

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the online Newent Town Council Meeting held on 8th June 2020 at 7pm

Present: Councillors Mrs J Davies, Mrs C Howley, E Heathfield, Mrs M Duffield, Mrs G Moseley, Mrs K Draper, R Beard, A Ralph, Mrs R Wadley, Mrs S Marcovecchio, Mrs J Gooch, Ms C Birkan, Mrs W Odhiambo,

Also present – Town Clerk, the Assistant to the Clerk, County Cllr Windsor-Clive and 4 members of the public

- 22.1 To elect the Mayor of the Council and to receive the Mayor's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The Mayor, Cllr Mrs Davies, announced that she would be stepping down as Mayor. She said that she had been privileged and honoured to have been elected as Mayor for the last three years and thanked her fellow Members and the Clerk for all their support to her during her term of office.

Cllr Mrs Davies called for nominations for the new Mayor.

Nominations were received as follows:-

Cllr Mrs Howley – proposed by Cllr Mrs Davies, seconded by Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio. **Record of voting** – 12 in favour.

Cllr Mrs Howley was duly elected Mayor and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Cllr Mrs Howley took the Chair

- 22.2 To elect the Deputy Mayor of the Council and to receive the Deputy Mayor's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Nominations were received as follows:-

Cllr Heathfield – proposed by Cllr Mrs Wadley, seconded by Cllr Mrs Gooch.

Cllr Mrs Duffield – proposed by Cllr Mrs Draper, seconded by Cllr Beard

Record of voting: 4 in favour of Cllr Heathfield, 9 in favour of Cllr Mrs Duffield.

Cllr Mrs Duffield was duly elected Deputy Mayor and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

(Cllr Ms Birkin left the meeting at this juncture)

Public Participation Session: None.

- 22.3 Apologies – None.

22.4 Declaration of Interests

Declarations of Interest were received from:-

Cllr Mrs Howley – Agenda item 9.1

Cllr Mrs Gooch – Agenda items 8.4 and 10.1

22.5 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th May 2020

Resolved: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11th May 2020 were approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Davies, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley 11 All in favour, 1 abstention.

22.6 Finance

22.6.1 To approve accounts to be paid

Payments made since last meeting		£
Wages	BACS	8220.22
Payments to be considered	Chq No.	£
Rialtas	15434	459.60
Grundon	15435	106.74
Mainstream Digital	15436	59.28
GMT Solutions	15437	117.12
Vision Office Technical Services	15438	258.85
Allstar	15439	70.36
EE	15440	53.40
Glebe Chapel	15441	450.00
Spirex Aquatec	15442	432.00
MKM	15443	26.82
Ermin Plant	15444	21.42
Moat Contracting	15445	108.00
Water Plus	15446	196.78
St Marys PCC	15447	500.00

Cllr Mrs Gooch questioned the payment to the Lord's Larder – whether this was separate grant funding from the District Council or from the Town Council precept? The Clerk advised that this was a second payment – the Council having agreed to make its payment to the Lord's Larder in two instalments.

Resolved: The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £11,080.59 **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, All in favour.

22.7 To note decisions made by the Pandemic Crisis Management Team

The decision notes are attached to these minutes.

Cllr Gooch raised a question from the notes regarding on-street parking.

Cllr Beard advised this related to funding to assist Councils with making a safe return from lock-down. No decision had been made to lose any car parking spaces. The width of pavements do not allow people to pass whilst practising social distancing and there may have to be adjustments made.

22.8 To consider response required to correspondence/consultations received.

22.8.1 Andronicas Coffee – Request to allow tables and chairs to be temporarily placed under the Market House for use by customers of the Red Lion

Members agreed that this was a positive initiative for the town, but that it needed to be managed appropriately. **Resolved:** The Town Council engage with the Red Lion to ascertain exactly what they wish to do in terms of numbers of tables, days of operating etc. so that the facts are known and consideration can be duly given to the request. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded by Cllr Beard, All in favour.

22.8.2 Forest of Dean District Council – Proposed diversion of Newent Footpath GNE/69 at Woodland View Farm, Great Bouldon

Cllr Mrs Duffield advised the original path had been built over a shed, now the proposed diversion took the path around the shed. **Resolved:** No Objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Duffield, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Wadley, All in favour

22.8.3 To consider request from Police to reposition mobile CCTV cameras

Members were advised the request from the Police was to remove the mobile CCTV camera from the Lake and relocate it to Foley Road. This would be at a cost of £400 – requested to be funded by the Town Council.

A second camera was also requested to be moved currently in May Hill View to a residential area where drug dealing is suspected. Gloucestershire Police would seek funding from Two Rivers for the positioning of this camera.

A concern was raised about cover for the Lake area should the mobile camera be moved, but the Clerk advised there was already a fixed camera in situ there. Another concern arose about the need to move the second camera to Meek Road, however the requested site was established to have more pressing issues. Another Member considered the cost should be borne by the Town Council out of respect and duty to the residents to keep them safe, and that it should be working with the Police.

Resolved: The Town Council agree to fund the movement of the mobile camera at a cost of £400 and the second camera as requested, without cost. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded by Cllr Heathfield, All in favour.

22.8.4 District Cllr Gooch – to consider making a complaint regarding the Forest of Dean District Council’s Planning Chairman’s failure to consider or address planning policy in relation to planning application P0041/20/APP

(Cllr Mrs Gooch left the meeting at this juncture)

Members gave support to this matter and considered the District Council had not taken forward the Town Council’s concerns regarding this application.

Resolved: A complaint be raised. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Beard, Seconded by Cllr Heathfield, All in favour.

