

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Newent Town Council Meeting held on Monday 28th October 2019
at the Market House, Newent at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors Mrs C Howley (Deputy Mayor), E Heathfield, Mrs M Duncan, Mrs G Moseley, Mrs W Odhiambo, A Ralph, A Jones, Ms C Birkan, Mrs R Wadley, Mrs Marcovecchio

Also present – District Councillors Mrs Gooch and Vesma, the Clerk and 5 members of the public

Cllr Mrs Howley chaired the meeting in the absence of the Mayor.

Public Participation Session: A representative from Newent in Bloom spoke regarding planting of birch trees as markers at the Lake which could be used to help measure fitness. The representative also spoke in favour of participating in a Tree Charter Day. The Newent in Bloom representative finished by referring to the town planting working group and stated this was not the primary role of the Council and it's not just about planting pretty flowers but a vision is needed and the working group should be affiliated with other groups with horticultural expertise.

(Cllr Mrs Odhiambo joined the meeting at this juncture)

A representative from Newent Initiative Trust spoke regarding the Valegro statue and that there would be no cost to the Council if it took on responsibility and £7,000 of funds would be transferred to the Council to cover the cleaning costs.

Before the meeting continued Cllr Mrs Howley read out the following statement;

“I am chairing the meeting tonight in the Mayor’s absence, but we both feel we need to remind Councillors of the way the meeting should run in order that it will be a fair and measured meeting where we work together on behalf of our community. As Councillors we are entrusted by the electorate to behave in a standard becoming of our position and I am asking the Clerk to minute my remarks.

When Councillors wish to speak, they should raise their hands and speak when invited to through the Chair. Councillors should not be interrupted when speaking and should not hold conversations with each other as this is very distracting for other Councillors and especially for the Clerk when minuting a meeting. We are allowed to speak once, but sometimes the chair may allow a councillor to speak again if it is felt relevant. Please read your Standing Orders number 2, page 5 for clarification on behaviour. Please remember this is a public meeting.

The Clerk as the Proper Officer is here to assist us all on matters of fact and law. All Councillors, whatever their personal views or expectations, should take fully into account the advice and guidance given by the Clerk and how it applies in any given situation. Councillors should then make their decisions, taking into account

such guidance. Councillors should also accept that it is the duty of the Clerk to minute any situation in which advice has not been taken.

Finally, may I ask the members of the public to respect meeting proceedings, they are here to observe only, apart from the public participation session they should not speak either between themselves or interrupt the meeting. Thank you”.

11.1 Apologies – Cllrs Mrs Davies, Mrs Draper and Beard

11.2 Declaration of Interests

Cllrs Mrs Marcovecchio and Mrs Wadley had declared an other interest in the correspondence from Newent Initiative Trust asking for the Council to take on responsibility for the Valegro statue and had received a dispensation to speak and vote on the item from the Proper Officer.

Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio also declared an other interest in the appeal against enforcement notice relating to 9 Culver Street.

Cllr Heathfield had declared a pecuniary interest in the correspondence from Newent Initiative Trust asking for the Council to take on responsibility for the Valegro statue and had received a dispensation to speak on the item from the Proper Officer.

11.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th October 2019

Cllr Heathfield referred to item 10.4 in relation to the councillor surgeries and stated that he would be accompanying Cllr Ms Birkan.

Resolved: The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 14th October 2019 were approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley, 9 in favour, 1 abstention.

11.4 Clerk’s Update and Matters Arising

Cllr Ms Birkan stated that the statement at the last meeting regarding the Clerk did not feel it important enough to turn up to undertake a risk assessment was inaccurate. Cllr Ms Birkan had asked the Clerk to attend the Chill Out at a specific date and time and the Clerk responded stating that it was not convenient and neither had arranged another date. Cllr Jones confirmed that he had spoken to Cllr Ms Birkan to advise that Cllr Ms Birkan can produce her own risk assessment and submit it to the Clerk.

All correspondence has been sent.

