

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the online Newent Town Council Meeting held on 9th 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, Mrs W Odhiambo

Also present – Town Clerk, Assistant to the Clerk, District Councillor V Vesma and 3 members of the public, later joined by a further 2.

Public Participation Session: A representative of the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal Trust gave a background to the recent progress of the work undertaken at Malswick with regard to the canal restoration. He went on to detail of what was proposed as the next stage by way of information of the work itself and the resultant amenity provision, in support of the current planning application consultation.

Another member of the public advised they were involved with a group of young people who wish to set up a skate park committee. A skate park for the town had been an on-going request and asked this be given consideration should Section 106 monies become available for community use.

33.1 Apologies – Cllr Ms C Birkan, Cllr Mrs S Marcovecchio

33.2 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interests.

Cllrs Mrs Draper and Heathfield advised they had dispensations on item 9 of the agenda.

33.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Meetings held on 26 October 2020

Resolved: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26 October 2020 were approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Duffield, Seconded Cllr Mrs Moseley, 7 in favour, 3 abstentions.

33.4 Clerk's update and matters arising from previous minutes

All items have been actioned and correspondence sent.

The Clerk advised that at the Council meeting of 12 October, Members resolved to take on Parking Enforcement powers in order to be able to pursue offending motorists. She had consulted Gloucestershire County Council to enquire if such powers could be passed down to Town Councils who had advised that it is the responsibility of the Highway Authority to enforce parking on the highway (on street). It is the responsibility of the land owner to enforce off street land i.e. car parks. It was the Clerk's understanding the consultation was asking if local authorities with CPE

powers should be able to enforce unnecessary obstructions of the pavement, as they currently don't have these powers or if a national order should be put in place.

From Council – 14 September. P1338/20/FUL Land at North West side of Watery Lane, Newent. Erection of 40 no. two storey dwellings with associated access and hard and soft landscaping.

The Planning Officer referring to Section 106 monies for this development stated that part of the recreation contributions relate to adult/youth recreation so any project the Town Council was able to identify would have to be for improvements for adult/youth provision. Proposals for repairs cannot be considered because Section 106 monies cannot be used for this purpose. Therefore he requested the Town Council to identify what the proposed project at the Recreation Ground is and what the cost of the proposal would be. He went on to state that unfortunately an email response had gone into a spam folder and not retrieved until recently.

Cllr Mrs Gooch proposed that any Section 106 monies coming forward be put towards a Skate park. She would shortly be bringing forward a report to Council about this.

It was pointed out that specific costings were required for this to be considered – it was thought that quick calculations could be supplied to support this.

Cllr Mrs Moseley put forward a number of alternative suggestions:-

A further adult gym, outdoor table tennis table in concrete, measured running track, picnic tables.

Resolved: A skate park project be put forward for Section 106 funding.

Record of voting: Proposed Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, 8 in favour, 2 abstentions.

33.5 Finance

33.5.1 To approve accounts to be paid

Payments to be considered	Payment type	£
Archer Signs	15528	57.06
Glebe Chapel	BACS	490.00
EE	BACS	55.24
Vision	BACS	53.98
Peninsula	BACS	173.42
Herefordshire Sandblasting	BACS	270.00
GD Parker	BACS	165.88
GMT Solutions	BACS	117.12
GAPTC	BACS	15.00
Royal British Legion	15529	68.50

Resolved: The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £1466.20. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, All in favour.

33.5.2 Internal Check Report – Cllrs Mrs Marcovecchio and Mrs Duffield

Cllr Mrs Duffield advised that she and Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio had carried out the internal check report and all had been found to be in order.

33.6 To consider response required to correspondence/consultations received

33.6.1 Forest of Dean District Council – Local Plan preferred options consultation

Cllr Mrs Gooch advised that she would not participate in discussion or voting on this matter.

Members were advised that the deadline for response to the consultation had been extended to January 2021.

Resolved: A working group consisting of Cllrs Mrs Moseley and Mrs Odhiambo to consider the document with a view to formulating an initial draft response.

33.6.2 Neighbourhood Watch – Request for the Council to purchase 3 signs for Picklenash Grove at a cost of £30

Resolved: The Council support this request and that the funding be taken from general maintenance. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

33.6.3 NHS Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust – a new hospital for the Forest of Dean consultation

Whilst one member questioned the need for a public consultation at this stage, others felt that it was an opportunity to respond to the overview of services the hospital might provide.

A working group be set up consisting of Cllrs Mrs Gooch and Wadley to consider a draft response.

The Mayor suggested the consultation be publicised on the Council's Facebook page.

33.6.4 Huntley Parish Council – Offer to provide updates regarding a Green Village at Churcham

Resolved: The Council would like to be kept informed of developments by Huntley Parish Council. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Heathfield, Seconded Cllr Beard, 9 in favour, 1 abstention.

33.7 Planning

33.7.1 Planning applications to be considered

P1652/20/FUL - Clematis Cottage, Cliffords Mesne

Erection of a replacement dwelling and associated works

Resolved: Object – concerned it will destroy one of the few remaining untouched cottages in the village described in the submission as “the core of the village”. It is on a popular public footpath through the village. In the submission it was described as being “not suitable for habitation” but no details were given as to why?” It is understood the kitchen and bathroom hardware have been removed. The proposed footprint is twice that of the existing building. It is considered that it would be entirely possible to extend the cottage without removing its character. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Wadley, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

P1675/20/TPO - 18 Perry Close, Newent

Crown reduction to x 1 Quercus Robur tree at 18 Perry Close.

