

## NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the online Newent Town Council Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 7pm

Present: Councillors Mrs C Howley (Mayor), Cllr Mrs M Duffield (Deputy Mayor), E Heathfield, Mrs G Moseley, R Beard, A Ralph, Mrs R Wadley, Mrs J Gooch, Mrs S Marcovecchio

Also present – Town Clerk, Assistant to the Clerk, two members of the public, later joined by a third.

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### Public Participation Session:

A member of the public spoke in clarification of planning application P1599/20/TPO 42 Meek Rd, Newent - Crown reduction/lift on x 10 trees adjacent to 42 Meek Road. He advised that the trees had grown significantly since the estate had been built and the intention was to just cut back the trees to the boundary of the property to give light into the garden. The height of the trees would not be affected, just the width.

32.1 Apologies – Cllrs Mrs K Draper, Ms C Birkan, Mrs W Odhiambo

32.2 Declaration of Interests

Declaration of Interests were received from Cllr Heathfield – Planning application – P1621/20/FUL Conway Cottage, Botloes Green, Newent, Cllr Mrs Gooch – agenda items 6.1 Forest of Dean Local Plan Economic Viability Assessment Consultation, 9. to consider supporting Fiver Fest event, 10. To receive the Federation of Newent Schools 2020 school report and Cllr Mrs Moseley 7. Planning application – P1599/20/TP0 42 Meek Rd, Newent.

32.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 were approved after the following amendments:-

P.825 31.2 Declarations of interests – “Cllrs Mrs Gooch and Mrs Moseley declared an interest in the – *insert the Forest of Dean District Council and Newent Town Council* legal agreement relating to the Valegro statue.”

P. 828 P101/20 Discon – Land North of, Southend Lane, Newent – *insert Discharge of condition 07 (cycle storage facilities) pursuant to the Reserved Matters permission (ref P0041/20/APP).*

**Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Moseley, 7 in favour, 2 abstentions.

Cllr Mrs Howley advised of an amendment on the confidential page of the minutes.

**Resolved:** The vote resulted in 8 in favour, 3 against. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Wadley, Seconded Cllr Beard, 8 in favour, 1 abstention.

The Clerk requested where possible if amendments to the minutes could be made in advance of the meeting

#### 32.4 Clerk's update and matters arising from previous Minutes

The free parking days at Lewall Street car park need to be allocated before 31<sup>st</sup> December. The proposed date of 2<sup>nd</sup> January will be taken from next year's allocation – in the circumstances would the Council like to choose an alternative day? The other approved dates have been approved by the District Council.

**Resolved:** 18<sup>th</sup> December be put forward as an alternative. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Wadley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Moseley. All in favour.

Tree reinspection: The quotation allows for 209 trees to be re-inspected.

Valegro Statue - Legal Agreement – Newent Initiative Trust

The Clerk advised that an email had been recently received from Newent Initiative Trust which stated "We have conducted a preliminary review and noted a number of significant changes to the Draft Agreement previously submitted to The Council to which The Trust cannot comply with or agree. We therefore propose to send this to our chosen solicitor, the costs of which will be deducted from monies available for transfer to The Council".

All items had been actioned and letters sent as required.

#### 32.5 Finance

##### 32.5.1 To approve accounts to be paid

##### **Payments made since last meeting**

Wages		8473.88
Screwfix	15516	18.99
Gloucs Playing Fields Assn	15523	100.00

<b>Payments to be considered</b>	Payment type/Chq No.	£
Grundon	BACS	317.19
Ermin Plant	CHQ	311.45

GD Parker	BACS	79.28
Institute Cemetery Crematorium Mt	BACS	162.00
Water Plus	BACS	22.91
Viking	BACS	401.90
Archer Signs	CHQ	26.94
Pontrilas Merchants	BACS	386.67
GAPTC	BACS	50.00
Severn Signs	BACS	144.00
Screwfix	CHQ	81.40
Siemens	BACS	228.00

**Resolved:** The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £10,804.61 **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

### 32.5.2 To receive budget update (September)

Cllr Mrs Howley gave details of the budget update for September.

**Resolved:** The budget update be approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Duffield, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Wadley, all in favour.

### 32.6 To consider correspondence/consultations received

Cllr Mrs Gooch left the meeting at this juncture

#### 32.6.1 Forest of Dean District Council – Local Plan Economic Viability Assessment Consultation

Members considered the consultation document complex and ultimately that they did not have enough understanding and expertise of its contents to be able to comment meaningfully.

**Resolved:** A response is not given for the reasons outlined. **Record of voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Moseley, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, all in favour.

Cllr Mrs Gooch returned to the meeting.

#### 32.6.2 Forest of Dean District Council – Application for variation of premises licence for The International Centre for Birds of Prey, Bouldson, House, Great Bouldson, Newent

**Resolved:** No Objection to the variation of premises licence. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded Cllr Beard, all in favour

### 32.7 Planning

#### 32.7.1 Planning applications to be considered

Cllr Mrs Moseley left the meeting at this juncture

P1599/20/TPO - 42 Meek Rd, Newent. Crown reduction/lift on x 10 trees adjacent to 42 Meek Road

**Resolved:** No Objection but in addition a strongly worded letter relating to condition 2 of the development regarding maintenance of trees by Linden Homes and enforcement thereof be sent to Forest of Dean District Council. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, all in favour

Cllr Mrs Moseley returned to the meeting.

