

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Newent Town Council Meeting held on Monday 25th 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, A Jones, V Vesma, Mrs R Wadley

Also present – The Clerk and 4 members of the public

Public Participation Session: No items raised.

91.0 Apologies – Cllrs Mrs Mosley, Blick and Wood.

91.1 Declaration of Interests – None.

91.2 Update on the District Council's new Street Cleaning Contract

District Councillor McFarling and the Contracts Manager were welcomed to the Council meeting.

A summary of the street cleaning contract was circulated and an overview of the new contract was given, which commences on 1st April 2019. The district wide service includes litter clearance of town centres, villages and public land, emptying of bins, cleansing of district council recycling banks, roadside/verges litter picking, removal of fly tipping, removal of illegal fly posting and graffiti, collection of dead animals from the highway and autumn leaf clearance from pavements. The District Council is working with HUBBUB on educating people not to litter.

Councillors were given the opportunity to raise questions and concerns about specific areas which included; the pavement outside the former Slades Solicitors is not cleaned, litter on the footpath between the Market Square and Co-op, cigarette ends in the alley between Country Corner & the Circle Club. The yellow paint on the footpath by Pippins needs to be raised with Gloucestershire County Council.

Cllr McFarling and the Contracts Manager were thanked for attending.

(Two members of the public left at this juncture).

91.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 11th February 2019

Resolved: The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 11th February 2019 were approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, All in favour.

91.4 Clerk's Update and Matters Arising

Letter to FODDC regarding tree works on land off Meek Road – The tree works will be completed before nesting season and the land has been cleared.

Pest control service for Pigeon control – The company suggested by Cllr Jones is attending a site visit on 1st March and the quotation will be considered at the next meeting.

Council elections drop-in sessions – The drop-in sessions will be taking place in the Bar and Kitchen on Thursday 14th March 6 pm -7.30 pm and Saturday 16th March 10 am – 11.30 am. Posters have been erected in the town and details are on the website.

91.5 Finance

91.5.1 To approve accounts to be paid

Payments made since last meeting		£
Salaries		7341.40
Barclaycard transactions		
Fasthost Internet		6.00
Fasthost Internet		13.19
Newtown Mowers		20.40
Payments to be considered	Chq No.	£
SSE	14992	8.56
Tetlow King Planning	14993	809.70
NALC	14994	60.00
Forest of Dean & Wye Valley Review	14995	106.56
G D Parker	14996	36.44
Chris Hyett	14997	124.91
MKM Building Services	14998	85.84
Highleadon Filling Station	14999	217.99
Direct Autos	15000	251.94
Glebe Chapel	15001	450.00
Your Website 2 (N Garner)	15002	430.00
GAPTC	15003	95.00
Water Plus	15004	25.14
Ermin	15005	365.54
Country Corner	15006	91.99
MKM	15007	168.00

Resolved: The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £10,672.16. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

91.5.2 To note and approve the NJC pay scales for 2019-20

Resolved: The pay scales for 2019-20 are accepted. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, All in favour.

91.6 Planning

91.6.1 Planning applications to be considered

P0204/19/TCA – Bower Barn 31, Culver Street, Newent
Reduction of Whitebeam by 20%. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

P0172/19/FUL – 11 Bradfords Close, Newent
Erection of a two storey semi-detached dwelling with associated parking and landscaping. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, All in favour.

P0254/19/TCA – The Porch House, 35 Church Street, Newent
Reduce x 1 Conifer tree by 25% at the Porch House. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

91.6.2 To note planning decisions

None.

91.7 Estate Management

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

Staff were thanked for their achievements and the report was well received.

The Council was asked to consider purchasing more Excalibar which is used in the Lake to control the growth of green water, blue-green and filamentous (blanket weed). **Resolved:** Excalibar is purchased at a cost of up to £468.00 + VAT. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

91.7.2 To consider the proposal for the Market House survey reports

Resolved: The quotation for the surveys to be carried out and repair specification to be produced is approved at a cost of £3,995.00 + VAT, with an additional charge of up to £500.00 + VAT for contract assistant. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

91.7.3 To discuss a possible design competition for the lakeside gateway feature

Cllr Vesma suggested that a competition could be held for designing of the proposed gateway and asked for Councillors ideas regarding who could participate. A discussion took place and it was suggested that Newent Community School Sixth Form could be asked. It was agreed that the Working Group would prepare a brief for Council to approve before the School is approached.

91.8 To review and adopt Standing Orders, Code of Conduct and Financial Regulations

The documents had been reviewed by the Working Group and suggested amendments had been circulated.

Resolved: The updated Standing Orders are adopted. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, All in favour.

Resolved: The Code of Conduct is adopted without change. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

Resolved: The updated Financial Regulations are adopted. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, All in favour.

91.9 To adopt the Community Engagement Policy

Cllr Vesma circulated an amended version for consideration and a discussion took place.

Resolved: The Community Engagement Policy is approved with the inclusion of the word 'provide' to the last bullet point in the Aims and Objectives section. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, 8 in favour, 2 abstentions.

91.10 To approve the Scheme of Delegation

Resolved: The Scheme of Delegation is adopted. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

91.11 To confirm the criteria is met for the Local Council Award Scheme application

The criteria was reviewed. **Resolved:** The Council confirms that the criteria is met. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

91.12 To agree date of second meeting in April

Due to the scheduled meeting date being Easter Monday, an alternative meeting date is required. **Resolved:** It was agreed that the meeting will take place at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 23rd April. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, All in favour.

91.13 To receive committee and representative reports

Cllr Mrs Duncan

Patients Forum meeting. £500 from the Health Centre Fund would be contributed towards a defibrillator.

The Clerk confirmed that the Community Defibrillator application had been successful.

Cllr Mrs Howley

Newent leaflets – All advertising spaces have been allocated.

91.14 Notices and information

Cllr Mrs Howley spoke regarding the launch of the duck house on the lake and how well it had been received.

Cllr Heathfield requested the following statement be minuted;

Cllr Heathfield said “I would just like to let you all know that I am intending to stand again for Newent Town Council. I have also been adopted as one of the Conservative Party candidates in the FODDC elections for the Newent and Taynton Ward and I would like to clarify, to avoid any confusion, that I am standing as myself for Newent Town Council, so no resources or monies from the Conservative Party have been or will be used for my Town Council campaign. I felt I needed to explain in the interests of honesty, openness and transparency of which I pride myself on being all three”.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.