

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the online Newent Town Council Meeting held on 22nd 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

Also present – Town Clerk, the Assistant to the Clerk, County Cllr Windsor-Clive and 1 member of the public

Public Participation Session: None.

23.1 Apologies – Cllr Mrs W Odhiambo.

23.2 Declaration of Interests

Declarations of Interest were received from:-

Cllr Mrs Gooch – Agenda item 4. Matters Arising from previous minutes – Formal complaint: District Council’s Planning Chairman’s failure to consider or address planning policy in relation to planning application P0041/20/APP Land north of Southend Lane, Newent

23.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th June 2020

Resolved: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8th June 2020 were approved following amendments – P.771 P148/19/FUL to include the words “north west” of the site and P.772 22.11.1 Mrs Wadley’s proposal was carried. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Davies, Seconded Cllr Mrs Moseley, 9 in favour, 3 abstentions.

23.4 Clerk’s update and matters arising from previous Minutes

22.11.3 Members were advised that since the decision taken on the Council’s future electricity provider, the terms of the tariff had changed relating to a fixed Direct debit (not changeable for six months). Eon had since dropped to an almost identical spend to Scottish Power with a variable Direct Debit – both for a 2 year fixed tariff.

Cllr Heathfield arrived at the meeting at this juncture who advised that he had tried many times to join earlier but had been unsuccessful due to connectivity issues.

Resolved: The Council appoint eon as energy suppliers. **Record of voting:** Proposed by Cllr R Beard, Seconded Mrs Gooch, 11 in favour 1 abstention.

Cllr Mrs Gooch left the meeting at this juncture

22.8.4 Response to Council's formal complaint regarding District Council Planning Chairman's failure to consider or address planning policy in relation to planning application P0041/20/App Land North of Southend Lane Newent.

The Monitoring Officer advised that Officers have confirmed that the Ward Councillor representations about the quality and distribution of affordable housing were dealt with very fully by the Case Officer Tony Pope in response to what she had said. A motion to defer consideration of the application to look at access and density was not seconded.

Cllr Mrs Gooch returned to the meeting.

23.5 Finance

23.5.1 To approve accounts to be paid

Payments made since last meeting		£
Wages	BACS	8220.22
	Chq No.	£
Payments to be considered		
Newent in Bloom	15448	1000.00
Grundon	15449	Already Pd
GD Parker	15450	37.32
Grundon	15451	173.83
Mainstream Digital	15452	6.24
GMT Solutions	15453	117.12
Peninsula	15454	173.42
Safpro	15455	40.32
Chris Hyett	15456	105.00
MKM	15457	7.08
GAPTC	15458	23.00
Archer Signs	15459	66.66
Fields in Trust	15460	120.00
Just Bin Bags	15461	249.74
Broxap	15462	270.00

Resolved: The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £2389.73 **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, Seconded Cllr Mrs Davies, All in favour.

23.6 To note decisions made by the Pandemic Crisis Management Team

Members noted the decisions taken.

23.7 To consider response required to correspondence/consultations received.

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

The Mayor advised that she, the Deputy Mayor and the Clerk had met with representatives of the Red Lion and the proposal was that approximately 7 tables would be placed at safe a distance under the Market House for use by the Red Lion customers. It was explained the Market took place under the Market house on Thursdays and also the space was sometimes used by Charitable organisations. The tables would be used Friday to Saturday – taking into account the possible requirement by Charitable organisations and would be in use from 10 am to possibly 9 pm and on Sunday from 10 am to 4pm. Rent was offered in line with the Market rent. A three month trial period was proposed.

Members were in general support of the request and felt it gave the message that the town was open for business

Resolved: Permission be granted under the terms and conditions raised. **Record of voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Gooch, All in favour.

23.7.2 A resident – Headstone inscription request

A request was made for an inscription to be placed on the reverse of an existing headstone in the Cemetery. This was because of insufficient room on the front of the headstone due to two previous inscriptions taking up the available space. The Clerk explained that whilst there were lines from poems, quotations and biblical references on the reverse of some gravestones, there were not any references to names dates etc relating to the deceased interred in the grave and this had always been reserved for the front of the memorial. The Clerk advised that she had researched other local cemeteries and had enquired with the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management to which the Council subscribed, who had not come across this request before.

The Assistant to the Clerk advised that advice had been sought that day from Gloucester Diocese who were involved in jurisdiction in Churchyards. They advised requests of this nature were unusual but not unheard of and such cases required a faculty to be applied for at a cost of £350 to the Chancellor. They advised that applicants were discouraged as in many cases refusal was given. Each case was

taken on its own merits and influenced by location, setting in relation to other graves etc.

Some Members were sympathetic to the request and felt that it should be permitted. Cllrs Mrs Duffield suggested an alternative would be to permit a small flat stone on the grave which could accommodate the additional inscription. Cllr Heathfield put forward a proposition that the applicant be permitted to have an inscription on the reverse of the headstone. He requested a recorded vote. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Wadley.

Cllr Beard put forward an alternative proposition in that in view of the information put forward by Gloucester Diocese that Cllr Mrs Duffield's suggestion be taken permitted as a compromise. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Duffield.

Cllr Heathfield's proposition was put forward. **Resolved:** The Motion failed. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Heathfield, Seconded Cllr Wadley - in favour Cllrs Heathfield, Wadley, Ms Birkan, Mrs Gooch, Against Cllrs Mrs Howley, Mrs Marcovecchio, R Beard, Mrs Draper, Mrs Duffield, Mrs Davies, Mrs Moseley, 1 abstention Cllr Ralph.

Cllr Beard's proposition was put forward. **Resolved:** The Council permit a small flat stone on the grave which could accommodate the additional inscription **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Duffield, 9 in favour, 3 abstentions.

23.7.3 Forest of Dean District Council – Request for assistance and financial support for implementing high street safety measures

Consideration was given to allowing Council staff to help refill hand sanitisers which will be erected in certain areas in the town and ensuring they are working. **Resolved:** Permission be granted. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Duffield, 11 in favour, 1 abstention.

Further consideration was given to a Virtual tour app which the District Council was looking to the Town Council to fund – in the sum of £2000/£2500. One Member spoke against this saying that most people in and around the area know where the shops are situated and did not consider there would be an influx of tourists to the area in the immediate future. The money could be better used elsewhere. Another Member wished to know more about it and how advantageous they were? A further Member spoke in favour of them stating lots of other towns have them and tourists use them.

Resolved: The Council does not pay for the App. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded Cllr Mrs Duffield, 9 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstentions.

23.8 Planning

22.8.1 To note planning decisions - attached

Members noted the planning decisions

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

Considerable discussion took place as to the frequency of meetings and whether they were necessary and the workload they entailed.

Resolved: Newent Town Council has two virtual meetings per month with a Pandemic meeting in-between if the Clerk believes it necessary.

Record of Voting: Proposed by Cllr Mrs Wadley, Seconded Cllr Duffield, 11 in favour, 1 abstention.

23.10 To appoint councillor representatives to review planning applications

Resolved: All Members are responsible to review planning applications and to make proposals in response to consultations. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley, 7 in favour, 5 abstentions.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.28 pm