

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Newent Town Council Meeting held on Monday 24th September 2018 at the Market House, Newent at 7.30 pm.

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

Also present – The Clerk and 5 members of the public and District Councillor Horne

Public Participation Session: No items raised.

82.0 Apologies – Cllr Mrs Duncan.

82.1 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Beard declared an interest in the accounts to be paid.

Cllrs Mrs Howley, Blick, Mrs Davies and Mrs Moseley declared an interest in the allotment charges.

82.2 Valegro project update

Jemima Parry-Jones and members of the Valegro Project Committee were welcomed to the meeting.

A consultation had taken place and over 90% of responses were interested in the project and thought it would benefit the town. Some concerns had been raised regarding vandalism and therefore the Committee would install CCTV cameras. The statue would be half-life size and would sit on a plinth. The cost will be £34,000 and it is hoped to be erected by 2020.

Some questions were raised by Councillors including where do the Committee plan on installing the statue? The ideal place would be in the Market Square. Having a statue in the town centre would help to make Newent a 'destination town' which would encourage visitors.

The Valegro Project Committee members were thanked for attending the meeting.

(3 members of the public and District Councillor Horne left the meeting at this juncture)

82.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 10th September 2018

Resolved: The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 10th September 2018 were approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

82.4 Clerk's Update and Matters Arising

Civic Pride presentation – A presentation will be given to Council in October.

82.5 Finance

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

82.5.1 To approve accounts to be paid

Payments made since last meeting		£
Wages		5857.33
Barclaycard Transactions:		£
Fasthost Internet		6.00
Fasthost Internet		13.19
Payments to be considered	Chq No.	£
Highleadon Filling Station	14831	176.97
Watkins Lydney	14832	118.30
Abbey Business Group	14833	46.93
Mainstream Digital	14834	6.17
Chris Hyett	14835	124.91
Glos Playing Fields Assoc	14836	100.00
Glebe Chapel	14837	450.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP	14838	720.00
D Morley	14839	11.05
R Beard	14840	23.14
K Noble	14841	156.80
Ledbury Garden Machinery	14842	44.32

Resolved: The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £9,852.89. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Blick, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

82.5.2 To consider External Audit report

Cllr Mrs Davies thanked Cllr Mrs Howley and the Clerk for their work in preparing the accounts for audit.

No comments or issues had been raised, which is an excellent result.

82.5.3 To consider allotment charges for 2019/20

(Cllrs Mrs Howley, Blick, Mrs Davies and Mrs Moseley left the meeting whilst this item was discussed).

A discussion took place regarding the charges, which must be set one year in advance. Several plots had been vacant this year, which were being maintain by staff.

Resolved: There will be no change to the allotment charges for 2019/20. The charges will remain as follows;

Full plot £50.00, half plot £25.00, quarter plot £13.00 pro rata.
Discounts for early payments – full plot £3.00, half plot £1.50, quarter plot £1.00. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, 7 in favour, 1 abstention.

82.5.4 To consider purchase of leaflet holders – Tourist Information Centre

A meeting is taking place with the Library Services early in October to discuss the tourist information stand and therefore it was agreed to defer this item until the meeting had taken place.

82.6 Planning

82.6.1 To note planning decisions

PERMITTED

P1971/17/FUL – Yeden Lodges, 30 Ford House Road, The Scarr, Newent

Change of use of land from agricultural to holiday use. Erection of 6 no. holiday cabinets with associated works.

P1190/18/AG – Carswells Farm, Tewkesbury Road, Upleadon
Erection of an agricultural building

P1215/15/TCA – Nicholson House, Court Lane, Newent
Reduce 5 x Hazel trees to 2.1m height, 1 x Plum tree to 2.1m height, remove 2 x Sycamore trees and remove 4 x Pine trees.

82.7 Estate Management

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

Cllr Wood said he had been contacted by a surfacing company who had submitted a tender for the cemetery retarmacking work, but were not included in the process. The Clerk confirmed the tender had been received after the deadline and the company had been notified accordingly. No complaint had been received in the office.

