

## NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Newent Town Council Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 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, Ms C Birkan, Mrs S Marcovecchio, Mrs K Draper, R Beard, A Ralph, Mrs W Odhiambo, Mrs R Wadley

Also present – The Clerk and 14 members of the public and District Councillor Mrs Gooch

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Public Participation Session: A member of the public, who also sent in an email, spoke regarding the lack of Police presence. There has been an increase in break-ins and drug use as there are no deterrents due to lack of Police in Newent. A public meeting with the Police was requested.

Another member of the public who is also a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, spoke on the same subject. He stated that the Police & Crime Commissioner and Council give no support. There is no PCSO since PCSO Griffiths left and 1 Officer visits twice a month. PCSO Griffiths did a lot of good youth engagement work, which is important.

A third member of the public also spoke on the same subject and stated he had to remove his tools from his van every night and store them in his bathroom, so what was the point in living in Newent.

(District Councillor Mrs Gooch and 2 members of the public left the meeting at this juncture).

16.1 Apologies – None.

16.2 Declaration of Interests

A dispensation had been granted by the Forest of Dean District Council's Monitoring Officer to allow all Councillors to participate in the setting of the budget and precept.

16.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Cllr Heathfield identified that the proposers and seconders names had been omitted from item 15.5.

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019 were approved, subject to the amendment above. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, 9 in favour, 3 abstentions.

## 16.4 Clerk's Update and Matters Arising

**Vehicle lease** – The vehicle lease has been signed and the new vehicle will be delivered before the end of the month.

All correspondence has been sent

General Update:

**Market House** – Listed Building Consent has been granted and the tender process is being undertaken by Arnold Bartosch Ltd.

## 16.5 Finance

## 16.5.1 To approve accounts to be paid

Payments made since last meeting		£
Wages	BACS	7735.46
Barclaycard Transactions		
Fasthost Internet		6.00
Fasthost Internet		13.19
Direct Debit/Standing Order/BACS payments November		
Lex Autolease	DD	603.44
Lloyds Bank	DD	5.00
Lex Autolease	DD	36.00
Allstar	DD	88.16
Newent Association for the Disabled	BACS	35.00
Payments to be considered		£
Abbey Surfacing	15305	1728.00
SLCC	15306	254.00
Grundon	15307	126.48
Chris Hyett	15308	315.00
Mainstream Digital	15309	7.30
Screwfix	15310	113.97
Ford Fuel Oils	15311	325.24
Glebe Chapel	15312	450.00
GMT Solutions	15313	165.12
Viking	15314	145.32
EE	15315	32.64
Peninsula	15316	173.42
Vision Office	15317	36.03
Water Plus	15318	33.87
Perpetua Press	15319	112.32
Moat Contracting	15320	54.00
Direct Autos	15321	325.93
A-Plan Insurance	15322	1325.22
Mrs D Morley	15323	15.60

**Resolved:** The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £14,261.71. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, 11 in favour, 1 abstention.

16.6 To consider the draft budget for 2020/2021 and setting of Precept for 2020/2021

A detailed draft budget proposal had been circulated, which had been prepared by the working group. The working group were thanked for all their work and for setting out the documents which were easy to understand.

It was agreed that the NDP budget balance is earmarked at the end of the year.

A discussion regarding lake charges took place and the budget had reflected a possible reduction in income.

A query was raised regarding professional fees and the high expenditure this year. The Clerk confirmed the majority of the expenditure related to the Recreation Ground Trust expenses and would be reimbursed by Section 106 funding.

**Resolved:** The budget for 2020/21 of £308,619.00 is approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Odhiambo, 11 in favour, 1 abstention.

**Resolved:** The precept request 2020/21 of £289,147.00 is approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

16.7 To consider response required to correspondence/consultations received

16.7.1 Gloucestershire County Council – Budget consultation

A lengthy discussion took place and Councillors were urged to also respond to the consultation on an individual basis. Comments raised for inclusion in the Council's response were; The highways investment is in fact maintenance and not investment. Will any of the £5 million for street lights and traffic signals be allocated to Newent, as there needs to be additional lighting installed to resolve the problem of black spots caused by the new lightbulbs. What does the climate change action fund entail? High speed broadband has been promised in Cliffords Mesne for over a year and still not delivered, so it is hoped that the County Council will deliver this service.

