

## NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Newent Town Council Meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at the Market House, Newent at 7.30 pm.

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

Also present – The Clerk and 2 members of the public

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Public Participation Session: No items raised.

90.0 Apologies – None received.

90.1 Declaration of Interests

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

90.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019 were approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, 10 in favour, 2 abstention.

90.3 Clerk's Update and Matters Arising

**Letter to Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) re S106 funding from planning application P1330/18/OUT** – The following response had been received from GCC re S106 funding; “The County Council has not requested S106 funding from the above application as per our consultation response sent on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018 following assessment of the vehicle trip generation and distribution study of the site on the surrounding highway junctions (including the Gloucester St/B4215 junction) it was found that there would not be a significant impact on their existing operation or capacity to warrant either conditional or S106 funded mitigation works”.

**Letter to FODDC regarding land off Meek Road** – The following response had been received;

“With regard to the recreational facility at Meadow Grove (Meek Road) we have issued instructions for the tree management works to proceed which are anticipated to commence toward the end of February.

The works tender package for the general development of the facility and the associated play areas is currently being finalised for issue for tender and the works are anticipated to be carried out during the summer months of 2019.

We are advised that the monies for this site remain available”.

The Clerk was asked for clarification that no tree works would be undertaken during the nesting season.

**Graffiti in the town** – There have been some issues with the District Council supplying the cleaning fluid and we are also still waiting for consent from some of the landowners. The graffiti in the car park has been reported to the District Council, who is arranging for it to be removed.

Cllr Beard suggested that the car park wall could be painted and the Council engage with the school for a mural to be painted, which may deter further graffiti.

**Town App** – The company who was providing the Town App has gone into liquidation and therefore it is no longer available.

#### 90.4 Finance

##### 90.4.1 To approve accounts to be paid

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

Payments made since last meeting		£
Payments to be considered	Chq No.	£
GMT Solutions	14974	121.92
Glebe Chapel	14975	18.00
Printwaste	14976	100.80
Mainstream Digital	14977	51.81
Abbey Business Equipment Ltd	14978	50.55
Geoffrey Urch Landscaping	14979	384.00
Peninsula Business Services	14980	173.42
Archer Signs & Panels Ltd	14981	46.26
Viking	14982	164.99
Moles Fencing Services	14983	150.00
EE	14984	30.73
Water Plus Ltd	14985	37.62
Ermin Plant	14986	514.67
Cllr Roger Beard	14987	21.45
Miss K Noble	14988	28.50
Enviromesh	14989	466.54
Grundon Waste Management Ltd	14990	126.7
Glebe Contractors	14991	42.00
HMRC	BACS	1932.77
GCC	BACS	2725.38

**Resolved:** The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £6,721.57. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, All in favour.

#### 90.4.2 To review budget update report

No issues were raised. **Resolved:** The report was approved.

**Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Blick, All in favour.

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

##### 90.5.1 Freedom Leisure – Request to hold an Xplorer orienteering session at the Lake on 22<sup>nd</sup> February

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

##### 90.5.2 A request for a memorial bench to be installed at the Arboretum

**Resolved:** The request is approved and a rustic bench will be sited as directed by the Estate Supervisor. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Blick, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

##### 90.5.3 Gloucestershire Police – To consider supporting a Town Neighbourhood Watch

Some queries were raised as to how this would affect the Neighbourhood Watch and the Clerk confirmed it would enhance the scheme in the town. **Resolved:** The Council supports the proposal and PCSO Griffiths is invited to attend a future meeting to brief the Council on the scheme. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

#### 90.6 Planning

##### 90.6.1 Planning applications to be considered

P0069/19FUL – Woodgate Cottage, Cliffords Mesne

Erection of a single storey rear extension. **Resolved:** No objection.

**Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, All in favour.

P1374/18/FUL Conigree Court, Conigree Rd, Newent

Erection of general purpose farm building, portal frame building to house free standing horse stables and replacement smaller/lower portal frame building to replace existing unsafe farm building to provide storage and horse shower. Construction of riding manege and lunge ring. **Additional information**

**Resolved:** No objection. However, we would highlight highway concerns with regard to slow-moving heavy traffic movements in lane together with blind spot on junction. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Jones, All in favour.

#### 90.6.2 To note planning decisions

##### PERMITTED

P1854/18/FUL – The Cottage, Laurelhurst, Conigree Road, Newent  
Erection of a first floor extension with supporting columns at ground floor level and associated works

P1656/18/FUL – Co-op, Market Square, Newent  
Extension to existing retail premises including alterations to internal layout and car park

#### 90.7 Estate Management

##### 90.7.1 Proposal to sell the Cemetery Lodge

Cllr Vesma gave a brief overview of the report he had circulated which included three proposals, which were debated separately.