(Cllr Mrs Gooch returned to the meeting)

22.9 To consider grant application request (deferred from 9th March)

(Cllr Mrs Howley left the meeting at this juncture Cllr Mrs Duffield took the Chair)

22.9.1 Newent in Bloom

The Clerk clarified that funding would now need to be taken from this year’s accounts. **Resolved:** £1000 be given now and £1000 in the Spring of next year. **Record of Voting:** Proposed: Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded by Cllr Beard, 8 in favour, 3 abstentions.

(Cllr Mrs Howley returned to the meeting and resumed the Chair)

22.10 Planning

(Cllr Mrs Gooch left the meeting at this juncture)

22.10.1 Planning applications to be considered

P0241/20FUL – Land adjacent Southern Barn, Southend Lane, Newent

Erection of 6 dwellings with associated landscaping, parking and works. Creation of a new vehicular access. Additional information.

Resolved: Objection – screen between building insufficient.

Record of Voting: Proposed Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, 11 in favour

(Cllr Mrs Gooch returned to the meeting)

P0368/20/FUL – Yew Tree Cottage, Malswick, Newent

Construction of an outdoor Manege with associated works (retrospective). **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duffield, Seconded Cllr Mrs Gooch. All in favour

P0523/20/FUL – 1 The Stables, Southend Lane, Newent Variation of condition 02 (Approved Plans) of planning permission P0415/19/FUL to add dormers in roof to front and side aspects.

Resolved: No Objection to add dormers in roof to front and side aspects, but would ask that any permitted development rights are taken away. Would also request that the Environment Agency be made aware of foul smell which has been previously reported.

Record of Voting: Proposed Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded Cllr Mrs Duffield, 11 in favour, 1 abstension.

P148/19/FUL Newent Converters Midwinter Transport Ltd, Strawberry Hill, Newent. Change of land to B8 use for the storage of containers and caravans. Erection of a 2.4 m perimeter fence. Additional information. **Resolved:** Objection – the applicant has not demonstrated the safety of the ingress and egress of the proposed north west access to the site. The applicant has not provided a method statement for the safe removal and disposal of asbestos and contaminated material which exist on site. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded Cllr Mrs Duffield, All in favour.

22.10.2 To note planning decisions

Permitted

P0222/20/FUL - 5 The Crease, Newent

Erection of a single storey rear extension

P0285/20/FUL - 14 Tythings Crescent, Newent

Erection of a detached dwelling with associated works, provision of parking (to existing and proposed dwellings). Demolition of existing single storey side extension

P0046/20/Discon - Strawberry Hill Poultry Farm, Strawberry Hill, Newent

Discharge of condition 03 (bio diversity enhancements) and 06 (landscaping scheme) relating to planning permission P1618/19/FUL

P0041/20/APP - Land North of Southend Lane, Newent

Approval of Reserved Matters

(appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) of outline permission P1330/18/Out for residential development (up to 230 dwellings) including infrastructure, ancillary facilities, open space and landscaping

22.11 Estate Management

22.11.1 To consider if fishing permits are to be issued this season and approve any amendments to rules

Cllr Mrs Wadley spoke in favour of amending the first line of the amendment to the rules. To comply with Covid-19 those fishing at the Lake must demonstrate social distancing from other people also fishing, and social distance from the footpath to enable social distancing from walkers on the path. It is very important to support those confined for so long especially the young and the unemployed by allowing extra spaces to demonstrate commitment to their well being. Cllr Mrs Wadley went on to say she felt the Council cannot charge for permits when spaces are restricted to platforms only. By increasing the number of fishing spots allows for charging and issuing permits which will make it much easier to police. There are a number of fishing spots which are as far from the footpath, if not further than the platforms.

A concern was raised by one member that the platforms were meant for the disabled and given angling was not a contact sport there was no reason as to why anglers could not fish as before. Another member pointed out that on Lakeside side of the Lake, the path was very close to the Lake edge – there was not two metres from the path to the Lake and this area was therefore not suitable. Another member felt given one of the platforms had a sunken gate obstructing fishing in front of it, another was surrounded in reeds, fishing was going to be considerably restricted.

Resolved: To comply with Covid-19 those fishing at the Lake must demonstrate social distancing from other people also fishing, and social distance from the footpath to enable social distancing from walkers on the path. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Wadley, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Gooch. 4 in favour, 1 against, 6 abstentions.

Following voting some Members expressed confusion regarding as to whether permits were to be issued/charged and also that the vote had not been carried.

The Chair expressed concern that the fishing season was about to start and the Council needed to be clear on the way forward.

One member advised they had not fully understood the proposition and was happy for fishing to go ahead and called for a further proposition.

Resolved: The Council accepts the issuing of permits as written down and making sure that the fishing platforms are cleared so people can fish from them. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Howley, 6 in favour, 4 against, 2 abstentions.

22.11.2 To consider applications for the Volunteer Water Bailiffs' role

(Cllr Ralph declared an interest and left the meeting at this juncture)

Members were advised that the applicants had had a virtual meeting with the Clerk and the Estates Supervisor and had demonstrated a good understanding of what the role required.

Resolved: The applicants be appointed to the role of Volunteer Water Bailiffs. **Record of voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, seconded by Cllr Mrs Draper, 10 in favour 1 abstension.

(Cllr Ralph returned to the meeting).

22.11.3 To consider electricity quotations and award contract

Members considered the electricity quotations. **Resolved:** A quotation from Scottish Power for a 2 year fixed term. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, seconded Cllr Mrs Goch, all in favour.

22.12 To consider the frequency of virtual council meetings and whether the Pandemic Crisis Management Team should cease

This matter was deferred.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed 8.38 pm.