

## NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the online Newent Town Council Meeting held on 14 December 2020 at 7pm

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

Also present – Town Clerk, Assistant to the Clerk, a member of the Press and 3 members of the public

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Public Participation Session: No requests received

- 35.1 Apologies – apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs Odhiambo and Mrs Draper.
- 35.2 Declaration of Interests – Declarations of Interests were received from Cllr Mrs Gooch – Agenda item 13, Cllr Heathfield – Agenda Item 12
- 35.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 November 2020
- Resolved:** The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23 November 2020 were approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Wadley, Seconded Cllr Beard, 9 in favour, 1 abstention.
- 35.4 Clerk's update and matters arising from previous minutes
- None.
- 35.5 Finance
- 35.5.1 To approve accounts to be paid

**Monthly Direct Debit/Standing Order/BACS payments  
October**

	Payment type	Total £
Lex Autolease	DD	605.41
Lloyds Bank	DD	5.00
Allstar	DD	87.68
Allstar	DD	5.75
Newent Association for the Disabled	BACS	35.00
GCC	BACS	3644.53
HMRC	BACS	3030.12
EON	DD	20.85
Itseeze (Spoton)	DD	54.00
PWLB	DD	946.02
EON	DD	9.39
EON	DD	13.42

857

EON	DD	32.62
EON	DD	171.61

**Barclaycard Transactions October:**

	Total
Fasthost Internet	6.00
Fasthost Internet	13.85
Zoom	14.39

**Monthly Direct Debit/Standing Order/BACS payments November:**

	Payment type	Total
Lex Autolease	DD	605.41
Lloyds Bank	DD	5.00
Allstar	DD	30.55
Allstar	DD	79.25
Allstar	DD	82.76
Newent Association for the Disabled	BACS	35.00
GCC	BACS	3162.44
HMRC	BACS	2335.32
Itseeze (Spoton)	DD	54.00
EON	DD	33.04
EON	DD	200.52
EON	DD	2.97
Allstar	DD	11.28
EON	DD	15.69

**Barclaycard Transactions November:**

	Total
Fasthost Internet	6.00
Fasthost Internet	13.85
Zoom	14.39
StageDepot	112.80

**Payments made since last meeting**

Wages	BACS	8522.62
HB Digital	BACS	188.86
H M Land Registry	Cheque	680.00

Payments to be considered

	Payment type	Total
Tilon CG Ltd	BACS	36.00
West Gloucs. Neighbourhood Watch	BACS	30.00
Peninsula	BACS	173.42
Grundon	BACS	138.77

GD Parker & Co	BACS	19.96
Treework Environmental Practice	BACS	2190.00
Glebe Chapel	BACS	490.00
GAPTC	BACS	65.00
GMT Solutions	BACS	117.12
Overhead Media	BACS	200.00
SAFPRO	Cheque	200.05
Forest Products	Cheque	26.87
Davies & Partners	Cheque	792.00
Ermin Plant	Cheque	494.60
K Urch	BACS	35.00

**Resolved:** The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £29,896.18 **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley, All in favour.

#### 35.5.2 To receive budget updates (October & November)

Members considered budget updates for October and November.

**Resolved:** The budget updates be approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Duffield, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley, All in favour.

#### 35.6 To consider response required to correspondence/consultations received

##### 35.6.1 Forest of Dean District Council – To request support for Myr Tree installation

Request on behalf of the Love Your Forest anti-litter campaign of which the Forest of Dean District Council is a partner organisation to site the Myr Tree installation in the new year. The sculpture is also accompanied by an A frame giving more information about the Love Your Forest project. Their plan is for the installation to move to various locations across the Forest of Dean district to highlight the problem of litter and how long it lasts. The installation is weather resistant and suggest somewhere near to the Market Square would be a good location. The installation would stay out and they would approach a local shop to ask if they would be willing to put out and bring back in the A frame each day. All costs of the siting and removal of the installation will be covered by the Love Your Forest campaign. It is anticipated the installation would arrive early January and stay until early February although there is complete flexibility on dates.

A Member suggested support for this providing it did not interfere with the Valegro project. **Resolved:** The project be approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded Cllr Beard, 9 in favour, 1 against.

## 35.7 Planning

### 35.7.1 Planning applications to be considered

P1892/20/LBC - The Porch House, Church Street, Newent  
Internal alterations to allow for the installation of 2 no. compact home lifts. **Resolved:** No Objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Wadley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Gooch, All in favour.

P1757/20/FUL - Commonfields Farm, Bouldson, Newent  
Erection of a single polytunnel to be used for sheep and calf housing  
**Resolved:** No Objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Wadley, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

P1933/20/FUL - Roses Country Fayre, 52 Ledbury Road, Newent  
Erection of a canopy to provide a protected area for outdoor dining  
**Resolved:** No Objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Ms Birkan, Seconded Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, All in favour.

P1431//20/FUL - Okle Clifford Farm, Barn 1, Okle Green, Upleadon, Newent. Erection of a stable block and manege  
**Resolved:** No Objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley, All in favour.

