

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Newent Town Council Meeting held on Monday 25th November 2019 at the Market House, Newent at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors Mrs J Davies (Mayor), Mrs C Howley, E Heathfield, Mrs M Duncan, Mrs G Moseley, Ms C Birkan, Mrs R Wadley, Mrs Marcovecchio, Mrs K Draper, R Beard

Also present – The Clerk and 6 members of the public, District Councillors Mrs Gooch and Vesma

Public Participation Session: A representative from the Onion Fayre Committee gave an overview of the letter that had been submitted and urged the Council to waive the fees for the three events. A query was raised regarding another letter that had been sent to the Council and the Clerk confirm it had been passed to the appropriate working group as notified.

14.1 Apologies – Cllrs Mrs Odhiambo and Ralph

14.2 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Heathfield declared an other interest in the letter from the Onion Fayre Committee and an other interest in the letter requesting a husting event for the Parliamentary elections.

14.3 The Federation of Newent Schools' general report

The Executive Head Teacher was welcomed to the meeting.

Picklenash School was one of only 3 in the county that had never received an OFSTED 'good' judgement. For the past six years, over three inspections, the school had received a 'requires improvement' judgement. After tirelessly working for the past 2 years the school is delighted to have received an OFSTED judgement of 'good' and they are confident the infant school will follow suit soon.

Councillors were given the opportunity to raise any questions, which included; the school's view on equality for teachers - equality is promoted and the school only wants to employ the best teachers.

How many free spaces are available at the school and the class sizes - the school has a capacity for 420 pupils and the class sizes are currently - infants 25-29 and juniors 25-33. A new infants' classroom is opening next year.

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

There are problems with parking and a question was asked if the school can help encourage parents not to drive to the school. The school has been liaising with the Police and Highways and regularly raises the issue in

the newsletter to parents, but unfortunately it is a problem all schools have to deal with. It is however, being looked into as part of the Council's parking and traffic project for the town.

The Executive Head Teacher was thanked for attending the meeting and congratulated on the achievement.

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

14.4 Joe Meek Society presentation

The Chairman of the Joe Meek Society was welcomed to the meeting. An overview of the statue project was given. The Society would like the statue to be sited outside No. 1 Market Square, so it is close to the blue plaque and would help to put a face to the name of Joe Meek and would celebrate his achievements. The statue would benefit the town by bringing in more society members which would be good for the shops and B&Bs etc.

(1 member of the public re-joined the meeting at this juncture)

Councillors were then given the opportunity to ask questions, which included; How did they see two statues fitting into the square? Ideally the statue would be outside No. 1. What is the time line? The lead in time for making the statue is 26-28 weeks. If approval is given, a Go Fund Me page would be set up. Could the statue be seated? This isn't the first choice but would not be ruled out. Several visitors have been to the Church looking for Joe Meek's grave and plaque.

The Town Council is currently looking into a holistic design for the Market Square.

The Chairman of the Society was thanked for attending the meeting.

14.5 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th November 2019

P 690, 13.7.6 – Proposer was Cllr Beard, not Cllr Mrs Beard.

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

Resolved: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11th November 2019 were approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, 9 in favour, 1 abstention.

14.6 Clerk's Update and Matters Arising

Western Red Cedar Tree – The Council's appointed Arboriculturalist will be visiting Newent within the next few weeks to inspect the tree.

Ghost Walks – The Council has been advised that the walks will no longer be taking place in Newent.

Free parking at Lewall Street Car Park – The Forest of Dean District Council has confirmed charges will be waived on 7th December to support Small Business Saturday and 21st December for Christmas shopping.

Annual Parish Meeting – The Memorial Hall has been booked for 2nd April 2020.

All correspondence has been sent.

Cllr Mrs Moseley referred to item 13.7.8 and asked who was responsible for covering the machine, as someone paid for a ticket at 9 am. Cllr Mrs Draper confirmed the machines were covered as early as possible but free parking had been promoted.

The last NDP meeting had been cancelled due to floods.

Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio gave an update regarding 13.9.1. A meeting with Newent in Bloom had taken place and Silver Birch trees will be planted on 30th November as markers around the Lake.