Proposal 1 – That this Council will consult with the town's residents on a proposal to dispose of the Cemetery Lodge.

A very lengthy discussion took place.

Some Councillors spoke in favour as the Lodge was deteriorating and devaluing, it was an eyesore and public money was being spent needlessly. £30,000 has been spent on renting, although it was pointed out that the rental price was very good and costs will be much more expensive when the office is moved.

Several concerns were raised including; transparency of the process, public may ask questions regarding office accommodation and this should be considered at the same time.

It was confirmed that the office accommodation working group were progressing with the project and a feasibility study should be available at the end of the month.

In response to a comment regarding the process, Cllr Mrs Davies stated that whilst she was Mayor the correct procedures will be followed.

A couple of queries were clarified – Any monies from the sale of the Lodge could only be used on future capital expenditure. A public consultation should not take place during purdah (from 19<sup>th</sup> March).

**Resolved:** The proposal to consult with the town's residents on a proposal to dispose of the Cemetery Lodge was approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Vesma, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, 9 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention.

The second proposal to be considered was;

Proposal 2 – That the said consultation shall include the option of including an adjoining area of land up to one hundred square metres in extent.

A number of concerns were raised regarding the size of the land to be considered, as this was larger than the current garden area.

Cllr Mrs Moseley proposed an amendment to proposal 2. **Resolved:** The Council approved that the consultation shall include the domestic curtilage associated with the Cemetery Lodge. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Moseley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley, 9 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstentions.

Proposal 3 – That if disposal of the Lodge be agreed the Council shall prior to sale seek planning permission for reversion to residential use.

After a short discussion, Cllr Vesma withdrew the proposal.

#### 90.8 Concerns regarding pigeon numbers and detritus

Cllr Mrs Davies stated that a letter of complaint from a town centre business regarding this issue had been received at the start of the meeting.

Cllr Mrs Howley had been contacted by some businesses about this issue. The Council used to have a small budget for culling of pigeons, but the service provided by the District Council is no longer available. The Clerk had contacted numerous pest control services, with only one quote being received, which was circulated. It was agreed that preventing access for nesting would be a good solution and landlords needed to take some measures on their properties.

A number of options and suggestions were considered and it was suggested that if the Council coordinate something the businesses may contribute.

**Resolved:** Cllr Jones will arrange for a pest control service that uses a Hawk to provide a quotation for discussion at the next meeting. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, All in favour.

#### 90.9 To adopt the Lone Working Policy

Cllr Mrs Duncan requested an amendment to 5.4, that if a resident is to be visited in their home, two members of staff must be present. **Resolved:** Subject to the inclusion of the above amendment the Lone Working Policy is adopted. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

#### 90.10 To consider applying for the Forest of Dean District Council's Community Defibrillator Grant

Information regarding the grant had been circulated to Councillors. A grant application was being made by Glebe Chapel for a defibrillator to be installed at the Community Centre.

A question was raised regarding the cost and the Clerk confirmed that there was no specific deadline for spending the grant, so the Council could fundraise towards the cost.

Cllr Beard gave an example of why a defibrillator in a central position would be beneficial.

**Resolved:** The Council makes an application for a £500.00 grant towards a defibrillator. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Duncan, All in favour.

#### 90.11 Promotion of council elections

The Clerk suggested some ideas for promoting the town elections and encouraging people to stand as Councillors. It was agreed that a short drop-in event would take place one evening and one Saturday morning, where Councillors would be available to answer questions for anyone interested in standing as a councillor. The Clerk would circulate details by email in due course.

Cllr Mrs Davies reminded Councillors to read the information regarding purdah and to refresh themselves with the Council's media policy.

#### 90.12 To approve newsletter

No issues were raised regarding the circulated draft. Cllr Mrs Moseley informed the Council that the magazine is now called I Love Local Newent.

#### 90.13 To receive committee and representative reports

Cllrs Beard, Mrs Duncan and Town Clerk	High Street Fund meeting
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Cllrs Mrs Howley & Mrs Marcovecchio	Our Shared Forest meeting
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Cllr Mrs Howley	Welcome to Gloucestershire advert proof to be circulated to Councillors for comment
Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio	Allotment inspection
Cllr Mrs Moseley	Community Safety Partnership
Cllr Mrs Moseley	Newent Initiative Trust
Cllr Vesma	Forest Youth Association

#### 90.14 Notices and information

Cllr Mrs Davies had received a letter from the Leader of the Forest of Dean District Council asking for her signature to be added to a letter being sent to the supermarket head offices asking for the Forest of Dean to pilot a serious reduction in single use plastics.

An NDP meeting will be taking place on Thursday.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.18 pm.