

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the online Newent Town Council Meeting held on 12th October 2020 at 7 pm

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

Also present – Town Clerk, County Councillor Windsor-Clive and 3 members of the public

Cllr Mrs Howley apologised for the five minutes delay in starting the meeting, this was due to connectivity issues.

Public Participation Session: None.

31.1 Apologies – Cllr Mrs Duffield.

31.2 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Heathfield declared an interest in the item relating to the Valegro statue. A dispensation had been given to allow Cllr Heathfield to participate in the discussion and voting with regards to the Forest of Dean District Council legal agreement.

Cllr Mrs Draper declared an interest in the item relating to the Valegro statue.

Cllrs Mrs Gooch and Mrs Moseley declared an interest in the Forest of Dean District Council legal agreement relating to the Valegro statue.

31.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th September 2020

The wording on item 30.5.3 had been amended to reflect the proposal.
Resolved: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28th September 2020 were approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Wadley, Seconded Cllr Beard, 9 in favour, 2 abstentions.

31.4 Clerk's update and matters arising from previous Minutes

All items had been actioned and letters sent as required.

Cllr Mrs Gooch updated the Council with regards to item 30.6.3 and stated that the council tax support scheme does not affect pension age payment applications.

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

31.5 Finance

31.5.1 To approve accounts to be paid

Payments made since last meeting

GMT Solutions	BACS	724.79
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Payments to be considered	Payment type/Chq No.	£
Screwfix	15516	41.98
Safpro	15517	160.45
EE	15518	58.09
Glebe Chapel	BACS	40.00
Network Connections	BACS	525.00
Vision Office Technical services	BACS	42.84
Peninsula	BACS	173.42
Calfordseaden	BACS	2880.00
Rialtas	15519	30.00
Lords Larder	15520	1000.00
Mainstream Digital	15521	20.90
GMT Solutions	BACS	117.12
K Noble	15522	31.04

A query was raised regarding the Clerk's laptop and if other staff are issued with laptops for working at home. It was confirmed the Clerk's current laptop will be issued to the Estate Supervisor and that the Council purchased a laptop for the Assistant to the Clerk at the start of lockdown. The Administration Assistant does not work from home.

Resolved: The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £5,845.63. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

31.5.2 Internal check report

Cllrs Mrs Marcovecchio and Mrs Duffield completed the first quarter's check and all was fine and above board. The second quarter's check will take place at the end of the month.

31.6 To consider correspondence/consultations received

31.6.1 Forest of Dean District Council – To consider allocation of 6 free parking days at Lewall Street car park

Several suggestions were made and all wanted to support Small Business Saturday. **Resolved:** The Council will request free parking days on 21st and 28th November, 5th, 12th and 19th December and 2nd January. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, 10 in favour, 1 abstention.

31.6.2 Department of Transport – Pavement parking consultation

A discussion took place and several comments were made including; photographic evidence should be taken to show the extent of the issue in the town. Option 3 is preferred, CPE Powers should be taken on by the Council. **Resolved:** The Council takes on CPE powers in order to be able to pursue offending motorists. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Ms Birkan, Seconded Cllr Beard, 9 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention.

31.6.3 Forest of Dean District Council – Request building name for block of flats on new development of 36 dwellings at Southend Lane, Newent

It was noted that the previously proposed street names were incorrectly spelt. This would be reported back to the District Council. **Resolved:** Begonia Court was proposed. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Wadley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, 10 in favour, 1 abstention.

31.6.4 Gloucestershire Playing Field Association – Membership renewal

Resolved: The membership is renewed. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, All in favour.

31.6.5 Freedom Leisure – Request to hold Xplorer Orienteering event at the Lake on 30th October

Resolved: The event is approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, 10 in favour, 1 against.

31.6.6 Newent & District Poppy Appeal – Request for The Royal British Legion flag to be flown from 23rd October – 13th November

Resolved: The request is approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, All in favour.

31.7 Planning

31.7.1 Planning applications to be considered

P099/20/Discon – Newent Converters, Midwinter Transport Ltd, Strawberry Hill, Newent

Discharge of condition 08 (contamination and asbestos reports) relating to planning permission P1487/19/FUL. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley, 10 in favour, 1 abstention.