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

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 – Revised plans/information. **Resolved:** No objection providing a desk study and site reconnaissance to assess the potential risks, including the possible intrusive investigation if found necessary, to be carried out. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Heathfield, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, 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.

A number of questions and concerns were raised regarding the construction of the canal in its entirety and the timing of such. Cllr Mrs Gooch believed there was insufficient information available for an informed response to be made, would ask that the application be called to Committee at District Council so concerns can be taken on board. **Resolved:** The matter be deferred until further information from the District Council is available. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley, 6 in favour, 2 against, 2 abstentions.

33.7.2 To note planning decisions

Permitted

P0909/20/LD2 – 30 Lakeside, Newent

Application under Section 192 to establish whether dropping of kerb requires planning consent.

Members noted a Notice of Appeal

P0121/20/FUL – Appeal by Mr R Daldry -Site: Spring Bank, Malswick, Newent

Development: Erection of an office building with associated parking and works. Demolition of existing office building (Revised Scheme)
Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/P1615/W/20/3260287

Members noted the planning decisions and Notice of Appeal

33.8 Estate Management

33.8.1 To consider fire risk assessment quotations

Members were informed that following a recent inspection by the Council's appointed Health and Safety representative, fire risk assessments for each of the Council's buildings should be undertaken by a specifically trained person to comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Three quotations had been obtained:-

	Price	Notes
Company A	£650.00	The price includes a review inspection for the following 2 years £18.57 monthly payments are made over 35 months
Company B	£375.00	1 inspection only (price fixed for 3 years)
Company C	£415.00	1 inspection only

Prices exclude vat

Resolved: Company A be accepted as overall better value. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley, All in favour.

33.8.2 To consider electrical repair quotations

Following a recent five year fixed electrical test, quotations were obtained to address the issues found:-

Area	Works	Company A	Company B	Company C	Company D
Market House	Install new distribution board etc	£738.00	£895.00	£1463.00	Did not quote
Changing rooms	Install new earthing conductor and test	£112.40	£165.00	£106.00	Did not quote
Changing rooms	Additional earth electrode if required	£68.40	£165.00	£106.00	Did not quote
	Totals for all areas	£918.80	£1225.00	£1675.00	

Prices exclude vat

Resolved: Company A be accepted. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Wadley, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour

33.8.3 To consider quotations for repairs to Market House stairs

A report was put forward relating to a remedial repair of the Market House stairs which involved the installation of and welding of a metal bracket to fix until such time as the stairs can be overhauled/replaced. Quotations had been obtained as follows:-

Company A	£85.00
Company B	£135.00 + Vat
Company C	£ no quotation given

Resolved Company A be accepted and clarification on whether Listed Building Consent was required from Forest of Dean District Council.

Record of Voting: Proposed by Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, 9 in favour, 1 abstention

33.8.4 To consider vehicle lease report

A report was put forward with regard to the Mitsubishi L200's lease extension shortly to expire in December. Options were given to extend for a further year or to set up for a new vehicle lease with supporting costings. The Estate Supervisor's recommendation was to extend the lease for a further year due to less cost than the annual lease cost. Repairs would need to be undertaken before returning the vehicle, and although the vehicle is 4 years old, the mileage is very low.

Resolved: The current lease be extended for a further year.

Record of Voting: Proposed by Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Ralph, All in favour.

- 33.9 To revisit the decision taken by Council on 12 October 2020 to consider accepting responsibility for the Valegro Statue and to enter into a legal agreement with the Forest of Dean District Council, due to further considerations that the Council need to be aware of before signing the agreement.

Cllr Mrs Gooch stated the revisiting of this matter should be withdrawn as it was in breach of the Council's Standing Orders – 9b relating to giving sufficient notice of a motion. She requested it be brought back to the next meeting.

- 33.10 To consider and approve Traffic Regulation Order proposal

Members gave consideration to the Traffic Regulation proposal which the Parking and Traffic Working Group had been working on with Gloucestershire County Council to produce proposals to help to alleviate the town's parking and traffic issues. Members supported the comprehensive proposals in general – one Member questioned however what they believed to be the need to include provision to remove the wide grass verge on the corner of Johnstone Road/Watery Lane to thus allow further parking facilities. A member of the Working Group advised that this had been mentioned to the Highways Authority as part of the proposals, however it was stated to be costly and not an easy solution.

Resolved: To accept and take the Working Group's proposals to Gloucestershire County Council. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, All in favour.

- 33.11 To consider supporting erection of shop local sign

A member put forward a proposal to erect a shop local sign opposite the entrance to Onslow Road to encourage the residents, many from the recent new housing developments in this area of Newent, to turn left into the town at the junction in order to carry out their shopping, rather than to turn right and to do so in Gloucester and beyond. The sign depicted the versatile range of shopping facilities available in the town with arrows pointing towards it. The cost of the sign had been found from sponsorship and it would be erected on local farmer's land. Its size to be 8 ft x 6ft.

Resolved: The Council fully support the sign to encourage shopping locally. It be checked whether planning consent is required for it.

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

33.12 To receive committee and representative reports

Committee and representative reports were received from:-

The Christmas Lights Committee – it was hoped that a Virtual streaming of the Switch-on of the Christmas Lights would be undertaken via Youtube due to the actual event not taking place this year due to Covid-19.

Remembrance Day – Cllr Mrs Howley advised she was pleased that she been able to attend a small Remembrance Service due to Covid-19 to lay a wreath on behalf of the Town Council, and thanked those who had organised it.

Newent Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group.

This completed the business of the meeting and it was declared closed at 8.20pm.