

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Newent Town Council Meeting held on 10th February 2020 at the Market House, Newent at 7.30 pm

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

Also present – The Clerk and 7 members of the public and District Councillor Vesma

(The Deputy Mayor chaired the meeting in the absence of the Mayor)

Public Participation Session: Three young residents spoke in favour of increasing facilities for young people in the town. More houses for families are being built and there are not enough facilities available. The Chill Out could provide more activities.

A member of the public also spoke in support of more facilities for the young generation as there are facilities available for the older generation and it would be good to listen to the young people and get them on board.

18.1 Apologies – Cllrs Mrs Davies and Mrs Odhiambo

18.2 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Mrs Gooch declared an other interest in the invitation from the Forest of Dean District Council to a Parish and Town Councils meeting, a pecuniary and prejudicial interest in planning application P0124/20/FUL and a pecuniary, personal and prejudicial interest in item 18, a complaint received.

(District Councillor Vesma joined the meeting at this juncture)

18.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th January 2020

Cllr Mrs Gooch raised a typing error in item 17.5.

Cllr Ms Birkan did not feel enough detail was recorded regarding representative reports.

Resolved: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27th January 2020 were approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, All in favour.

18.4 Clerk's Update and Matters Arising

Free parking days at Lewall Street Car Park – The Forest of Dean District Council has agreed to allocate free parking days for the Onion Fayre on 12th September and for the Council event on 18th July.

Telephone box – The adoption of telephone box at the Tythings has now been completed.

Internal Auditor – GAPTC has allocated an Internal Auditor and the audit will be undertaken on 19th May.

All correspondence has been sent.

General Updates

Bus Shelter – The bus shelter by the Library has finally been replaced today.

A query was raised regarding the telephone box and if it was owned by the Town Council, which was confirmed. A copy of the adoption agreement form would be circulated to councillors.

18.5 Finance

18.5.1 To approve accounts to be paid

Payments to be considered	Payment method	£
MKM (Newent) Ltd	15337	6.44
EE	15338	31.50
Peninsula	15339	173.42
Vision Office Technical Services	15340	25.31
Glebe Chapel	15341	18.00
GD Parker	15342	93.94
GMT Solutions	15343	117.12

Resolved: The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £465.73. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

18.5.2 Internal check report

Cllrs Mrs Howley and Odhiambo undertook a check a couple of weeks ago and all was in order.

18.6 To consider response required to correspondence/consultations received

18.6.1 Motorsport UK – Consultation on application from Cheltenham Motor Club for the Hills Ford Three Shires Stages Car Rally on Sunday 6th September 2020

Resolved: The Council has no objection to the event. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Wadley, Seconded Cllr Beard, 10 in favour, 1 abstention.

18.6.2 Forest of Dean District Council – Invitation to a Parish and Town Councils' meeting on 11th March at 6 pm in Coleford

Cllrs Mrs Moseley, Ms Birkan, Mrs Howley and Mrs Wadley will attend.

18.6.3 Western Power Distribution – Invitation to attend one of the annual stakeholder workshops

No Councillors are available to attend.

18.7 Planning

18.7.1 Planning applications to be considered

P0124/20/FUL - Hope Cottage, Great Bouldson, Newent

(Cllr Mrs Gooch left the meeting whilst this item was discussed)

Removal of condition 03 (occupancy) and 06 (operation details) relating to planning permission P0409/08/COU.

Cllr Ms Birkan proposed no objection to the application, which was seconded by Cllr Mrs Moseley, 4 were in favour, 4 were against and there were 2 abstentions. The Chair used her casting vote against the proposal; therefore, the proposal was rejected. **Resolved:** Objection. If the holiday let is no longer viable, it should revert back to being a garage and not a separate dwelling.

P0121/20/FUL – Spring Bank, Malswick

(District Cllr Vesma left the meeting at this juncture)

Erection of an office building with associated parking and works.
Demolition of existing office building (revised scheme)

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

18.7.2 To note planning decisions

PERMITTED/CONSENT

P0110/19/Discon – 1 The Stables, Southend Lane, Newent
Discharge of conditions 09 (foul water drainage scheme) 10 (surface water drainage scheme) and 14 (bird and bat box details) relating to planning permission P0415/19/FUL.

REFUSED

P1897/19/FUL – 5 The Crease, Newent
Erection of a single storey extension to existing dwelling to provide annexe accommodation to be used ancillary to the main dwelling.

