

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Newent Town Council Meeting held on Monday 9th September 2019 at the Market House, Newent at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillors Mrs J Davies (Mayor), Mrs C Howley, E Heathfield, Mrs K Draper, Mrs M Duncan, Mrs G Moseley, Mrs W Odhiambo, R Beard, A Ralph, A Jones

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

Public Participation Session: No items were raised.

08.1 Apologies – Cllrs Mrs Wadley, Mrs Marcovecchio and Ms Birkan

08.2 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Mrs Draper declared a pecuniary interest in planning application P1276/19/FUL and an other interest in the Newent Initiative grant application.

Cllr Beard declared a pecuniary interest in planning application P1276/19/FUL and the accounts to be paid.

Cllr Jones declared an other interest in the correspondence from the Dolphin Club.

Councillors Mrs Moseley, Mrs Howley and Heathfield declared an other interest in the Newent Initiative grant application.

The Clerk confirmed a dispensation was not required for planning application P1219/19/FUL.

08.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th August 2019

Resolved: The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 12th August 2019 were approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Jones, 9 in favour, 1 abstention.

08.4 Clerk's Update and Matters Arising

Storage Container – Due to a number of issues with the company the Council had agreed to purchase the container from, including an increase in delivery price, the container was purchased from Company B at an additional cost of £15.00. The container is now in place.

All correspondence has been sent.

08.5 Finance

08.5.1 To approve accounts to be paid

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

Payments made since last meeting	Payment method	£
Wages	BACS	7810.72
Lion Containers	15178	2460.00
GCC	BACS	2823.59
HMRC	BACS	1981.34
Payments to be considered	Chq No.	£
Chamberlain Nurseries	15179	33.48
Ermin Plant	15180	236.46
Forest of Dean District Council	15181	20.00
Chris Hyett	15182	105.00
Sage UK Ltd	15183	348.00
Buildbase	15184	20.63
Glebe Chapel	15185	936.00
Geoffrey Urch Landscaping	15186	120.00
Archer Signs	15187	184.50
Vision Office Technical Services	15188	19.51
Loop Scorpio	15189	135.00
Peninsula	15190	173.42
Parkinson Partnership	15191	500.00
GMT Solutions	15192	93.12
David Sass	15193	500.00
R Beard	15194	17.55
Newent Onion Fayre	15195	30.00

Resolved: The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £18,548.32. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Moseley, 8 in favour, 1 abstention.

08.5.2 Internal check report

Cllr Mrs Howley confirmed that the internal check had been completed for the first quarter and there was only one minor comment raised.

08.5.3 To appoint a councillor to undertake quarterly internal checks

Cllr Mrs Davies is no longer able to undertake the internal checks.

Resolved: Cllr Mrs Odhiambo is appointed to replace Cllr Mrs Davies. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Mrs Moseley, All in favour.

08.5.4 To appoint a working group to review fees and charges

Resolved: Cllrs Mrs Wadley, Heathfield, Jones and Mrs Duncan were appointed. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Davies, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

08.5.5 To appoint a working group to review budgets

Resolved: Cllrs Beard, Mrs Davies, Mrs Howley were appointed. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Mrs Odhiambo, All in favour.

08.6 To consider response required to correspondence/consultations received

08.6.1 A resident – To request support in asking Gloucestershire County Council to consider extending the 7.5 ton weight limit in the town centre

The Town Council is undertaking a project looking into the parking and traffic in the town and County Councillor Will Windsor-Clive has been invited to attend a meeting. Changing the 7.5 ton weight limit on its own will not solve the problem. Cllr Mrs Duncan stated that the need for a bypass should be seriously considered.

Resolved: The Council supports looking into the 7.5 ton weight limit as part of the parking and traffic project involving Gloucestershire County Council. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, 9 in favour, 1 abstention.

08.6.2 Forest of Dean District Council – Consultation from BT regarding removal of telephone boxes

This relates to the telephone box at the Tythings. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, 8 in favour, 2 abstentions.

As part of the consultation local authorities are offered the option to purchase the telephone box, the equipment would be removed from inside. **Resolved:** The Council to purchase the telephone box for £1.00. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Odhiambo, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, 8 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention.

08.6.3 District Councillor Gooch – Request to be copied into all correspondence with the Forest of Dean District Council

The circulated report was reviewed and a lengthy discussion took place. Some councillors spoke in favour of copying all emails, to encourage joint working.

Other comments included: That it was a two-way street and the District Councillors should also keep the Town Council updated with information; there are times when confidential information is sent including to the Monitoring Officer; the Clerk is the delegated officer and is capable of determining if correspondence is relevant.