P0121/20/Discon - Land North of, Southend Lane, Newent  
Discharge of Condition 05 (waste management plan) of reserved matters permission P0041/20/APP **Resolved:** No Objection.  
**Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley, All in favour.

P1735/20/FUL - Land at Malswick adjacent B4215 Newent  
Construction of working section of canal, complete with a firm towpath to one side as well as a level mown grass path to the remaining side and two culverts to allow for existing water courses to continue to flow unrestricted below the level of the canal itself

Additional information - Members were furnished with a letter via the District Council from the Canal Trust's architect/building surveyor giving responses to Members' queries raised at the last meeting. A discussion took place regarding the seemingly piecemeal restoration taking place and the lack of joined up longer term plans. Concern was raised that the restoration at Newent Station needed to be addressed and that of the major work to the tunnel at Oxenhall.

A proposal was made that the application be supported. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Moseley, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Wadley, 5 in favour, 5 against. The Mayor used her casting vote **against** the proposal, stating that she believed it needed a fuller overall picture given.

### 35.7.2 To note planning decisions

P0074/20/Discon - Southend Nurseries, Southend Lane, Newent  
Discharge of conditions 03 (drainage details), 07 (PROW), 09 (CMP), 13 (cycle storage), 14 (site waste management), 15 (waste management), 19 (CEMP), 21 (external lighting), 22 (bio diversity enhancement), 29 (boundary treatments) and 30 (landscaping) of planning permission P0981/19/FUL

P1621/20/FUL - Conway Cottage, Botloes Green, Newent  
Erection of a parking platform and car port

P0101/20/Discon - Land North of Southend Lane, Newent  
Discharge of condition 07 (cycle storage facilities) pursuant to the Reserved Matters permission (ref. P0041/20/APP

P0085/20/Discon - Southend Nurseries, Southend Lane, Newent  
Discharge of condition 17 (Remedial Strategy Report) of planning permission P0981/19/FUL

P1652/20/FUL - Clematis Cottage, Cliffords Mesne, Newent  
Erection of replacement dwelling and associated works

P1675/20/TPO - 18 Perry Close, Newent  
Crown reduction to x 1 Quercus Robur tree at 18 Perry Close.  
DECIDED

P1292/20/LD2 - Horsley Grove, Cliffords Mesne, Newent  
Application under Section 192 to establish whether the construction of a detached garage for ancillary use in association with the existing dwelling

REFUSED

P1566/20/FUL - Spring Bank, Malswick, Newent  
Continued use of land ancillary to/associated with lawful B1/B8 use of adjoining land

P1303/20/FUL - Plot 2 The Stables, Southend Lane, Newent

Form new access to plot from Southend Lane. (Retrospective approval). (Part retrospective)

Members noted the Planning decisions.

## 35.8 Estate Management

### 35.81 To consider tree report

The tree report was broken into four parts:

1. Year 3 Tree works – Year 1 & 2 works have been completed, Year 3 to be carried out this year. The vast majority of these works are long term management. **Resolved:** The Council approved all works recommended in the tree survey (and add to the works schedule to be undertaken this year). **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, 9 in favour, 1 abstention.

Cllr Mrs Gooch requested a copy of the full tree report.

2. Tree Re-inspection 2020

The Council approved in October 2020 a tree re-inspection by the Council's appointed Arboriculturist. There are recommended additional works to be carried out this year. All works are subject to appropriate planning consent. Majority of works will be undertaken in house at a cost of £350, however, there will be a cost of £300 for contractors.

**Resolved:** The Council approves all works recommended in the tree survey and adds to the works schedule to be undertaken later this year at a total cost of £650 + VAT.

**Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duffield, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley, All in favour.

3. Particular issues

Tree – 247 Turner Oak

The results from the survey showed that the tree motion sensors did not give any useful information. The options are therefore reduced to either felling the tree or performing a pull test (static load test) given that the tree has been colonised by a fungus that decays the roots and the extent to which this has affected the stability of the tree cannot be observed visually.

Tree – 259 Beech

The tree has extensive fruiting bodies of the root decaying fungus *Meripilus giganteus* around the base this year. The issue is similar to that with the Turner Oak as this is a root decaying fungus. Trees can live with *Meripilus* colonisation and retain high safety factors for many years, or the roots can become decayed quite quickly, putting the tree at a greater risk of failure.

The two options:

1. To carry out a static load test on both trees at a cost of £2,595.00 plus vat.

2. Investigate the cost to fell the two trees – possibly in excess of £3,500-£4,000.

A view was put forward by a Member that it was probably better to fell the trees now and to use the commercial value for the timber to off-set the cost. Even after initial testing, further repeated testings may be required and the tree could still die.

Another Member expressed concern as the level of internal fungal issues that may be present which could create insurance issues.

Other Members suggested that if it was felt necessary to fell the trees, it could be done in part and a feature carving be made in situ or part of the timber could be used to make may be a bench or for the gateway project to the Lake.

**Resolved:** The trees be felled and that the timber be used all or in part to off-set the cost but where possible to retain part of one/both to carry out a feature carving. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duffield, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley, 8 in favour, 2 abstentions.