GLOW Gloucestershire Wellbeing – The Councils pledge had been submitted. The Clerk is trying to organise mental health first aid training for Councillors with Gloucestershire County Council.

11.5 Finance

11.5.1 To approve accounts to be paid

Payments made since last meeting	Chq No	£
Wages	BACS	7773.40
Trustees of Recreation Ground	15241	386.00
Barclaycard transactions		£
Fasthost Internet		6.00
Fasthost Internet		13.19
BP Rolls		1687.90
Direct Debit/Standing Order/BACS payments September	Payment type	
Lex Autolease	DD	603.44
Lloyds Bank	DD	5.00
The Black Dog	BACS	
HMRC	BACS	1981.34
GCC	BACS	2823.59
SAGE (UK) Ltd	BACS	
Payments to be considered	Chq No.	£
Network Connections	15242	240.00
Kompan	15243	144.96
Buildbase	15244	41.26
Ermin Plant	15245	238.61
Arnold Bartosch Ltd	15246	2400.00
Glasdon UK	15247	991.33
HB Digital Printing	15248	180.00
Festive Lights	15249	327.91
Water Plus	15250	20.37
City Fire Protection	15251	141.54
Buildbase	15252	21.46
SLCC Enterprises	15253	96.00
Glebe Chapel	15254	450.00

Resolved: The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £20,573.30. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, All in favour.

11.5.2 To review budget update report

Cllr Ms Birkan queried the miscellaneous income. The Clerk confirm £500.00 was from the Doctors Surgery towards the purchase of the defibrillator. The budget set for the Chains of Office was also questioned and the Clerk confirmed that this was forward planning as a new Deputy Mayor's chain would need to be purchased.

11.5.3 Internal Check report

Cllr Mrs Odhiambo found the experience enlightening at the amount of work involved and was encouraged to see the high standard of work.

11.6 To consider response required to correspondence/consultations received

11.6.1 Invitation to cyber security presentation by Gloucestershire Police on Wednesday 13th November at 10 am at West Dean Centre, Bream

Cllr Ms Birkan agreed to attend.

11.6.2 Forest of Dean District Council – Invitation to attend a briefing meeting with Stagecoach Southwest on 18th November at 6 pm in Coleford regarding bus timetable changes

Cllr Heathfield agreed to attend.

11.6.3 Newent in Bloom – Request to plant birch trees around the Lake as markers for the benefit of walkers and joggers

Some queries were raised regarding siting of the trees, how large they would grow and that additional trees would need to be purchased as some may get vandalised.

Resolved: Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio and a representative from Newent in Bloom will meet with the Estate Supervisor and a further report will be brought back to Council. **Record of Voting:** Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, Seconded Cllr Wadley, All in favour.

11.6.4 Newent & District Poppy Appeal – Request for the Royal British Legion flag to be flown from 28th October to 12 November 2019

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

11.6.5 Power for People – Request support for the Local Electricity Bill and to sign up to the campaign

The District Council planners need to request renewables are included in developments. **Resolved:** the request will be considered as part of the Climate Emergency Policy and Strategy. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Moseley, Cllr Mrs Odhiambo, 8 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention.

11.6.6 Forest of Dean District Council – Consultation on a road closure application for the Boxing Day Hunt

Some concerns were raised regarding hunting for foxes and it was confirmed this was a drag hunt and not hunting for foxes. The event had taken place for the past 3 years without any incidents and no

litter left behind. Approximately 200 people attend and it would be good if there were some cafes etc open. The road signs need to be clearer. **Resolved:** No objection to the application. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley, 6 in favour, 1 against, 3 abstentions.

11.6.7 Newent in Bloom – Offering assistance in organising an event for the Tree Charter Day on 30th November

The Town Council had already signed up to the Tree Charter and agreed to participate in the Tree Charter Day. The Council will liaise with Newent in Bloom and any other interested parties. Cllrs Mrs Howley, Mrs Marcovecchio, Ms Birkan and Jones agreed to organise the event.