Resolved: Standing Order 23b is amended as follows; A copy of each formal letter sent to the District and County Council shall be sent to the ward councillor(s) representing the area of the council. All email correspondence deemed relevant to be copied to all ward councillors. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Cllr Mrs Howley, 8 in favour, 2 abstentions.

08.6.4 Dolphin Club – Request for a councillor to be appointed onto the Dolphin Club Committee

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

Resolved: Cllr Heathfield is appointed as the Council's representative on the Dolphin Club Committee. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Odhiambo, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, 7 in favour, 2 abstentions.

08.6.5 CPRE Forest of Dean – Invitation to AGM on 12th September at Westbury-on-Severn

No councillors are available to attend.

08.6.6 Gloucestershire Playing Field Association – To consider membership renewal

Resolved: The membership is renewed at a cost of £100.00.
Record of Voting: Proposed Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

08.6.7 Gloucestershire County Council – Gloucestershire Minerals Local Plan - Main modifications consultation

It was commented that information from the County Councillor on this subject would have been helpful.

No comments were raised.

08.7 Planning

08.7.1 Planning applications to be considered

P1275/19/TCA – Cheapside, Church Street, Newent

Crown lift x 1 Ash Tree on the north building side of the tree to provide a clearance between the crown and building of 2 m.

Resolved: No objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

P0855/19/OUT – Land North of Ross Road, Newent

Outline application for the erection of 16 dwellings with associated landscaping, parking and works with access from Ross Road.

(some matters reserved). **Resolved:** No objection – however, the Council is aware that a recent application on this site received an objection from the Highway Authority in relation to access issues and therefore this needs to be considered. If application is approved, the Council would wish properties to include solar/renewables.

Gloucestershire County Council be asked to make an application for S106 contributions. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, 9 in favour, 1 against.

P1219/19/FUL – Newent Community Centre, Ross Road, Newent

Erection of single storey extension, a three storey staircase extension and creation of a third floor mezzanine level including external and internal alterations and replacement roof together with the removal of existing railing and associated works. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Mrs Odhiambo, All in favour.

P1313/19/LBC and P1317/19/FUL – The Red Lion, 2 Broad Street, Newent

Listed Building Consent for variation of Condition 02 (Approved Plans) and removal of Condition 04 (Authority Inspection) attached to Listed Building Consent P0335/19/LBC and P0334/19/FUL in order to fully remove a wall, rather than creating an opening within it.

Resolved: No objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

P1276/19/FUL – Cleeve Mill Garage, Cleeve Mill Lane, Newent

(Cllrs Mrs Draper and Beard left the meeting whilst the following application was considered)

Erection of a building to provide two units (B2 & B8 use class).

Resolved: No objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllrs Mrs Howley, All in favour.

08.7.2 To note planning decisions

PERMITTED/CONSENT

P1009/19/TCA – Car Park, High Street, Newent

Fell x 1 Ash tree and crown lift x 1 Prunus tree to 2.5 m about public footpath at Newent car park

P0623/19/TPO – Land at Court Road, Newent

Works to x 7 trees covered by G2 and works to x 12 trees covered by W3 of G41 TPO54 in accordance with the submitted details

P1107/19/TCA – Ourome, Graces Pitch, Newent

Remove and replace 1 x Silver Birch Tree at Ourome

P0071/19/Discon – Tom Roberts Adventure Centre, Yates Farm, Malswick, Newent

Discharge of conditions 03 (External facing materials), 04 (Paved areas), 05 (External lighting), 06 (Surface water drainage), 09 (Biodiversity Enhancements) of planning permission P1783/18/FUL

REFUSAL

P0659/19/FUL – Spring Bank, Malswick, Newent

Erection of an office building with associated parking and works.
Demolition of existing office building

08.8 Estate Management

08.8.1 To review health and safety inspection report

Resolved: The recommendations are to be completed and funded from allocated budgets. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, 9 in favour, 1 against.

08.8.2 To consider parking facilities for council vehicle

Due to the Council's vehicle being damaged and parts removed whilst being stored at the allotment site, a more secure site was required. A report on the subject with options of sites was considered. **Resolved:** A rolling contract with Sheppard House to park the vehicle in the secure site at a cost of £35.00 per month is approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

08.8.3 To consider selling the Cemetery Lodge following consultation

Correspondence received from a resident had been circulated to the Councillors. Cllr Davies read the following statement "As I have been named in this correspondence, I feel I must set the record straight in that the comments I have allegedly made have been taken out of context. Firstly, I believe it was actually Cllr Mrs Moseley who said that the results of any public consultation are not mandatory and

that, having read the comments, she felt that most of them were irrelevant to the question being asked.

