

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Newent Town Council Meeting held on 09th March 2020 at the Market House, Newent at 7.30 pm

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

Also present – The Assistant Clerk, 4 members of the public

Public Participation Session: A member of Newent in Bloom gave supporting information with regard to a grant application for Newent in Bloom.

20.1 Apologies – Cllr Mrs Odhiambo, Town Clerk, District Cllr V Vesma

20.2 Declaration of Interests

Cllrs Mrs Howley, Mrs Davies and Ms Birkan declared personal interests in Agenda item 9 Estate Management Plan (Allotments) and Cllr Mrs Howley Agenda item 8 Grant application request – Newent in Bloom.

20.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th February 2020

A Member questioned the accuracy of the minutes P.747 19.10 Estate Management relating to the requirement of replacement of three suitable trees following the felling of a Mulberry Tree. It was explained that this was done in conjunction with an on-going rolling programme. The Member requested a copy of the Arboriculturist's report.

Resolved: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24th February 2020 were approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, Seconded Cllr Beard.

Cllrs in favour – Beard, Ms Birkan, Mrs Howley, Heathfield, Mrs Duncan, Mrs Moseley, Mrs Marcovecchio, Mrs Draper, Mrs Davies, Mrs Wadley.
Cllrs against – Mrs Gooch. Abstention – Ralph. Cllr Mrs Gooch at this point requested the vote be recorded.

20.3 Clerk's Update and Matters Arising

P.748 19.12 Lake Gateway competition

In response to a concern regarding the size of the gateway and the importance that it was sufficiently wide enough, it was confirmed that it would be 3m wide by 3m high.

20.4 Finance

19.6.1 To approve accounts to be paid

Payments to be considered	Chq No.	£
MKM BS (Newent) Ltd	15361	445.61
Chris Hyett	15362	105.00
EE	15363	31.66
Vision Office Technical Services	15364	54.03
GD Parker & Co	15365	39.44
Water Plus	15366	40.14
Neil Bateson	15367	135.00
GMT Solutions	15368	117.12
Peninsula	15369	173.42
Glebe Chapel	15371	526.50
Ermin Plant	15372	501.54
Ermin Plant	15373	1532.75
Glebe Chapel	15374	18.00

Resolved: The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £3,720.21. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, 11 in favour, 1 abstention.

20.5 To consider response required to correspondence/consultations received

20.5.1 Gloucestershire Invertebrate Group – Request to visit the Lake on 25th April to record insects and minibeasts

Agreement sought to the Gloucestershire Invertebrate Group visiting the Lake on Saturday 25 April 2020 with the purpose of recording insects and other minibeasts for the Gloucestershire Naturalists' Society. The Group has visited on at least two previous occasions and both times the results were very productive. A list would be sent afterwards to the Council of the species they find.

Resolved: No Objection **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Moseley, All in favour

20.5.2 Forest of Dean District Council – Consultation on proposed diversion of Footpath GNE/69

Informal consultation with regard to the diversion of Newent Footpath GNE/69 (Part) which will enable a planning application – Erection of a replacement storage building (part retrospective) to take place.

Members considered the proposed diversion to which no adverse comments were made. **Resolved:** No Objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded Cllr Mrs Duncan, All in favour.

20.5.3 Herefordshire Council - Hereford Transport Strategy Review consultation

It was suggested that this document and that of the following agenda item – Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan was far too long and detailed to consider at this meeting and warranted a Working Group set up to consider it and to bring its finding to the next meeting of the Council so that an official response may be made. **Resolved:** A Working Group be set up consisting of Cllrs Heathfield, Mrs Moseley, Ms Birkan in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Development Plan group to make a response to the next Council meeting. **Proposed:** Cllr Mrs Davies, All in favour.

A member highlighted that she was strongly in favour of a bus route to the Forest of Dean – this was supported by other Members.

A further member commented that these documents should be promoted on the Town Council website, Facebook, Noticeboard to encourage public participation. Members were reminded that a Public Share Event drop-in was taking place regarding the Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan Review in the Market Square Newent on Monday 23 March 2020 between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm.

20.5.4 Gloucestershire County Council – Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan consultation

See minute 20.5.3

20.5.5 Forest of Dean District Council – Invitation to a Climate Action Day for Town and Parish Councils

Invitation to a Climate Action Day for Town and Parish Councils – a full day workshop on Monday 30th March 2020

Resolved: Cllrs Mrs Moseley and Mrs Howley will attend together with a third person from the Neighbourhood Development Plan group. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Davies, All in favour.

20.5.6 Joe Meek Society – Requesting Council's preferred option for siting a statue in the Market Square

Resolved: the statue of Valegro should be in place before taking things further. At that point one will be able to see what space is available and what can be done further with the Market Square. Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley **Record of Voting:** 9 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstention.

It was further stated that a public consultation hadn't taken place about this further statue and proposed this should happen.

Resolved: A public consultation take place regarding the Joe Meek statue. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Wadley, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, 8 in favour, 1 against, 3 abstentions.

20.6 Planning

20.6.1 Planning applications to be considered

P0222/20/FUL – 5 The Crease, Newent

Erection of a single storey rear extension. **Resolved:** No Objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, All in favour.

P0234/20/FUL – 1 Anthony's Cross, Newent

Erection of a two storey extension, single storey extension and porch extension with associated works. **Resolved:** No Objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, All in favour.