16.7.2 Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Tourism - Membership renewal

As the representative on this group, Cllr Mrs Wadley felt the service was well worth the money.

**Resolved:** The membership is renewed at a cost of £120.00 + VAT.

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

16.7.3 Gloucestershire County Council – Invitation for two representatives to attend mental health first aid training

Cllr Mrs Howley agreed to attend the training.

16.7.4 A resident – Request that the Head Teacher from Newent Community School is invited to attend council meetings

A lengthy discussion took place. The Head Teacher has been invited before and the Deputy Head has attended a council meeting. The Council has offered help and support if needed. The Head Teacher from Picklenash also attended a meeting recently. It was agreed a letter would be sent to both Head Teachers inviting them to attend meetings at their suggested frequency.

16.7.5 Gloucestershire Dendro Project – Request for permission for the Market House to be included in the Gloucestershire Dendrochronology Project

**Resolved:** The Council would be happy for the Market House to be included in the project and permission is granted. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley, All in favour.

16.7.6 A resident – Concerns regarding lack of Police presence in Newent and to request a public meeting with the Police

The Town Council is very concerned about the increase in crime in the area. A very lengthy discussion took place with comments including; the Council supports a public meeting but it needs to deliver action, questions should be submitted 7 days in advance so in-depth responses can be given. If reporting a crime from the north edge of the Forest of Dean the call goes through to West Mercia who do not deal with issues in Gloucestershire. Individual crimes must be reported for accurate data to be collected and used to support the case for the need of more Police. Would Newent be better served by Gloucester Police rather than Forest of Dean? The Police presence in Newent has been increased and targeted patrols are being undertaken and the community engagement vehicle has visited the town.

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

Mark Harper should be invited to the meeting. Neighbourhood Groups would help with engagement with the public.

There have been 3 different Inspectors over the past 3 ½ years which is not satisfactory. The Town Council regularly meets with the Police and raises concerns on behalf of residents and also has representatives on the Community Safety Partnership.

There has been a lack of communication with Neighbourhood Watch since PCSO Griffiths left. **Resolved:** The Council will organise a public meeting and invite the Police & Crime Commissioner, Mark Harper MP, Inspector Cook and the Chief Constable. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Davies, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

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

## 16.8 Planning

### 16.8.1 Planning applications to be considered

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.

**Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley, 11 in favour, 1 against.

For Information

P1905/19/TPO – Newent Lake, Lakeside, Newent

Works to crown lift trees covered by G41 TPO54 to a maximum of 3m above ground level.

P1919/19/TPO – Newent Lake and Park area, Newent

Fell x 1 Alder (T470 of the application) and remove epicormic growth from the base of x 1 Alder (T252 of the application). Trees covered by W3 of G41 TPO54

### 16.8.2 To note planning decisions

PERMITTED/CONSENT

P1608/19/FUL – Bridge Street Depot, Bridge Street, Newent

Erection of a single storey extension including re-cladding of external elevations and partial re-roofing with associated works (retrospective)

P1669/19/FUL – Newtown Farm Cottage, Tewkesbury Rd, Newent

Erection of cold store extension off existing agricultural building

P1952/19/TCA – Newent Lake, Lakeside, Newent

Works to trees at Newent Lake that are not protected by G41 TPOS4 but are within Newent Conservation Area. Crown lift trees to a maximum of 3m above ground level

P1748/19/TPO – 1 The Stables, Southend Lane, Newent

Fell x 1 Ash tree (T1 of the submitted tree survey) and crown reduce x 1 Ash tree by 30% (T2 of the submitted tree survey). Trees covered by G1 of TPO202

P1575/19/FUL – Commonfields Farm, Bouldson, Newent

Erection of a steel portal framed agricultural storage building with associated works and demolition of existing barn

P1757/19/LBC – Newent Market House, Market Square, Newent

Listed Building Consent for the replacement of modern cement infill panels to framing with lime finish

P1755/19/FUL – Cherry Tree Cottage, Botloes Green, Newent

Erection of single storey side extension and single storey front extension with associated works

REFUSED

P1675/19/FUL – 2 Market Square, Newent

Removal of condition 04 (parking) of planning permission  
P0942/18/FUL

P1666/19/FUL – 35 Ford House Road, The Scarr, Newent

Conversion of agricultural storage building to form single dwelling (revised scheme)

### 16.8.3 Discharge of conditions comments, 1 Southend Lane

Following comments received from District Cllr Mrs Gooch, to clarify, the conditions were discharged as adequate septic tank facilities had been installed. The complaints regarding foul sewerage smell and effluent in the watercourse were raised a long time before this application and residents were asked to report this to the Environment Agency, who are responsible for the watercourse.