11.6.8 Forest of Dean District Council – Local Plan 2021/2041 issues and options consultation

Cllr Ms Moseley gave some background information about the consultation. Due to the importance of the Town Council's response and that 26 questions need to be answered, it was felt that a separate meeting was required. An Extraordinary Council meeting will take place on 5th November at 7.30 pm to complete the response.

(1 member of the public left the meeting at this juncture)

11.6.9 Newent Initiative Trust – Requesting the Council considers taking on responsibility for the Valegro statue

An email received from Gloucestershire County Council stated that confirmation was needed that the Forest of Dean District Council will be responsible for the statue and will repair it if damaged and will remove it if there are safety issues generated and that the District Council is the only authority who can authorise the sculpture, but can have an arrangement with the Town Council. Cllr Howley suggested that a meeting is held with Newent Initiative Trust, Gloucestershire County Council and the Forest of Dean District Council to discuss all the information and requirements before making a decision. Several Councillors confirmed that there would be no cost to the Town Council in taking on the responsibility. **Resolved:** Newent Town Council, in principle, accepts responsibility for the statue should the Forest of Dean District Council wish to dissolve responsibility. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Wadley, Seconded Cllr Jones, 7 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention (Cllr Heathfield was not permitted to vote).

11.6.10 Newent Ghost Walks – Request permission for the Lake area to be included in the ghost walks held every Saturday evening

A lengthy discussion took place and several councillors spoke in support of the events. Concerns were raised regarding safeguarding and going to sites where a fatality had occurred and a number of questions were raised. **Resolved:** The Clerk writes requesting further information about the events for further discussion at the next meeting. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Odhiambo, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley, 9 in favour, 1 abstention.

11.7 To receive District Councillors reports

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

I have:

- 1- Continued to follow up and observe the Meek Road Recreation facility, this is now beginning to take shape and will undoubtedly be of enormous benefit to the community.
- 2- Liaised with PROW Officer and FODDC regarding GNE90 which travels from Foley Road down the steps across Culver Street to GNE84 which continues around the Community School – The steps have now been cleaned and will be monitored on a regular basis. The overgrown vegetation is to be cut back.
- 3- Liaised with Highways - Roadsigns obscured by vegetation are on the Lengths-men's list for cutting back, Culver Street by the steps has been highlighted.
- 4- Followed up several issues regarding PROW within the Parish with PROW Officer
- 5- Attended a MHFA England (Mental Aid First Aid) Adult Mental Health Aware Half Day Course at Shire Hall. MHFA England is part of an International Community that uses evidence-based training to increase mental health skills and awareness around the World.

The course was an introduction to mental health and mental health issues, the aim of the half day course enabled me to increase my knowledge in;

- Mental health and mental health issues
- Factors affecting mental health
- Stigma and its impact on recovery
- Beginning a conversation with someone about their mental health
- Looking after my own mental health

I believe the topics covered by the course will help me to support the community I serve. We all have a responsibility to promote wellbeing and to help end the stigma of mental illness within the community & beyond.

Thank you for agreeing to make a pledge to Glow Gloucestershire wellbeing, positive actions for better mental wellbeing. I believe you are the first Town Council to make a pledge.

- 6- Attended the first public showing of NCS film 'Dementia' produced and developed by Students, Staff, Foddc Enablers, Sheppard House and the Co-op. The film was made as part of the Students PHSE lessons led by Diane Harrill MBE. There are 850,000 people in the UK living with this disease; this is set to increase to over 2million by 2051.

As a Community Dementia Link, I would encourage everyone to take the online free course to become a Dementia Friend.

<https://www.dementiafriends.org.uk/register-digital-friend> the course will help others to understand and support people living with this disease and their families.

- 7- Have been following live and approved planning applications, in particular the 106 contributions from the Ross Road development P0969/14/OUT

The Air quality contribution does not kick in until 50% of the development has been occupied, as there was a deed of variation signed on 3rd Feb 2017 this deed has now been added to the FODDC planning website.

