

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the online Newent Town Council Meeting held on 23 November 2020 at 7pm

Present: Councillors Mrs C Howley (Mayor), Mrs M Duffield, Mrs G Moseley, Mrs K Draper, R Beard, A Ralph, Mrs R Wadley, Mrs J Gooch, E Heathfield, Ms C Birkan

Also present – Town Clerk, Assistant to the Clerk and 2 members of the public

Public Participation Session: No requests received

34.1 Apologies – apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs Marcovecchio and Mrs Odhiambo.

34.2 Declaration of Interests – Declarations of Interests were received from Cllrs Mrs Howley – Planning application P1774/20/FUL Glengarth, Cliffords Mesne, Newent, Cllr Mrs Gooch – item 10 – to finalise and approve updated legal agreement between Forest of Dean District Council and Newent Town Council relating to the Valegro sculpture, Cllr Heathfield – item 09 – to finalise and approve the legal agreement between Newent Initiative Trust and Newent Town Council relating the Valegro sculpture, Cllr Mrs Moseley – Planning application – P1716/20/FUL 35 Ford House Road, The Scarr, Newent and item 10.

Cllr Heathfield advised he had received a Dispensation to take part in item 10.

34.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 November 2020

Resolved: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9 November 2020 were approved following minor amendments. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Wadley, Seconded Cllr Beard, 9 in favour, 1 abstention.

34.4 Clerk's update and matters arising from previous minutes

Clerks Update

S106 funding relating to planning application P1338/20/FUL

The Clerk has liaised with the Newent Multi Wheeled Skate Park Group and a submission for S106 monies has been made to Forest of Dean District Council.

Market House Stairs

Forest of Dean District Council has confirmed Listed Building Consent is not required for the proposed works to be carried out on the Market House.

Planning application consultation – P1735/20/FUL Land at Malswick adjacent B4215. Construction of working section of canal

The Council's response to the application was Object - insufficient information available to make an informed decision.

An email has since been received from the Planning Consultant asking the Council what other information it was expecting to see in the application. The Council to advise.

Members agreed to respond the project is described as a working canal but feel it needs a longer-term plan. How is it going to join Hereford & Gloucester to make it a working canal? Whilst the plan shows for illustrative purposes, working boats, the Council would like reassurance that there will be no residential houseboats? It is felt there is little in terms of logistics e.g. the acquisition of water for this particular stretch as part of the overall plan.

Traffic Regulations Order

Gloucestershire County Council has commenced the consultation with the statutory consultees.

Shop local sign

Forest of Dean District Council has confirmed that advertising consent would be required.

Items actioned and orders placed.

From meeting on 12th October

Free Parking Days

Due to the current lockdown, the District Council has offered to change the scheduled free parking day from 28th November. Unfortunately, the pay by phone system had already been amended so the 21st November date could not be changed.

Other dates already scheduled are 5th, 12th, 18th and 19th December.

Forest of Dean District Council Cabinet is this year offering Town Councils two additional free car parking days in the District Council's pay & display car parks, to allow free parking from Monday 21st December to Thursday 24th December in the run up to Christmas.

Forest of Dean District Council has asked if the remaining free parking day (28th November) be taken on 21st December. The two additional free parking days will be used on 22nd and 23rd December. The Town Council is also asked to take a day from 2021/22 to be used on 24th December.

Resolved: The proposed dates be agreed. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Duffield, All in favour.

34.5 Finance

34.5.1 To approve accounts to be paid

Payments to be considered	Payment type - BACS or cheque	Total £
Water Plus	BACS	100.66
Chris Hyett	15532	420.00
Viking	BACS	262.78
GAPTC	BACS	50.00
Mainstream Digital	15531	52.39
Grundon	BACS	142.02
NTS	BACS	162.00
Peninsula	BACS	22.34
PKF Accountants	BACS	960.00

Resolved: The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £2,172.19. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Mrs Duffield, All in favour.

34.5.2 To note External Audit Report and closure of Audit

Members noted the External Audit Report which stated on the basis of their review of Sections 1 & 2 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) in their opinion the information in Sections 1 & 2 of the AGAR, is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

The Clerk was congratulated on the outcome of the Audit.

34.5.3 To request payment for Land Registry

Members were advised that the Land Registry had started a project last year to provide help to Town and Parish Councils to register land. As such the Town Council had been assigned an Officer to help with this process relating to Cemetery land, Market House and Allotments which can be complex particularly where there are no supporting deeds. An overall fee is required to accompany the application to register land in the sum of £680 – a blanket fee which the Council will not exceed and the remainder of unused fees will be refunded once the process has been completed.

Resolved: The payment be made. **Record of Voting:** Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Beard, 7 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstentions.

