick raised concerns that the hedge is not being maintained and numerous self-setting trees need reducing which should be dealt with under general maintenance. The Clerk explained that the works would cost approximately £1,500.00 as a road closure order would be required. Cllr Mrs Duncan suggested the trees be laid to make a hedge. **Resolved:** The Clerk is requested to try and source a grant to have the hedge laid. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Wood, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, 11 in favour, 1 abstention.

87.10 To agree expenditure for purchase of an office computer

The Clerk explained that a new computer would be required for the Administration Assistant and a quotation from the Council's IT provider has been received which includes all the necessary requirements. **Resolved:** The quotation of £590.00 + VAT is approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, All in favour.

87.11 To approve the newsletter

Cllr Vesma circulated an updated version of the newsletter at the meeting. **Resolved:** The newsletter is approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, All in favour.

87.12 To receive committee and representative reports

Cllr Mrs Wadley	Health Forum
Cllr Mrs Draper	Christmas Lights Committee meeting
Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio	Staff Committee – The Grounds Maintenance Assistant and

Cllr Vesma	Administration Assistant posts have been filled and both are due to start in January Newent Initiative Trust
Cllrs Mrs Moseley	Newent Initiative Trust
Town Clerk	Gloucestershire County Council pensions meeting

### 87.13 Notices and Information

Cllr Mrs Davies gave an overview of the recent informal meeting with the Police, which was attended by the Inspector, Sergeant and PC.

Cllr Mrs Davies informed the Council that Mrs Palmer was retiring as a Teacher from Newent Community School after 38 years and a letter of thanks will be sent on behalf of the Council.

Cllr Heathfield stated that he had contacted the Forest of Dean Youth Council to let them know that the Youth Advisory Group would be interested in working with them.

Cllr Mrs Howley updated the Council on the total expenditure from the Community Day and confirmed that the net cost to the Council was £816.044, as £882.00 had been raised in donations and sponsorship. Donations of fruit and drinks were also received and the cost of printing the advertising materials was waived.

Cllr Mrs Duncan reminded Councillors that a meeting with the Highways Manager would be taking place on Thursday.

Cllr Vesma informed the Council that the Forest of Dean District Council had steel market stalls available for use by Town and Parish Councils.

The Clerk informed the Council that The Lodge was broken into at the weekend and will now be boarded up. One of the disabled access picnic benches was also vandalised.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.52 pm.