The planning Inspector has issued an instruction to the FODDC for the appeal against enforcement at Culver; the case will be by a hearing rather than written representations. I have asked if the Hearing can be heard at Newent in preference to Coleford, I am informed Officers will consider this request but any decision will be subject to a suitable venue being available. A date is yet to be set.

- 8- Attended a Full District Council Meeting, these meetings are webcast live, details can be found on the Foddc website

<https://www.fdean.gov.uk/about-the-council/councillors-meetings/meetings-agendas-minutes/>

- 9- Continue to address various neighbourhood issues.

- 10-Have actively promoted and encouraged residents to complete the NDP questionnaires, collecting 60-70 on your behalf.

- 11-It gives me great pleasure to inform you that a recent Ofsted inspection has rated Picklenash School Good.

Outstanding matters from July 2019 Report – A request to be included in NTC meetings with Highways and Police Liaison.

To form a NTC regeneration working group to work in collaboration with Newent & Taynton District Councillors with Foddc Officer support to advance projects for the Social and economic benefit of Newent.

District Councillor Vesma read out the following report;

Backing for business loans

The District Council has agreed to participate in a peer-to-peer lending operation called Folk2folk. They will make loans to businesses which have been turned down by mainstream lenders, but where property is available as security to cover the loan. Minimum borrowing is £20,000 and applicants should operate in or near the Forest of Dean.

Investment ideas wanted

The District used to get 60% of its income from central taxation but now gets very little and eventually will get none. It is therefore having to invest in money-raising ventures, which it can finance profitably by borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board. For example, it owns some industrial units in Witney which yield a good return in rent. Please let your ward councillors know if you have a suggestion for profitable investment.

Car park charges

The decision has been made to increase car park charges from 20p per hour to 50p. The District Council is stuck for three more years in a contract with Apcoa to manage its car parks and is losing money at the present prices. There are those who feel the charges discourage people from shopping in the town. We would suggest working with the Town Council to devise an innovative charging regime (one that preserves revenue without discouraging customers of the town's businesses) which we could then propose to the District Council's Cabinet.

Some questions were raised regarding the parking charges and contract with Apcoa and it would cost the District Council £120,000 to break the current contract.

11.8 To agree grant to North and West Gloucestershire Citizens Advice

The decision was deferred until a meeting had taken place with the CAB. Notes of the meeting had been circulated. Concerns had been raised about regular attendance and the need to improve communication. Many people are helped by the service on numerous issues especially debt and changes to benefit and tax.

Resolved: An initial payment of £650 is awarded to the CAB. Before the second payment of £650 will be released, the CAB will be required to submit 4 months of attendance monitoring figures for review. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Moseley, Seconded Cllr Jones, All in favour.

11.9 Planning

11.9.1 Planning applications to be considered

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

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

Resolved: No objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, 9 in favour, 1 abstention.

P1575/19/FUL – Commonfields Farm, Bouldson

Erection of a steel portal framed agricultural storage building with associated works and demolition of existing barn. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Mrs Moseley, All in favour.

P1618/19/FUL – Strawberry Hill Poultry Farm, Strawberry Hill, Newent.

Erection of 4 replacement poultry buildings following demolition of 4 no. existing poultry buildings. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley, All in favour.

(Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio left the meeting whilst the following application was discussed)

APPEAL

APPEAL against Enforcement Notice EN/0197/18

Planning Inspectorate ref: APP/P1615/C/18/3216444 9 Culver Street, Newent

Cllrs Mrs Duncan and Mrs Moseley agreed to attend the hearing, if available, to represent the Town Council and to support the proceedings taken by the District Council.

11.9.2 To note planning decisions

PERMITTED/CONSENT

P1328/19/FUL - 1 The Stables, Southend Lane, Newent
Variation of Condition 02 (approved plans) of planning application P0415/19/FUL to allow for amendments to approved fenestration, roofing and external facing materials.

P1317/19/FUL – The Red Lion 2, Broad Street, Newent
Variation of Condition 02 (Approved Plans) of planning permission P0334/19/FUL in order to fully remove a wall, rather than creating an opening within it. Discharging condition 3, 4, 5 and 6.