The item regarding investigating an internal door/gate at the Chapel was queried. The Clerk confirm the Council had approved the fitting of a security gate and would chase the contractor.

As requested, quotations had been sought for the removal of the tree at the Recreation Ground which is causing damage to the neighbouring property's wall. The wall repairs will be carried out by the staff at a cost of approximately £200.00. The three quotations were considered. **Resolved:** The quotation from company 1 is approved at a cost of £290.00 + VAT and the wall repairs are carried out at a cost of up to £200.00. Proposed Cllr Blick, Seconded Cllr Beard, 10 in favour, 2 abstentions.

82.7.2 Lake Area Improvements Working Group update

Cllr Vesma gave an overview of the circulated report and the long term improvement ideas for the Lake area. Preliminary works such as feasibility studies, designs and numerous legal enquiries would need to take place and a sum of £6,400.00 was requested to be considered as part of the budget for 2019/20.

A long discussion took place regarding the report and numerous concerns were raised including the speed of progressing the project and impact on resources, moving of the play area, suitability of a café being constructed on site and market stalls being constructed. Several positive comments were also made regarding the bandstand and the project should be considered as part of the NDP. The plan details will be looked at further at a later stage, the purpose of the report was to secure a budget allocation.

82.8 To approve the publishing of the Newent Town Council Facebook page and adopt the guidelines for inclusion in the existing Media Policy

Cllr Heathfield gave an overview of the circulated report. A lengthy discussion took place. Several Councillors raised concerns regarding misinformation being posted by the public and responding to comments. Some Councillors felt it would be a good way of distributing information quickly and the information would be controlled. **Resolved:** A Facebook page is published for a trial period and only edited by the Clerk and office staff. **Record of Voting:** (A named vote was requested). Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley and Cllr Mrs Davies, Heathfield, Mrs Moseley, Thomas, Vesma, Mrs Marcovecchio, Mrs Draper, Mrs Wadley were in favour. Cllrs Wood and Blick were against the proposal.

Resolved: The trial period is agreed for 3 months, to commence when the Administration Assistant is in post. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Davies, 10 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention.

82.9 To review the Strategic Plan

The circulated plan was reviewed. Cllr Blick stated that the Council currently has no office accommodation options on the table as the proposals were defeated and public consultations had already taken place.

Resolved: The minutes from the meetings relating to office accommodation proposals are referred to GAPTC to check if the new build option can be progressed. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

Cllr Mrs Davies stated she and the Clerk had attended a PWLB presentation meeting with a member from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and further guidelines had been received. The Clerk was thanked for her work with regards to the original proposal to purchase a property in Court Lane, which met all the criteria requirements.

Cllr Heathfield gave an update on the YAG and stated that a small group attended the meetings which are interesting and productive.

The Councillors responsible for dealing with item 7F regarding the recreation building are to be corrected.

The report was noted.

82.10 To review updated town map and to consider updating town promotions leaflets

It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting. Cllr Thomas would arrange for the map to be available to view in the Council Office from 25th September and it will also be taken to the next meeting.

82.11 To receive committee and representative reports

Cllr Mrs Draper	Christmas Light Committee meeting
Cllr Beard	Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum meeting
Cllr Mrs Moseley	Community Safety Partnership meeting
Cllr Mrs Davies	Inner Wheel event. Planting of a rose and cutting of a cake in aid of Jeans for Genes Day

82.12 Notices and Information

Cllr Mrs Davies would be attending a Civic Service at Ledbury next week.

Cllr Mrs Moseley gave an update on the NDP and reported that a draft letter would be sent out to the 50 residents who requested further information. Creating the Steering Group is going to be a difficult process.

Cllr Mrs Moseley informed the Council that the building site in Culver Street was stopped due to a breach of the planning consent.

Cllr Wood referred to the travellers that had been sited in the car park and thought the District Council should be asked to install barriers.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.04 pm.