Applications are thoroughly reviewed before recommendations are made to the Council.

## 16.9 Estate Management

### 16.9.1 To consider a request for a nut glade/orchard at the Lake

A letter had been received regarding this item and Cllr Mrs Howley addressed the queries raised; The Estate Supervisor actually suggested the idea, so is aware of the proposal.

The Council will look into getting some trees donated. The tree roots will remove some of the moisture, which will help with sitting water.

Several Councillors spoke in support of the project. Comments will be considered before a full report with costings is provided at a Council meeting. **Resolved:** The Council agrees that the specified area of the Lake can be used for a nut glade/orchard and a report with further details produced by the tree charter group. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Heathfield, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

### 16.10 Recruitment of Town Clerk

Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio confirmed that the resignation of the Town Clerk had been received. The job had been advertised and several applications had been received. Shortlisting took place on 13<sup>th</sup> January and interviews will be undertaken by Staff Committee Members on 17<sup>th</sup> January.

### 16.11 To consider report from the traffic and parking working group

Cllrs Beard and Mrs Howley were thanked for all the work they had undertaken to date. A report had been circulated with suggested proposals, which residents would be consulted on in due course. An application for 50/50 funding had been made to Gloucestershire County Council. Project 1 would look to improve safety and traffic flow in various locations of the town and would require a Traffic Regulation Order to be implemented. Project 2 will be to look into a 7.5 tonne limit from the traffic lights on B4215 to the junction with B4216 Huntley (Newent to Huntley). Other issues are also being addressed, but solutions are longer term.

Many comments of support were made.

Cllr Mrs Duncan requested permission to make a proposal at the next Doctors Forum meeting. The suggestion is that the Drs Surgery lease a strip of land from the Council's Library Car Park, for use as staff parking, to free up more space for disabled parking and this was agreed.

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

Concerns were raised regarding the zebra crossing. It was confirmed this had been looked into for many years and there is no easy solution.

Cllr Mrs Moseley had contacted a resident at the top of Culver Street where a double hedge was planted and the owners had previously offered the land to highways for installation of a footpath, but it was refused.

**Resolved:** £7,5000 from the allocated budget is allocated for a suite of parking and traffic measures which includes the following areas: Court Lane, Culver Street, Watery Lane, Lakeside, High Street, outside Picklenash/Glebe School and Glebe Road (details of project 1 outlined in report). **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley, All in favour.

#### 16.12 To approve newsletter

The defibrillator item will include one located at St Bartholomews. No further comments were made and the contents agreed.

#### 16.13 To receive committee and representative reports

Cllrs Mrs Howley & Heathfield	The duck village will be installed tomorrow
Cllr Ms Birkan	Community Safety Partnership meeting
Cllr Mrs Moseley	Planning Committee site visit and recommending attendances at the Planning Committee meeting
Cllrs Beard & Mrs Howley	CCTV – phase 1 virtually completed

#### 16.14 Notices and information

Cllr Mrs Odhiambo informed the Council that a 'Know Your Patch' event would be taking place at the Memorial Hall on 27<sup>th</sup> January and all are welcome to attend.

Cllr Mrs Wadley confirmed a litter pick event has been organised for 21<sup>st</sup> March.

(Cllr Mrs Odhiambo left the meeting at this juncture)

Cllr Mrs Moseley had attended a meeting at the District Council regarding Section 106 funding and explained some background to the process.

Cllr Ralph asked if a worker at a local shop could park in the Church Car Park. It is a private Car Park and not the Council's decision. It was reported that the Co-op have 6 permits available for use in their car park.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed 9.24 pm.