18.8 Update on public meeting with Police

Numerous emails have been sent and telephone calls made to Mr Surl's Office and responses received stated Mr Surl is unable to attend on any of the proposed dates. The Deputy Mayor has also sent a letter and a response has yet to be received.

We have been advised that the Chief Constable is fully booked for 3 months. The Head of Local Policing has agreed to attend a meeting and a date is still trying to be arranged. Several Councillors expressed their disappointments with the response.

Cllr Mrs Duncan gave an update from the general Police meeting held in Coleford the previous week.

Mark Harper MP and the County Councillor were in the town at the weekend to hear residents' concerns.

It was noted that there had been an increased Police present in the town recently and the Police horses have also visited the town.

18.9 To consider releasing second grant payment to North and West Gloucestershire Citizens Advice

Information requested regarding attendance had been circulated and Councillors were pleased to note that the CAB had been at the Library every week since September, but it would be preferable if the Library staff could hand out information in the absence of a CAB representative being on site. **Resolved:** The second part of the grant of £650.00 is paid. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

18.10 To review and adopt Risk Assessment

Several queries raised were answered. A request to amend the Minutes/Agendas/Statutory documents item by adding 'and Members and Officers Relations Policy' to the Review/Assess /Revise box was agreed.

A query was raised regarding Trustees' liability. The Clerk would raise this at training she is undertaking later in the week.

A copy of all council property title numbers was requested, which the Clerk will circulate to all Councillors. The Clerk will also confirm if there are any special requirements for custodians of listed buildings.

Resolved: The risk assessment is approved subject to the agreed amendment to the Minutes/Agendas/Statutory documents item. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, 8 in favour, 3 abstentions.

18.11 To appoint a working group to review the provision of facilities for young people

Cllr Mrs Gooch gave an overview of the previously circulated report.

Resolved: Cllrs Mrs Gooch, Mrs Wadley, Ralph, Ms Birkan, Heathfield and representatives from the Youth Advisory Group are appointed to a working group. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Wadley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Gooch, All in favour.

The young residents in attendance were congratulated on their speeches.

(5 members of the public left the meeting at this juncture)

18.12 To approve newsletter

Some amendments were suggested, however, due to word restrictions they would not be possible. Cllr Mrs Gooch would supply amended wording regarding the Southend Lane development, which will be approved by the Deputy Mayor before publication.

Cllr Mrs Moseley asked that any councillors who would like an item added to the newsletters to supply specific text.

18.13 To agree date of first meeting in April

The second Monday in April is a bank holiday. **Resolved:** There would be no meeting on the second week in April, only the meeting on 27th will be held in April. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour

18.14 To agree advert for the Welcome to Gloucestershire publication

Several amendments were suggested and some will be incorporated where possible. It was agreed that the advert would be redesigned next year.

18.15 Town Clerk

Further to an email that had been sent to all Councillors, Cllr Marcovecchio confirmed the Town Clerk had withdrawn her resignation and would continue in the position with the Town Council.

18.16 To receive committee and representative reports

(Cllr Beard left the meeting at this juncture)

Cllr Mrs Wadley

Health Forum meeting – Forest Sensory Services talk

Cllrs Mrs Howley & Mrs Marcovecchio

Meeting with District Council Tree & Countryside Officers regarding a Tree Preservation Order review

Cllrs Mrs Moseley & Mrs Howley

NDP meeting – The consultation results had now been returned in a spreadsheet

Cllr Mrs Howley

VE Day meeting with Royal British Legion and Reverend Mason regarding planning an event

(Cllr Beard re-joined the meeting at this juncture)

18.17 Notices and information

District Councillors Moseley & Vesma had met with the Co-Op Manager and Assistant Manager to discuss the parking restriction and an overview of the meeting was given. The parking restrictions will be increased to 2 hours within a week, as per the original S106 agreement.

(1 member of the public left the meeting at this juncture)

The Co-Op Manager would be happy to attend a Council meeting to discuss the future developments.

District Councillors attended the handover of the LEAP at Meek Road. The play area is the only part open at the moment. Wildflower seeds will be sown and daffodils bulbs planted in due course.

Resolved: that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted

18.18 To consider response to complaint

18.19 Staffing matters

The Deputy Mayor declared the meeting closed 9.30 pm.