P0085/19/DISCON – Glebe Chapel, Glebe Close, Newent
Discharge of Conditions 06 (Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme) and 07 (Hard and Soft Landscaping) of planning permission P1746/17/FUL.

P0879/19/FUL – Woodland View, Farm Great, Bouldson
Erection of a replacement storage building. (Part Retrospective).

P1313/19/LBC – The Red Lion, 2 Broad Street, Newent
Listed Building Consent for the re-opening of previous entrance to rear garden, removal of fire escape, relocation of the chiller unit, alterations to the retaining wall and associated works.

P1521/19/AG – The Green Farm, Cliffords Mesne
Prior notification for the erection of an agricultural building for the storage of hay and machinery.

P1389/19/TPO – Pond House Stardens Tewkesbury Road Newent
Crown lift x1 Lime Tree by 1.5m to 5m above ground level and remove upright sections of a western branch. (T1 of the application) and crown lift x1 Lime Tree and x1 London Plane Tree to 5m above ground level (T2 of the application). Trees covered by TP03.

REFUSED

P1146/19/FUL – Holly Tree Cottage, The Row, Cliffords Mesne
Change of use of paddock land to residential curtilage including the erection of a two storey side extension to main dwelling with associated works. Demolition of existing garage.

(Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio left the meeting whilst the following item was considered)

11.9.3 To consider supporting District Councillor Mrs Gooch's request for the appeal hearing for 9 Culver Street to be held in Newent

Three letters from residents supporting the hearing taking place in Newent had been received.

Resolved: The Council will write to the Planning Officer to confirm support for the hearing to take place in Newent. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Jones, Seconded Cllr Mrs Duncan, 8 in favour, 1 abstention.

11.10 Estate Management

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

A query was raised regarding a bmx track being incorporated into the recreation area on Meek Road. Staff were congratulated on their work.

The Council was asked to consider if they would like a fish stock and health inspection to be undertaken. **Resolved:** The Council agreed to undertake the fish stock and health inspection next year. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Heathfield, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

11.10.2 Request to erect bird boxes at the Arboretum

A circulated report was considered. **Resolved:** 30 bird boxes are purchased for installation at the Arboretum, costs may be split over the next financial year, depending on budget allowance. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Jones, 9 in favour, 1 against.

11.10.3 Update on gateway feature for the Lake

On 25th March the Council agreed a brief for the school's gateway feature design competition. Approximately 40 entries have been submitted. There are some concerns regarding the practicality of some of the designs. **Resolved:** Shortlisted designs will be displayed in the Library (subject to permission) and members of the public will be asked to vote for the preferred design. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley, All in favour.

If a working group is formed District Councillor Vesma will be invited to join the group.

11.11 To consider extending vehicle lease for 1 year

The circulated report was considered. **Resolved:** The lease on the Mitsubishi L200 is extended for 1 year. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley, All in favour.

11.12 To appoint a town planting working group

Cllrs Mrs Howley, Ms Birkan, Mrs Marcovecchio, Mrs Wadley and Mrs Odhiambo were appointed.

11.13 To receive committee and representative reports

Cllr Mrs Wadley	Forest Health Forum
Cllr Mrs Wadley	Valegro Project Group
Cllr Mrs Duncan	Flu Vaccinations on 2 nd November – Free parking
Cllrs Mrs Moseley & Mrs Howley	Town and Parish Liaison meeting
Cllr Mrs Howley	Rotary Club dinner

11.14 Notices and information

The Clerk informed the Council that 59 visitors had attended the Market House during the Heritage Open Week event between 17th – 21st September.

Cllr Jones stated he was delighted that District Councillors were now attending meetings.

Cllr Jones informed the Council that he had undertaken a hedgehog first aid course and was now set up for hedgehog rescue.

Cllr Mrs Moseley confirmed that the NDP consultation questionnaires had now been passed to GRCC for analysis.

The Deputy Mayor declared the meeting closed 9.27 pm.