

## NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Newent Town Council Meeting held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018 at the Market House, Newent at 7.30 pm.

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

Also present – The Clerk and 7 members of the public

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Public Participation Session: A member of the public spoke against planning application P0369/18/FUL. Some of the reasons for objecting to the application included that it is not in accordance with the development plan, it is a hamlet not a village, there is no bus service. The development is in-fill and only replacement dwellings and extensions have been granted in the past. It is a small plot and there will be a loss of privacy to the neighbours. There is also a 350 year old Black Poplar on the proposed site. The Council were requested to support the objection.

A resident spoke about the same planning application and stated that the development also includes part of the historic village green.

Another resident spoke on the same planning application stating that the boundary shown in the application includes the village green.

73.0 Apologies – Cllrs Mrs Draper and Beard

73.1 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Heathfield declared an interest in planning application P0369/18/FUL.

Cllr Thomas declared an interest in the correspondence from the Onion Fayre Committee.

73.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> April were approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Heathfield, Seconded Cllr Blick, 10 in favour, 1 abstention.

Cllr Blick stated dissatisfaction in the allotment grass cutting tender process. The Clerk confirmed that delegated authority had been agreed.

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> April were approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Wood, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, 10 in favour, 1 abstention.

73.3 Clerk's Update and Matters Arising

**Section 137 grants** – A thank you letter has been received from the Severn Area Rescue Association.

**Forest Youth Services meeting** – A representative from the Chill Out has kindly agreed to attend the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May.

**Poor condition of roads** – The response received from Highways Manager stated “Currently we do not have any schemes in the program for Lewall Street/Court Lane and for the Market House to the Co-op. However, I will arrange for it to be added to the forward programme. This programme is subject to future priorities. We will however continue to visit the road as part of our highway safety inspections to ensure that the road remains in a safe and usable condition”. Cllr Blick stated that this is the normal response from Highways and the Council needs to keep up the pressure to ensure works are carried out.

All letters sent out, as requested.

## 73.4 Finance

### 73.4.1 To approve accounts to be paid

Payments made since last meeting	Chq No	£
Wages		4368.67
Barclaycard Transactions:		£
Fasthost Internet		3.00
Fasthost Internet		13.19
Payments to be considered	Chq No.	£
Water Plus	14645	71.88
Mainstream Digital	14646	3.14
Perpetua Press	14647	112.32
Abbey	14648	53.48
Grundon	14649	146.18
A George	14650	175.00
ICCM	14651	90.00
GAPTC	14652	1513.48
Viking	14653	161.40
Ermin Plant	14654	54.43
Glebe Chapel	14655	900.00
MKM	14656	19.96
Playsafety	14657	319.20
South West Councils	14658	460.80
Water Plus	14659	21.66
CF Corporate finance	14660	168.00
R Beard	14661	33.15

**Resolved:** The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £8,688.94. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Blick, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

73.5 To consider response required to correspondence/consultations received

73.5.1 Newent Angling Club – Concern regarding charges and general maintenance of lake

A very lengthy discussion took place. Councillors raised a number of points including the cost for some families is too expensive and they already pay for the facilities. Some Councillors felt that fishing was a hobby not a right and the majority of residents should not have to subsidise the few who fish, charges need to be consistent. Councillors were reminded that the lake is a general amenity not a fishing lake. A number of Councillors felt the fishing charges for events should be reduced or waived.

Cllr Blick proposed that the Council reconsider the charges. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Blick, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, 4 in favour, 7 against. The proposal was rejected, therefore the charges will remain.

73.5.2 Our Lady of Lourdes – 100 year RAF celebration event, request for help

The Clerk was asked to contact the organiser and ask for further information.

73.5.3 Newent Onion Fayre Committee – Request that the hire charges are reconsidered

(Cllr Thomas left the meeting whilst this item was discussed)

A lengthy discussion took place and many Councillors spoke of the positive benefit the event brings to the town. **Resolved:** All charges are waived. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Vesma, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, All in favour.

73.5.4 Request to hold a charity football match at the Recreation Ground on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2018

**Resolved:** Permission is granted. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Wood, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

73.5.5 Request to hold a weekly children's wildlife group at The Lake

A discussion took place and a number of queries were raised which the applicant, who was in attendance, was able to answer.

**Resolved:** Permission is granted. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Wood, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley, All in favour.

73.5.6 Request for a memorial bench to be installed at The Lake

**Resolved:** The request is approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Mrs Wadley, All in favour.

## 73.6 Planning

### 73.6.1 Planning applications to be considered

P0454/18/FUL – The Poplars, High St, Newent

Internal repairs and alterations with associated works. (Part Retrospective). **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, All in favour.

(Cllr Heathfield left the meeting whilst the next application was discussed)

P0369/18/FUL – Eastnor House, Botloes Green, Newent

Erection of two detached dwellings with associated garages, parking and works. **Resolved:** Objection. The application contravenes National Planning Policy Framework: -“75 – Planning policies should protect and enhance public rights of way and access” - Access to the development would be across common land which should be protected. “77 – Local Green Space designation should be used “where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves.”