34.6 To consider response required to correspondence/consultations received

34.6.1 Resident – Offer to donate a new Union Jack flag to the Council.

Resolved: The Council gratefully accept the kind offer. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

34.6.2 Forest of Dean District Council – informal consultation on proposed footpath GNE 217 diversion (Part) at Land north of Southend Lane,

Resolved: Object – on grounds of Point ACDB creating a longer route than going from A to B. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded Cllr Beard, 5 in favour, 2 against, 3 abstentions.

34.6.3 Motorsport UK – Consultation on application from Cheltenham Motor Club for Three Shires Stages Car Rally on Sunday 5 September 2021

Cllr Mrs Duffield asked that a wider community be made aware of the Rally particularly farmers who are working in the area, particularly at this time of year.

Resolved: No Objection – with above comments. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Mrs Moseley, All in favour.

34.7 Planning

34.7.1 Planning applications to be considered

Cllr Mrs Howley left the meeting.

P1774/20/FUL Glengarth, Cliffords Mesne, Newent

Erection of a two storey extension and a single storey extension with conversion of roof space to additional living space. Erection of a detached double garage and new partial front boundary wall and access gates. Demolition of existing single storey extension.

Resolved: No Objection. It will be larger than now, though the footprint is smaller. There are concerns from neighbours about noise, dust and disruption as well as proximity of the extension to the boundary. We ask that the District Council takes note of the neighbours' concerns. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Wadley, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

Cllr Mrs Howley returned to the meeting and Cllr Mrs Moseley left the meeting.

P1716/20/FUL 35 Ford House Road, The Scarr, Newent

Erection of an agricultural/horticultural storage building

Resolved: No Objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duffield, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley, All in favour.

Cllr Mrs Moseley returned to the meeting.

P1805/20/FUL 4 The Tythings, Newent

Erection of a single storey extension with associated alterations and works.

Resolved: No Objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Mrs Gooch, All in favour.

P1548/20/FUL Land North of Southend Lane, Newent

Variation of condition 1 (approved plans) of reserved matters permission reference P0041/20/APP to amend the boundary treatment along the western site boundary and partial associated level changes.

Following Members' previous comments regarding lack of understanding of the mapping content of this application the Planning Officer forwarded subsequent information to clarify.

Resolved: Object – instead of building retaining wall, raising the level of ground will result in properties in vicinity of White Gates being overlooked. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

34.7.2 To note planning decisions

Members noted planning decisions, as well as a Notice of Appeal and Withdrawn application.

NOTICE OF APPEAL

Appeal by: Mr D Fletcher

Site: 54 The Scarr, Newent, GL18 1DQ

Development: Prior notification for the change of use of existing outbuilding to a residential dwelling and associated building operation.

Planning Inspectorate ref: APP/P1615/W/20/3260868

DECISIONS on Planning applications made by the Forest of Dean District Council for noting by Newent Town Council.

PERMITTED/CONSENT

P0102/20/Discon – Southend Nurseries, Southend Lane, Newent

Discharge of conditions 11 (fire hydrants) relating to P0981/19/FUL

P0083/20/Discon – Southend Nurseries, Southend Lane, Newent

Discharge of conditions 20 (LEMP) and 27 (external material details) of planning permission P0981/19/FUL consent

P1300/20/TPO – 46 Johnstone Road, Newent

Reduction of branches by 2-3 m of x1 Oak tree at 46 Johnstone Rd

P1297/20/TPO – 9 The Butts, Newent

Crown lift x 2 Lime tree (T1 and T2), fell x 1 Cherry tree (T3) and fell x 1 Birch tree (T4) at 9 The Butts

REFUSAL

P1327/20/FUL Plot 1 The Stables, Southend Lane, Newent

Creation of new access to plot from Southend Lane (following temporary access created (part-retrospective))

APPLICATION WITHDRAWN

P1651/20/PQ3PA 52 Ledbury Road, Newent

Prior notification for the conversion of existing agricultural building to dwelling and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion.

34.8 To receive District Councillors report

Cllr Mrs Moseley on behalf of herself and Cllr Vesma gave an update on various aspects of their work as District Councillors, including: Dealing with planning applications during the Covid-19 pandemic, the processing of applications for financial support during lockdown and locally to Newent responding to a request for a skate park and assisting Newent Cycle Group with their plans for a safe cycle commuting route between Newent and Gloucester.

Cllr Heathfield left the meeting.

34.9 To finalise and approve updated legal agreement between Newent Initiative Trust and Newent Town Council relating to the Valegro statue

Members considered the updated legal agreement. It was noted that Newent Initiative Trust would pay the Council by way of commuted sum the amount of £6250 for the upkeep of the statue and that the Trust was also paying for the installation and maintenance of CCTV in the vicinity of its installation.