Secondly, I may have said that as an elected body we are required to do what is best for the people of this town. I certainly do not remember saying anything about going along with people who did not bother to vote.

This person was obviously present at the meeting and obviously misinterpreted what was actually said so I will give them the benefit of the doubt and not respond.

It was also clarified that the comments in the correspondence regarding auction sale costs were inaccurate.

A lengthy discussion took place and comments raised included; not wanting to vote against the consultation results, the comments from the consultation clearly showed that residents want something done with the Lodge e.g. refurbished in some way, a public works loan would be required to undertake any refurbishment, if the Lodge is to be sold a tangible asset would need to be purchased.

Cllr Mrs Howley requested that the vote be recorded.

Cllr Beard withdrew his proposal which had been deferred from the last meeting, providing this is dealt with in early November.

Resolved: The decision is deferred until the office accommodation working group has considered all other options and a report is considered at Council in early November. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Davies, Seconded Cllr Jones, 9 in favour, 1 against (Cllr Mrs Howley agreed this did not need to be a recorded vote).

08.9 To consider grant application requests

08.9.1 Cobalt

The request for £300.00 was considered. **Resolved:** A grant of £300.00 is awarded to Cobalt. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Mrs Moseley, 9 in favour, 1 abstention.

08.9.2 Newent Initiative Trust

(Cllrs Mrs Howley, Mrs Draper, Mrs Moseley and Heathfield left the meeting whilst this application was considered)

The request for £10,000.00 was considered. **Resolved:** A grant of £9,000.00 is awarded to Newent Initiative Trust. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Jones, 5 in favour, 1 abstention.

08.9.3 North and West Gloucestershire Citizens Advice

Resolved: The grant is not issued until details of attendance in Newent and the future of the service in Newent is confirmed.

Record of Voting: Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, 8 in favour, 2 against.

08.10 Update on defibrillator fundraising and agree location for siting of defibrillator

Cllr Mrs Duncan confirmed that the money to purchase the defibrillator has been secured from the District Council, Newent Rotary and the Doctors' Surgery. A bingo evening is also being arranged to raise funds for the installation costs. Cllr Mrs Davies stated that part of the collection from the Civic Carol Service will be donated towards the ongoing costs for the defibrillator.

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

Resolved: The Clerk seeks permission from Gloucestershire County Council to site the defibrillator on the Library. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

08.11 To revisit the decision taken by Council on 10th June 2019 to accept the offer for another duck platform, in keeping with the current duck platform, to be donated for installation at the Lake, as requested by 5 councillors in accordance with Standing Order 7a. The proposed motion: To consider installing a floating duck village, as designed by the donating resident

Cllr Mrs Howley gave an overview of the circulated report. **Resolved:** The Council agrees to take forward the new design, working closely with the Estate Supervisor and the generous members of the public to facilitate the new duck houses. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, 5 in favour, 3 against, 2 abstentions.

08.12 To note a statement of fact correcting the misinformation published in a recent publication.

Cllr Mrs Davies read out the following statement "Several articles over time have been appearing in a local political publication which have been very critical of the Council and have implied that this party has been the instigators and achievers of decisions made when it is the Council as a whole who makes decisions. Some articles have been misleading and incorrect.

I would like to publicly correct two articles which appeared in the most recent publication:

This party did not lead a campaign for a Facebook Page, it was brought to Council by another member.

Regarding the article relating to providing council papers electronically. A District Cllr raised this at a recent council meeting and the Clerk explained why we currently do not do this. Also, it is stated in the Standing Orders that the Council decided that papers should be sent out in the post”.

08.13 To approve the newsletter

Resolved: The newsletter is approved with the addition of information regarding the Christmas lights event and defibrillator. The Cemetery Lodge consultation information will be deferred. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Davies, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

08.14 To receive committee and representative reports

Cllrs Beard and Mrs Howley	The CCTV connection is now switched on at Waterwells
Cllr Mrs Moseley	NDP – 5000 leaflets regarding the consultation will be distributed
Cllr Beard	Chartered Parish and Town Council meeting

08.15 Notices and information

Cllr Heathfield informed the Council that the Conservative Party will be producing a newsletter for the parish.

The Market House will be open on 17th-22nd September as part of Heritage Week.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed 9.22 pm.