There are a number of inaccuracies in the application e.g. reference to “Botloes Road” – no such road exists, and reference to Botloes Green as a “village” - Botloes Green is just a hamlet. Large four-bedroomed dwellings will have a detrimental impact to neighbouring properties including loss of privacy. There is no supporting infrastructure e.g. bus services to this hamlet. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Wood, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

P0036/18/Discon – Okle Clifford Farm, Okle Green, Upleadon

Discharge of Conditions 05 (Landscaping plan), 07 (Ecological and landscape management plan), 08 (Schedule of ecological works), 10 (Schedule of repairs), 11 (Materials) and 12 (Surface water drainage) of planning permission P1392/17/FUL. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Mrs Moseley, All in favour.

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

P0499/18/Planob – Strawberry Hill Poultry Farm, Strawberry Hill

Application to remove Section 106 Agreement of Planning permission DF10720/A. **Resolved:** Objection. The covenant must continue and property to be occupied by Manager of the facility

P0255/18/FUL –Wildsmith Meadow, Malswick

Replacement of 5, and one new floodlights. Erection of a 200 seater spectator stand with proposed additional car parking (Resubmission). **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Blick, All in favour.

P0559/18/TPO – 14 Lakeside, Newent

Removal of x 1 Leylandii tree in group G1 of G41TPO54. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley, 8 in favour, 3 abstentions.

P0381/18/FUL Barn, Kerrys Barn, Upleadon

Conversion of an agricultural building into a residential dwelling

**Resolved:** Objection. The dwelling would be too close to, and on a dangerous corner, of road. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Mrs Howley, 9 in favour, 2 abstentions.

#### 73.6.2 To note planning decisions

##### PERMITTED

P0132/18/FUL – Glencairn Cottage, Cliffords Mesne  
Erection of a single storey extension incorporating a 3 bay car port with associated works.

P0001/18/FUL – 6 Birches Lane, Newent  
Conversion and extension of existing outbuilding for use as holiday let/annexe

P1822/17/FUL – Forge Cottage, 3 Ross Road, Newent  
Erection of a summer house, replacement of retaining wall and erection of a 2 m wall

#### 73.7 Estate Management

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

Cllr Thomas referred to the town maps and stated that the draft has been submitted to the printers and will be presented to Council in due course.

The RoSPA inspections have been completed and the minor work recommendations will be carried out.

**Resolved:** Spiking and rolling should be carried out at the Recreation Ground at a cost of £453.90. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, All in favour.

**Resolved:** The mole control service contract is extended for a further 12 months at a cost of £1,499.00. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Blick, All in favour.

**Resolved:** A steel security gate is installed at the Chapel, subject to Listed Building Consent.

**Resolved:** The Lawson Cypress should be felled at the Cemetery and the quotation from Company A at a cost of £290.00 + VAT is approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Wood, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley, 9 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention.

#### 73.7.2 To consider application for the volunteer Water Bailiff

The applicants letter had been circulated to the Council and the Estate Supervisor had met the applicant.

**Resolved:** Subject to the Clerk meeting the applicant and the necessary paperwork being completed, the applicant's appointment is approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Davies, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

#### 73.8 Newent Rugby Club – Request to hold the semi-final Forest Cup match at the Recreation Ground on 27<sup>th</sup> April and to have a bar. Request to hold walking rugby on Wednesday evenings

**Resolved:** Permission is granted for the bar at the semi-final Forest Cup. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Heathfield, Seconded Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, 9 in favour, 2 against.

It was noted that the Walking Rugby had been taking place for sometime.

**Resolved:** Permission is granted for the Walking Rugby. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Wood, Seconded Cllr Vesma, 10 in favour, 1 against.

#### 73.9 To consider the recommendation from the Staff Committee to adopt the Absence Management, Leave, Capability Procedure and Equality policies

Cllr Vesma enquired how consistent half day absences would be dealt with. The Clerk agreed to ask the HR company for advice. **Resolved:** The Absence Management, Leave, Capability Procedure and Equality policies are adopted. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Vesma, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

#### 73.10 Concerns regarding street cleaning

A copy of the District Council's cleaning contract and schedule had been circulated. Comments were made regarding the cleanliness of the town centre and a query was raised regarding the new contract when this expires in July. It was agreed that Cabinet Members Cllr McFarling and Mrs Gooch should be invited to attend a meeting to discuss the concerns.

### 73.11 Policy for notifying changes to terms and conditions/hire charges

Cllr Mrs Wadley stated that currently there wasn't a policy in place for notifying regular users and a policy may be needed. The Clerk stated that procedures would be amended in the office, but did not feel a policy was required.

### 73.12 To consider tourist information centre report

The previously circulated report was considered. **Resolved:** The Council agreed to proceed with setting up a tourism centre in Newent Library and to purchase a shelving unit at a cost of £212.00 + VAT from the tourism budget. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Blick, Seconded Cllr Mrs Duncan, 6 in favour, 1 against, 4 abstentions.

### 73.13 To receive committee and representative reports

Cllrs Mrs Howley and Mrs  
Marcovecchio

Participation with the Police speed and  
vehicle checks

Cllr Heathfield

Youth Advisory Group

### 73.14 Notices and Information

A query was raised regarding the Police vehicle being kept in the Library car park. The Clerk will contact the local PCSO.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.