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). **Resolved:** No objection providing a robust management plan is in place. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley, All in favour.

31.7.2 To note planning decisions

CONSENT

P1180/20/AG – Carswalls Farm, Tewkesbury Road, Upleadon

Prior notification for the erection of an extension to existing agricultural building

P1166/20/FUL – The Bungalow, Southend Lane, Newent

Removal of condition c (agricultural occupancy) of planning permission G4729/A

P1091/20/PO3PA – 54 The Scarr, Newent

Prior notification for the change of use of existing outbuilding to a residential dwelling and associated building operations

P1530/20/Nomat – Land North of Southend Lane, Newent

Non-material amendment to approval of reserved matters application P0041/20/APP to allow for a change of materials similar to approved.

P1259/20/FUL – 17 Culver Street, Newent

Erection of a first floor rear extension over existing single storey kitchen and proposed single storey extension to rear.

P0991/19/FUL – Market House, Market Square, Newent

Erection of a half life size bronze statue of Olympic dressage horse, mounted on a plinth.

31.8 Estate Management

31.8.1 To consider tree reinspection quotation

(County Cllr Windsor-Clive left the meeting at this juncture)

A query was raised regarding the number of trees to be reinspected. The Clerk agreed to clarify this. **Resolved:** The quotation is accepted. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, All in favour.

31.9 To consider working group's response to the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Governments planning for the future white paper consultation

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

Cllr Mrs Moseley had numerous suggested changes. **Resolved:** The decision is deferred so the suggested amendments can be considered.

Record of Voting: Proposed Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, 10 in favour, 1 abstention.

31.10 Market Square Working Group Report – To consider accepting responsibility for the Valegro statue and to enter into legal agreements with the Forest of Dean District Council and Newent Initiative Trust

(Cllrs Mrs Draper, Mrs Gooch and Mrs Moseley left the meeting at this juncture)

The proposed agreement with Forest of Dean District Council was considered.

Resolved: The Council agrees to enter into a legal agreement with the Forest of Dean District Council to accept responsibility for the Valegro statue once it has been sited in the Market Square.

The draft agreement is approved subject to the following amendments;

Item 3 – change to 21 working days.

Item 4.3 – Disputes – Governing Law – the agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with English Law and in the jurisdiction of the English Courts.

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

(Cllrs Mrs Gooch and Mrs Moseley re-joined the meeting at this juncture)

(Cllr Heathfield left the meeting at this juncture)

Cllr Beard gave some background information on the project. Due to Covid-19 and delays with the project, the initial indicated sum of monies to be transferred to the Town Council for upkeep of the statue had reduced and would now be in the region of £7,000. Some concerns were raised regarding the wording used in the proposed legal agreement with regards to having no financial impact upon the community for the foreseeable future and felt this should be amended.

Resolved: The Council, in principle, agrees to enter into a legal agreement with the Newent Initiative Trust to accept ownership and responsibility for the Valegro statue once it has been sited in the Market Square and handed over.

The Council also agrees to engage with the Council's Solicitor to review the legal agreement with Newent Initiative Trust on behalf of the Town Council at a maximum cost of £700. The cost to be initially taken from the professional fees budget and then reimbursed by Newent Initiative Trust.

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

(Cllrs Heathfield and Mrs Draper re-joined the meeting at this juncture)

31.11 To review the Lone Working Policy

A query was raised as to whether this applies to employees only. It was confirmed that this policy also covers councillors and volunteers.

Resolved: The Policy is adopted. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, 10 in favour, 1 abstention.

31.12 To receive committee and representative reports

The following written reports had been received:

Marketing and Tourism Working Group

The working group are currently gathering information to provide to Wyedean Tourism for updating the town's profile on the tourism website.

The working group would like to record their thanks to Robin Lister for providing 8 excellent photographs.

Youth Facilities Working Group

The Youth facilities working group are continuing to work with the neighbourhood police with rich picturing and are hoping to conduct the same consultations/exercises at the Arboretum, Lake (although this can be done from the car park) and Watery Lane Recreation Ground in the near future. Councillors will be advised of event dates 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 item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted

31.13 To consider pay and grading review report

The Mayor declared the meeting closed 8.55 pm.