Resolved: The agreement be accepted. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley, 7 in favour, 1 abstention.

Cllr Heathfield returned to the meeting.

Cllrs Mrs Gooch and Mrs Moseley left the meeting.

- 34.10 To finalise and approve updated legal agreement between Forest of Dean District Council and Newent Town Council relating to the Valegro statue

Following the resolution at the Council meeting of 12 October 2020, Forest of Dean District Council was requested to include the following two amendments to the legal agreement – item 3 – change to 21 working days, item 4.3 Disputes – Governing Law – the agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with English Law and in the jurisdiction of the English Courts.

Forest of Dean District Council has responded as follows: - agree to alter clause 3.1 to state 15 working days and add a definition of working days so as not to include weekends or public holidays. The addition to clause 4.1 is already covered in clause 7 and is therefore not necessary.

Resolved: The agreement including suggested amendments are accepted and that the document is signed at the same time as that of the legal agreement between Newent Town Council and Newent Initiative Trust.

Record of Voting: Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, 6 in favour, 2 abstentions.

Cllrs Mrs Gooch and Mrs Moseley returned to the meeting.

- 34.11 To review the strategic plan update

Cllr Ms Birkan proposed that a further heading be created under Council assets to assess the structural condition of the Cemetery Chapel and consider its future use. This was not seconded.

Cllr Heathfield gave an update on the Youth Advisory Group.

An update was given on computerising the Cemetery records.

Resolved: Funding be sought for all assets or services, and consider how the Market House can be better used with the Market Square Working Group. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded Cllr Beard, 8 in favour, 2 abstentions.

Resolved: The strategic plan update be approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Gooch, All in favour.

- 34.12 Proposal in support of setting up resident associations in Newent – Cllr Mrs Moseley

Cllr Mrs Moseley put forward a report in support of setting up resident associations in Newent. She advised that in view of the complete lack of any resident associations and the relatively low level of engagement of

most of the residents with the Town Council, this proposal is intended to support the creation of volunteer organisations with whom the Council can engage. Resident Associations are not just a vehicle for communication with other bodies however – they can help strengthen and give identity to communities which adds to the quality of life of those involved.

Members were in support of the initiative and discussed the need for a suitable meeting place and the possibility of whether an initial cost of room hire could be covered by the Council.

Resolved: The Council support the setting up of resident associations in Newent. **Resolved:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Moseley, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, 9 in favour, 1 abstention.

34.13 To consider youth facilities working group report

Members considered the report and to various proposals to which written support was given:-

Arboretum: **Resolved:** Consideration be given in principle for an annual event subject to the Council's policy on the use of the Council owned assets. **Record of Voting:** Proposed: Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded Cllr Wadley, All in favour.

Skate Park: **Resolved:** Consideration be given to supporting a Skate Park in principle, subject to the identification of a suitable site and necessary consents. The Council to support the skate park committee and the young people. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour

Lake and Park: Pump Track **Resolved:** Consideration be given to engaging with young people to consider engaging with young people to review the site and assist them to design and build a track. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Ralph, Seconded Cllr Ms Birkan, 7 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstentions.

Sculpture Trail: **Resolved:** Consideration be given in principle working with local artists towards a future project. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Heathfield, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley, All in favour.

Nature Trail: **Resolved:** Consideration be given in principle to working with local artists and businesses towards a future project. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Wadley, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

Play Area: **Resolved:** To consider liaising with young people with regard to improving the equipment. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Heathfield, Seconded Cllr Mrs Gooch, 6 in favour, 1 against, 3 abstentions.

Fishing: **Resolved:** To consider in principle issuing temporary permits to visitors supported by a current permit holder. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Wadley, Seconded Cllr Beard, 8 in favour, 2 abstentions.

TRAC: **Resolved:** To consider writing to the Trustees to ask if they are able to consider offering the use of outdoor facilities to Youth Groups.

Record of Voting: Proposed by Cllr Ms Birkan, Seconded Cllr Mrs Gooch, 9 in favour, 1 abstention.

34.14 To receive committee and representative reports

Cllr Mrs Draper advised the Virtual Christmas Lights switch-on via YouTube had taken place the previous Saturday and to date had received 1373 hits. Much positivity had been received concerning the event and she thanked the Council Staff and Christmas Lights Committee for their hard work in making it a great success. Cllr Mrs Howley endorsed Cllr Mrs Draper's comments.

Cllr Mrs Howley advised that she was pleased to advise no less than twenty shops had expressed an interest in taking part in the Christmas Fiver initiative.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed 8.59 pm.