P0247/20/FUL Strawberry Hill Vineyard, 47 Orchard Road, Newent
Proposed construction of reception building for approved holiday cottages and spa at Strawberry Hill Vineyard with wine storage, dispatch and office facilities

Resolved: No Objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, 11 in favour, 1 abstention

For information – P0226/20/TCA Newent Lake, Lakeside, Newent –
Remove and replace x 1 Mulberry Tree at Newent Lake

20.7 To note planning decisions

None received since last meeting

20.8 To consider grant application request – Newent in Bloom

Cllr Mrs Howley declared an interest in this matter and left the room whilst it was under discussion.

Members discussed what planting had been undertaken last year by the Town Council and what would be expected of the Council this year in this regard. Members felt in the Clerk's absence they did not know how much funding was currently available for grant funding and that this matter was deferred until the next meeting. **Resolved:** The matter be deferred until the next meeting. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Davies, 10 in favour, 1 abstention.

Cllr Mrs Howley re-joined the meeting.

20.9 Estate Management

20.7.1 To review and adopt Estate Management Plan

Members considered the document and made comments/observations as follows:-

Arboretum – A Member questioned the need for dog bins and spoke of the savings that could be made without them, particularly with disposal of contents. Other Members felt it essential to retain the bins for health and safety reasons and to facilitate and encourage dog owners to pick up and dispose of dog faeces responsibly. At present the disposal of this was at no additional cost. A Member referred to the item concerning removal of ivy from trees throughout the year and stated this practice should be undertaken with care and only when necessary.

Allotments – Cllrs Mrs Davies, Mrs Howley, Ms Birkan and Mrs Moseley left the meeting whilst this matter was under discussion.

It was considered the Allotments were well managed and there were no issues.

Cllrs Mrs Davies, Mrs Howley, Ms Birkan and Mrs Moseley re-joined the meeting.

Library Car park – Concerns were raised regarding the condition of the surface i.e. large puddles/potholes. A Member advised that the intention was to use part of this area for a charging point for electric cars and at that time the car park will be resurfaced. Another Member stated the land was used as a car park in a discretionary sense and was not a formal car park facility.

Recreation Ground – A Member questioned why this work was being undertaken under Estate Management and not the Recreation Trust – should they be agreeing the work? She advised the Clerk had recently attended a training course on Charitable Trusts and should be asked about this in due course.

Cllr Mrs Davies proposed the Recreation Ground be deferred to the next meeting.

Resolved: The Recreation Ground maintenance be deferred to the next meeting. Proposed Cllr Mrs Davies, All agreed.

Lake area – A Member commented that the paths were in a very poor condition and needed repair. It was explained that the recent floods had washed the paths away and would be repaired when weather conditions improved. Another Member stated the edges of the Lake needed tidying up.

Resolved: The Estate Management Plan was approved with the exception of the Recreation Ground. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, 11 in favour, 1 abstention.

- 20.10 Request allocation of a free parking day at Lewall Street Car Park for Small Business Saturday – Cllr Mrs Gooch

Cllr Mrs Gooch withdrew this item as she believed as a small business owner in the town she had an interest in the matter.

- 20.11 To approve newsletter – Cllr Mrs Moseley

Resolved the newsletter be approved. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Duncan, All in favour.

- 20.12 Update report on bird control and consider future options

It was agreed in the Clerk's absence that this matter would be deferred until the next meeting.

- 20.13 To consider team building training

Members considered undertaking team building training by a local Consultant. This to be at no cost.

A Member suggested an alternative would be to engage Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils at a cost of £300 for a half day where everyone could attend together, which would be a good way of team building. Other Members spoke in favour of team building and that a good deal could be gained from it. It was suggested that the Council engage firstly with Gloucestershire Association of Parish Councils in this regard as suggested, and then follow up afterwards with the local Consultant.

Resolved: Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils be approached to ascertain firm costs. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Davies, All in favour.

- 20.14 To adopt the Bring your Own Device Policy

Cllr Heathfield proposed an amendment to the Policy in that Cllrs are given email addresses linked up to the Newent Town Council system, through Gmail. There was not a seconder for the proposal. A Member added that he would support the proposal if Newent Town Council were to issue a device to each Member for this purpose.

Resolved: The policy is rejected. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, 9 in favour, 3 abstentions.

- 20.14 Concerns regarding vandalism in Church Street – Cllr Ms Birkan

Members were advised that there was a gap in Church Street where the CCTV cameras appeared not to cover and where vandalism had taken

place. A request was made for consideration to be given to changing the position of the cameras so that they cover the area in question. **Resolved:** the matter be referred to the Estates Supervisor so that he may investigate and liaise if necessary with the CCTV provider. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Davies, All in favour.

20.15 To receive committee and representative reports

Cllr Heathfield	Dolphin Club AGM Onion Fayre meeting
Cllr Mrs Gooch	Youth Facilities Working Group
Cllr Mrs Wadley	Forest Health Forum Meeting
Cllr Mrs Howley	Mental Wellbeing Course

20.15 Notices and information

Cllr Mrs Gooch referred to a letter that had been sent to businesses in the town regarding the forthcoming Strawberry Fayre and stated that its content had not been discussed or approved by the Council.

Cllr Mrs Moseley reported that the Appeal for the Kodiak development at Bradfords Lane Newent was to take place on 26 March at Coleford.

Cllr Mrs Moseley reported that the Co-op store adjacent to the Market Square had now extended its free parking from 1.5hrs to 2hrs.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed 9.30 pm.