14.7 Councillor Vacancy

Cllr Jones had resigned from the Town Council. A casual vacancy notice has been advertised. Residents can write to the District Council by 5th December, to request an election. If an election has not been called, the vacancy will be filled by co-option.

14.8 Finance

14.8.1 To approve accounts to be paid

Payments made since last meeting	Chq No	£
Wages	BACS	7888.07
Payments to be considered	Chq No.	£
SLCC Enterprises	15279	36.00
HB Digital Printing	15280	186.26
Arnold Bartosch	15281	354.00
Upson Consultants	15282	229.80
Glebe Chapel	15283	450.00
Water Plus	15284	312.46
GW 4x4	15285	100.00

Resolved: The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £9,556.59. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Howley, 9 in favour, 1 abstention.

14.8.2 To review budget update

No concerns were raised. **Resolved:** The budget update was approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Duncan, 9 in favour, 1 abstention.

14.9 To consider response required to correspondence/consultations received

14.9.1 Atkins – Meeting to discuss personalised Travel Planning at Ross Road

Cllr Mrs Moseley gave some background information regarding this item. Cllrs Mrs Wadley, Mrs Howley and Ms Birkan agreed to attend a meeting.

14.9.2 Gloucestershire County Council – Statement of Community Involvement – 2nd review consultation

Cllr Mrs Moseley gave an overview of the meeting held with County Councillor Windsor-Clive. **Resolved:** The Council has no issues with the document and welcomed the County Council reaching out to the community and asking for views. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Moseley, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

14.9.3 A resident – Requesting permission to undertake a Street Pastorship Scheme at the Lake

Resolved: The Council is very supportive of this initiative and permission is granted to use the Lake area. **Record of Voting:** Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, All in favour.

14.9.4 Newent Onion Fayre – Request fees are waived for Bands in the Park, Live at the Lake events and for the Onion Fayre

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

A very lengthy discussion took place. Some of the comments made included; musical projects would attract people to the town, income for these events were not received this year so funds would not be missed, what is the point of setting fees and charges if they are going to be waived, there are expenses to the Council e.g. electricity and additional grass cutting, no financial help is received for the Christmas lights event. **Resolved:** The letter will be acknowledged and the request considered as part of the budget setting process. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, 8 in favour, 1 abstention.

14.9.5 A resident – Request for trees to be cut back at the Recreation Ground

Concerns were raised that any works could damage and weaken the trees. **Resolved:** The Council will seek expert advice. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, Seconded Cllr Mrs Duncan, All in favour.

14.9.6 Forest of Dean District Council – To consider supporting ‘Gateways’ into the Forest of Dean

Resolved: A letter of support is sent. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Moseley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, 9 in favour, 1 against.

14.9.7 A resident – Requesting the Council considers organising a hustings event for the Parliamentary candidates

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

Resolved: An independent body would be more suitable to organise an event. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, 8 in favour, 1 abstention.

14.10 To receive District Councillor reports

The following report from District Councillor Mrs Gooch had been circulated;

Dear Members

I have;

1- Facilitated and chaired a very successful meeting between local young people, Town Councillors and Others. The purpose of the meeting was for the young people to present their wants/needs and ask questions of Civic leaders and others present. The Aston project was explained and the young people were able to say how it had benefitted them. Civic Leaders each took a suggestion to discuss with the relevant authority. (Notes of the meeting have been circulated)

A follow up meeting will be arranged in early 2020.

2- Attended a FODDC licensing training to enable me to sit on the licensing committee.

3- Attended Remembrance Services at St Marys to lay FODDC poppy wreath as well as the one on behalf of the local Business community and attend the Newent Community School Service.

