

## NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Newent Town Council Meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at the Market House, Newent at 7.30 pm.

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

Also present – The Clerk and 1 member of the public

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(Cllr Wood chaired the meeting in the absence of the Mayor)

Public Participation Session: No items raised.

64.0 Apologies – Cllr Mrs Davies

64.1 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Mrs Wadley declared an interest in the planning applications.

A dispensation had been issued by the Forest of Dean District Council to allow all Councillors to participate in the setting of the budget and precept.

64.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Cllr Vesma stated that under item 63.10 the sum of £1,180 was for an annual subscription and any ad hoc support.

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> December were approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Wood, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, 11 in favour, 1 against.

64.3 Clerk's Update and Matters Arising

**Formation of May Hill Multi-Academy Trust** - Following a response from the School, a letter has been sent to the Newent Branch of the Labour Party quoting "Like many schools in the country, Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre are considering the formation of a MAT as this is the direction of travel the government are encouraging at the present time. We are looking at a working name of May Hill Academy Trust and are currently in the early stages of researching the MAT process." In Cllr Mrs Davies' absence, Cllr Mrs Moseley is attending a conference at the School on 11<sup>th</sup> January.

**Office IT** – The new system is being installed later this week.

Cllr Blick enquired if the District Valuer's report had been received, the Clerk confirmed the District Valuer attended site on 2<sup>nd</sup> January and the report is due within 4 weeks.

## 64.4 Finance

## 64.4.1 To approve accounts to be paid

Payments made since last meeting	Chq No	£
Wages		1468.31
Barclaycard Transactions:		£
Fasthost Internet		3.00
Payments to be considered	Chq No.	£
EE	14414	33.11
Highleadon Filling Station	14415	152.80
Chris Hyett	14416	124.91
A Plan Insurance	14417	982.73
SLCC	14418	208.00
Pear Technology	14419	90.00
GMT Solutions	14420	2003.40
G D Parker	14421	68.75
Barriers Direct	14422	132.50
K Wright	14423	2357.78
MT Training	14424	115.00
SSE	14425	348.98
GMT Solutions	14426	48.00
HMRC	14427	1804.32
GCC	14429	2143.74
Petty Cash	14430	90.00

**Resolved:** The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £12,175.33. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Blick, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, 11 in favour, 1 abstention.

## 64.5. Planning

## 64.5.1 Planning applications to be considered

(Cllr Mrs Wadley left the meeting whilst the planning applications were discussed)

P1920/17/FUL – Agricultural Building, The Moat, Anthonys Cross, Newent

Erection of an agricultural building for the storage of agricultural machinery. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Wood, All in favour.

P0976/17/FUL – AMENDED DESCRIPTION – Site at Lower Newent Woods, Cliffords Mesne, Newent

Erection of Seven Cabins and two Shepherds Huts for holiday accommodation with associated structures and works. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Wood, 8 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention.

#### 64.5.2 To note planning decisions

##### PERMITTED

P1594/17/FUL – Land at Cleeve Mill Lane, Newent  
Variation of condition 02 (Approved Plans) to allow amendments to layout around plot 12; and the inclusion of sheds and bases across all plots, of planning permission P0107/16/FUL

P1392/17/FUL – Okle Clifford Farm, Okle Green, Upleadon  
Conversion of barn to form two dwellings, construction of detached garage and formation of a new pond and access track

P1772/17/TPO – Town Farm, Gloucester Street, Newent  
Removal of x 1 Oak tree covered by G6 of G41, TPO198

P1556/17/FUL – Sheppard House, Onslow Road, Newent  
Erection of a detached building for furniture recycling

P0072/17/Discon – Cargil Meats Europe Ltd, Freemans of Newent Town Farm, Newent Industrial Estate, Newent  
Discharge of condition 03 (water drainage system) of planning permission P1601/16/FUL

##### NOTICE OF APPEAL

Planning Inspectorate ref: APP/P1615/W/17/3189360.  
Appeal by: West Dean Homes Ltd. Site: New House, Graces Pitch, Newent

#### 64.6 To consider the draft budget for 2018/2019 and setting of precept for 2018/2019

A draft budget proposal had been circulated, which had been prepared by the working group. The working group were thanked for all their hard work in preparing the documents.

All Councillors were given the opportunity to comment on the proposal and a very lengthy discussion took place. Numerous comments were raised regarding strengthening the workforce and the need to consider an office apprentice. It was agreed that the Clerk should find out further information and costings for an office apprentice and report back to Council.

There has been a lack of forward thinking by the Council over the years.

The general reserves are not adequate and the Council need to be mindful of this. The Council has taken money out of general reserves in the past to keep the precept low, which is now causing problems.

A discussion took place regarding the need for a Neighbourhood Development Plan and the need for further town promotions.

Two amendments were put forwarded and Councillors expressed their views before a vote was taken.

Cllr Blick made a proposal that any underspends should be moved to general reserves and not earmarked. The proposal was not seconded, therefore not taken to a vote.

**Resolved:** Monies from the sale of The Lodge are put into a COIF account until the monies can be used to pay off some of the loan. The interest made during this time will then be transferred to general reserves. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Wood, All in favour.

**Resolved:** The budget for 2018/19 of £246,802.00 is approved and the precept request for 2018/19 is £231,360.00. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Wood, Seconded Cllr Beard, 11 in favour, 1 abstention.

#### 64.7 Proposals for town event

Cllr Mrs Howey confirmed that the accounts for the Open Day had now been finalised and the income received was £1,218.00 and expenditure £1270.02, therefore only £52.02 was spent from the town promotion budget. Cllr Howley had two suggestions for a town event;

Idea 1 – A musical event on the Recreation Ground in the summer, where local musicians can play and people could take a picnic.

Idea 2 – A trail incorporating the Wildlife Walk and the town centre, similar to the Henson Pig Trail held in Gloucester, where sponsored stag beetles/ladybirds would be placed in different locations for people to find.

Councillors were supportive of the trail idea and a long discussion took place regarding involving the town's businesses including those out of the town centre. **Resolved:** Cllr Mrs Howley, Mrs Marcovecchio, Thomas, Mrs Duncan, Beard, Mrs Draper, Mrs Wadley and Vesma will meet to discuss taking the trail forward. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Wood, All in favour.

#### 64.8 To approve newsletter

Several amendments were made to the circulated draft and there would be no message from the Mayor in this edition. The newsletter was agreed.

#### 64.9 To receive committee and representative reports

Cllr Heathfield

Youth Advisory Group

64.10 Notice and information

None.

It was resolved that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted

64.11 Staffing matter

The Deputy Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.49 pm.