4. New Planting area at the Lake, Court Lane

The new planting planned to go ahead in the grassed area adjacent to Court Lane at the Lake is about to get underway. The area has an Ash tree with a very large bough coming out over the proposed planting area, which will need removing. If the bough is removed, this will allow planting below for the three silver birch trees and will also help to shape the tree.

**Resolved:** The Council approve the works to the tree to allow planting to go ahead beneath, creating a clear area for healthy growth of new silver birch saplings. This will be subject to planning consent. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Moseley, All in favour.

- 35.9 To appoint Staff Committee Chairman

Cllr Mrs Draper had put herself forward for this position. **Resolved:** Cllr Mrs Draper be appointed to Staff Committee Chairman. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, All in favour.

- 35.10 To approve change of name of Youth Advisory Group to Youth Action Group and approve updated terms of reference.

**Resolved:** The change of name to Youth Action Group and updated terms of reference are approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, All in favour.

- 35.11 To consider working group's response to the new hospital for the Forest of Dean consultation.

The Working Group put forward its draft response to the new hospital for the Forest of Dean consultation

**Resolved:** The response is agreed. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Wadley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Gooch, All in favour.

Cllr Heathfield left the meeting at this juncture.

- 35.12 To consider CCTV report

As part of the Valegro statue legal agreement with Newent Initiative Trust, the Trust has agreed to pay for a camera to be installed in the Market Square. Whilst discussing this it was suggested that to put two extra cameras in the Foley Road area would be very reasonable in terms of cost. Each camera is costed at £377.00 plus vat.

Options for the siting of the redeployable camera and new cameras were given.

**Resolved:** The Council agree to fund two extra cameras for the Foley Road area, once camera to replace the redeployable camera acquired. This will release the redeployable camera for use in other areas as and when required. The second camera to be positioned in either Graces Pitch or Hills View. The total cost will be £754.00 plus vat and can be sourced from the street furniture and signage budget. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

**Resolved:** The Council agree to place the order for the Market Square camera using the CCTV upgrade budget, with all costs to be reimbursed by Newent Initiative Trust. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

Cllr Heathfield returned to the meeting and Cllr Mrs Gooch left the meeting.

- 35.13 To consider applying for planning permission for erection of shop local sign

Members were advised that planning consent was needed for the erection of the shop local sign proposed to be erected at the junction of Gloucester Street and Onslow Road and would cost in the region of £420. **Resolved:** Planning permission be sought, the funding to be found from the town promotion budget. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Wadley, Seconded Cllr Beard, 8 in favour, 1 against.

Cllr Mrs Gooch returned to the meeting.

- 35.14 To adopt the death of senior figure protocol



Members considered a paper setting out the protocol to adopt on the death of a senior figure. **Resolved:** The protocol be adopted. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duffield, Seconded Cllr Beard, 8 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention.

#### 35.15 To consider selling The Lodge

Cllr Ms Birkan put forward a report regarding the future of the Lodge.

Cllr Ms Birkan felt that a decision on this has been delayed far too long by lack of agreement both within the Council and the electorate. Cllr Ms Birkan stated it is now time to proceed with this matter to fulfil the Council's financial responsibilities to the residents and to come to an agreement either to sell or rent and so release useful funds for other purposes or to make good use of the building in some other way.

Cllr Ms Birkan put forward a proposal that this matter should be raised at each council meeting in 2021, preferably earlier in the agenda so that a decision may be reached without undue delay and a course of action is on track by the Spring. Cllr Mrs Moseley seconded the proposal. A discussion ensued with regard to the history of selling the lodge and previous arguments put forward for and against this course of action.

Cllr Mrs Gooch put forward an amendment: That the Cemetery Lodge be put back into the hands of the regeneration working group to look at its potential and to come back to the Council at the end of January with an update. Cllr Beard seconded the amendment. A vote was taken resulting in 9 in favour and 1 against. The amendment was carried and became the **resolution** of the Council.

#### 35.16 To review and adopt Leave policy

Members considered a draft Leave Policy which included new legislation. **Resolved:** The Policy be adopted. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, Seconded Cllr Beard, 9 in favour, 1 abstention.

#### 35.17 To consider rearranging/cancelling meeting scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> December

**Resolved:** The meeting scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> December be cancelled.

**Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duffield, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

#### 35.18 To receive committee and representative reports

The Mayor thanked Cllrs Mrs Wadley and Heathfield for recently distributing leaflets for the Christmas Fiver Deal.

Report from Youth Advisory Group, now Youth Action Group on its meeting of 17 November.

Cllr Mrs Duffield advised she had attended (via Zoom) the AGM of the Gloucestershire Association Parish & Town Councils.

Requests were made for thanks to be made to all traders, residents, Post Office and Doctor's Surgery for keeping Newent functioning with low Covid-19 infection rates – for publishing on the Council's Facebook page and website.

Cllr Mrs Goch requested that the Council's response to the Hospital consultation also be put on the Council's website.

The Mayor wished everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas in unusual and difficult times and declared the meeting closed 8.40pm.