- 4- Resolved a problem with drainage on a path and an overgrown hedgerow over a footpath which was causing concerns to residents.
- 5- Liaised between volunteers cleaning weeds and detritus from the path leading from St Bartholomew's to Whittington Walk and FODDC environmental team. I would like as a matter of public record to thank Sandra, Stephen & Michael for their continued voluntary work and of course ECBO who remove and dispose of the collected waste. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.
- 6- Investigated an issue with a tree close to a play area. The play area, open space and boundary (tree) is subject to a management plan for which the residents of the development pay an annual fee. Provided the detail to NTC for future reference
- 7- Attended a FODDC cabinet support asset management group meeting – these meetings look at investment opportunities which may provide a return to support the delivery of FODDC services.
- 8- Liaised with ST regarding the B4215 disruptions, posting the latest information on social media. Followed up residents' concerns regarding the traffic disruptions on Gloucester Road
- 9- I am pleased to report the pavement issue on Church Street, job ref; 11226822 has now been repaired.
- 10- Removed summer plants and re-planted the trough with spring flowers
- 11- Followed up residents' concerns regarding planning and enforcement issues. Continue to monitor progress of the FODDC Meek Road recreation ground, raised a query with Officers regarding implementation of the pond shown on the plan. Waiting for a response from Officers regarding the possibility a sponsor funding a pump track/skate Park as there are no 106 contributions to draw down.
- 12- Liaise with Cabinet Member for Finance, Business, and Jobs to explore the possibility of overnight stays for Motorhomes on all FODDC owned car parks. Officer information following my enquiries in March 2019 'overnight stays were against regulations and would bring other unwanted issues'. Together with Cllr Howley we explored alternative options on NTC owned land. The Cabinet Member is in consultation with Officers and Cabinet Colleagues, the matter is ongoing.
- 13- Outstanding matters from July 2019 Report;

I would appreciate my request for NTC to invite me to the meetings they hold with Highways and Police Liaison.

And

For NTC to form a regeneration working group to collaborate with Ward Members and Foddc Officers to advance projects for the Social and economic benefit of Newent.

District Councillor Vesma read out the following report;

Southend Lane

Cllr Moseley has had a meeting with the planning officer responsible for the development to the south of Southend Lane. Local residents are concerned about the poor state of the lane, which Highways did not comment on as consultees. Cllr Moseley contacted Highways and repairs are now in the programme but without any dates.

Related to this case is the question of the lack of a footway on Culver Street, which will be the main pedestrian route into town until Phase 4 of the Foley Road development is open to public foot traffic. Alternatives are being explored and Highways have objected on these grounds.

Public transport

District Councillors had a briefing from Stagecoach about changes to bus routes and timetables in the District. Newent was not mentioned but I asked the Stagecoach representatives if they could consider, as a long-term strategy, reinforcing the Newent—Gloucester service, including having a park and ride in the Newent area. This would benefit residents of the town as well as outlying villages. It would involve the County Council and could be an element of their response to congestion on the B4215. I followed this up by email and am waiting for their response.

Waste and recycling

The Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee examined the District Council's performance report for the last quarter. On recycling the Forest of Dean does not do quite as well as Cotswold and West Oxfordshire (about 57% against about 63%), and yet our 'black bin' quantities are supposedly below target. This arises because we have an anomalously high target. I suggested adopting a target aligned with the other councils, which would make our black-bin quantities show up as higher than the target, and thus more consistent with low recycling rates. Of the three councils, the Forest of Dean has much the highest incidence of flytipping, typically three times higher than either of them. This is despite being the only one to investigate all incidents: in the first quarter we took enforcement action in 16 cases and the other councils only one each. The explanation is that the Forest is the most convenient place for people from Gloucester to dump rubbish. About half of fly tipping incidents are residents leaving recyclable waste on the

ground next to the containers. All such disposal is investigated and where evidence is found, perpetrators are traced and enforcement action is taken.

District Councillor Vesma was asked how much residual waste is incinerated and he confirmed all of it.

A question was raised if the cardboard recycling banks could be emptied more frequently, which District Councillor Vesma agree to follow up.

14.11 Planning

14.11.1 Planning applications to be considered

P1709/19/LDI – Roses Country Fayre, 52 Ledbury Road, Newent

Application under Section 191 to establish whether the siting of a mobile home for residential purposes is lawful. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Ms Birkan, All in favour.

P1748/19/TPO – 1 The Stables, Southend Lane, Newent

Fell x 1 Ash and pollard x 1 Ash below the second fork. Trees covered by G1 of TPO202. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

P1750/19/FUL – Bellstone, Redmarley Road, Newent

Conversion of light industrial units to 4 no. dwellings and erection of 2 no. carports with associated curtilages, landscaping, bin store and works. **Resolved:** Would like clarification that the trees are Ash and not Oak. And that the trees are diseased. If confirmation received, no objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley, All in favour.

P1755/19/FUL – Cherry Tree Cottage, Botloes Green, Newent

Erection of a single storey side extension and single storey front extension with associated works. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, 9 in favour, 1 abstention.

P1757/19/LBC – Newent Town Hall, Market Square, Newent

Listed building consent for the replacement of modern cement infill panels to framing with lime finish – For noting only.

14.11.2 To note planning decisions

PERMITTED/CONSENT

P1276/19/FUL – Cleeve Mill Garage, Cleeve Mill Lane, Newent
Erection of a building to provide two units (B2 and B8 use class)

P1503/19/FUL – Glebe Chapel, Glebe Close, Newent

Sub-division of Plot 3 (as approved by planning permission P1746/17/FUL) to form No. 2 dwellings with associated car port, parking and works

P1488/19/FUL – Glebe Chapel, Glebe Close, Newent

Variation of Condition 02 (Approved Plans) of planning permission P1746/17/FUL to allow for addition of windows to north and south elevations to plots 6 & 7

P1455/19/FUL – Three Choirs Vineyards, Baldwins Farm, Ledbury Road, Newent

Removal of the existing maintenance building and the construction of three holiday suites with associated paths and landscaping works

14.12 Estate Management

14.12.1 Update on pigeon control measures

The report was noted and future measures will be considered once the contract ends in January.

14.12.2 To receive Market House repairs report

The report was noted and tender submissions will be considered in due course.

14.12.3 To consider the Office Accommodation Work Group report

A previously circulated report was considered. Councillors who recently viewed the property were shown all the rooms. The floor space is smaller than the current office space. **Resolved:** An independent valuation on 1 & 2 Court Lane is undertaken at a cost of £600.00 + VAT. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Duncan, 7 in favour 2 against, 1 abstention.

14.13 To consider the recommendations from the Staff Committee for the following:

14.13.1 Updating of the Driving at Work Policy

Resolved: The amended policy is approved as circulated. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, All in favour.

14.13.2 To adopt the Members/Officers Relations Policy

Cllr Mrs Davies explained that the Clerk had taken part in a webinar which was led by the Town Clerk from Weymouth. This report was recommended to be adopted by Councils and its widely used and the Staff Committee felt it would be a good idea.

Cllr Mrs Wadley proposed the policy is adopted and this was seconded by Cllr Beard.

Cllr Ms Birkan objected to some of the wording and made an amendment to the proposal to request item 5 be amended to add 'individual' to the start of the paragraph and to amend wording on item 7 to read '...the Officer to express professional views and recommendation'. The amended proposal was not seconded.

Resolved: The Member/Officer Relations Policy is approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Wadley, Seconded Cllr Beard, 9 in favour, 1 against.

14.14 To consider purchasing recording device for recording of council meetings

Cllr Beard stated that GAPTIC recommend that meetings are recorded. Details of a proposed recording machine had been circulated. **Resolved:** A recording machine is purchased at a cost of £279.99 + VAT. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, All in favour.

14.15 To consider participating in the Forest Events Programme

Cllr Mrs Howley gave an overview of the circulated report. **Resolved:** The Council agrees to participate in the Forest Events Programme at a cost of £500.00. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Davies, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

14.16 To receive committee and representative reports

Cllr Mrs Wadley

Doctors Forum meeting

Cllr Mrs Draper

Christmas Lights Event

Cllr Mrs Davies thanked Cllr Mrs Draper and the team for organising the excellent event.

Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio

Staff Committee meeting

Cllr Heathfield

Youth meeting

Cllr Heathfield

Meeting re bus services

14.17 Notices and information

Cllr Mrs Davies reminded the Council that the Civic Carol Service would be taking place the following evening.

Cllr Mrs Howley thanked the Memorial Hall Committee for all their hard work in participating in the Christmas Lights Event.

Cllr Mrs Moseley stated that an NDP meeting would be taking place on Thursday.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed 9.30 pm.