P0102/20/Discon - Southend Nurseries, Southend Lane, Newent, Discharge of condition 11 (fire hydrants) relating to P0981/19/FUL

**Resolved:** No Objection subject to Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service receiving the correct paperwork. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Moseley, Seconded Cllr Beard, all in favour.

P1548/20/FUL - Land North of, Southend Lane, Newent

Variation of condition 1 (approved plans) of reserved matters permission reference P0041/20/APP to amend the boundary treatment along the western site boundary and partial associated level changes.

**Resolved:** Object – mapping unintelligible, require description in layman’s language. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Wadley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Moseley, all in favour

Cllr Heathfield left the meeting at this juncture.

P1621/20/FUL - Conway Cottage, Botloes Green Newent. Erection of Parking platform and carport

**Resolved:** No Objection **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Wadley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Moseley, all in favour.

Cllr Heathfield returned to the meeting.

P1651/20/PQ3PA - 52 Ledbury Road, Newent

Prior notification for the conversion of existing agricultural building to dwelling and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion.

**Resolved:** No Objection but would request deferment until Gas utilities can locate position of gas pipes. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, Seconded by Cllr Beard, all in favour.

P1566/20/FUL - Spring Bank, Malswick, Newent

Continued use of land ancillary to/associated with lawful B1/B8 use of adjoining land.

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

To note planning decisions

CONSENT

P1405/20/TCA - Bower Barn, 31 Culver St, Newent  
Crown reduction x 2 Honey Locust trees by 30% at 31 Bower Barn

P1514/20/AG Barn - Redmarley Road, Newent  
Prior notification for the erection of an extension to the existing general purpose agricultural building

P0996/20/FUL - Woodland View, Birches Lane, Newent  
Erection of a triple bay garage with home office above

P1294/20/FUL - 2 Lightfoot, Newent  
Erection of a single storey rear extension. Replacement of roof tiles.

32.7.3 Members noted a Notice of Appeal App/P1615/W/20/3258541 Hope Cottage, Cliffords Mesne, Newent and Appeal decisions for App.P1615/C/18/3216444 Land at Culver Street, Newent and App/P1615/W/19/3236737 Land off Bradfords Lane, Newent

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

**Resolved:** The response and accompanying covering letter be approved.

**Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Wadley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, 5 in favour, 2 against, 2 abstentions.

Cllr Mrs Gooch left the meeting at this juncture

32.9.1 To consider supporting Fiver Fest event in town for month of December – Cllrs Mrs Howley & Mrs Duffield

Cllr Mrs Howley explained this was an initiative received via Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum and had been marketed by Stroud Chamber of Trade twice in the past and had been very successful. Letters had gone to traders via the Business Club to ascertain whether there would be interest from Newent traders and a positive response had been received so far from a number of traders that they would like to participate. Other Members were encouraging and spoke of other towns in Abergavenny and Barnstaple where similar events were held. Cllr Mrs Howley requested if sufficient interest was generated, if the Council would agree a maximum

£500 from the Town Promotion Budget to cover the cost of advertising and other promotional material. It was suggested there was a possibility such a figure may not in its entirety be needed given the goodwill in the town.

**Resolved:** The sum of £500 be allocated for this purpose. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Duffield, Seconded Cllr Beard, all in favour.

32.10 To receive the Federation of Newent Schools 2020 school report

Members noted the report which stated that following Ofsted visits to both Glebe and Picklenash schools, both schools had achieved a grading of Good, thus meaning for the first time ever Newent has a Primary provider that is good in all areas. Cllr Mrs Howley advised that the Council had already congratulated the Schools on this significant achievement.

Cllr Mrs Gooch returned to the meeting.

32.11 To consider Councils role in Covid-19 community plans.

Cllr Mrs Howley advised that in the case of a possible second lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a meeting had taken place with We Will help Newent, Glebe Chapel and St Mary's Church in preparation for this. A leaflet has been prepared giving contact information and a letter has been sent to cafes and food outlets asking what plans they may have in place. Seven responses so far had been received. Cllr Mrs Howley advised that she and Cllr Mrs Duffield planned to visit the Co-op store personally to ascertain if they had any additional plans in place. She advised a response to a letter sent to Day Lewis had been received from the Area Manager advising that should a second lockdown happen, they would continue to offer a service of delivering to those people who were vulnerable and/or shielding. Once collated such information can be conveyed to the public via the Council's Facebook and website pages.

The Clerk advised that the We Will Help Newent group had said they didn't know how many volunteers may come forward so it is a possibility that the Council may have to become more actively involved in distribution of people's needs. Cllr Beard advised that the Lord's Larder have additional volunteers and are already prepared for an increase in demand.

32.12 To review and re-adopt Capability Procedure

**Resolved:** The Capability Procedure be re-adopted. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, Seconded Cllr Mrs Duncan, 7 in favour, 2 abstentions.

32.13 To review and adopt Grievance Policy

A member raised a point that they believed that if a grievance relates to the action or omission of the Chair of the Staff Committee then it should be directed to the Monitoring Officer, not the Mayor as the document stated.

The Clerk advised that she did not believe this to be the case and that the document had been underwritten by South West Provincial Council – the Council's advisors in employment matters.

**Resolved:** The document be adopted as it stood. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley, 8 in favour, 1 against.

32.14 To review and adopt Disciplinary Procedure

**Resolved:** The Disciplinary Procedure be adopted. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, Seconded Cllr Mrs Duffield, 8 in favour 1 abstention.

32.15 To receive committee and representative reports

A representative report was received from Cllr Heathfield on the Youth Advisory Group.

Following Cllr Heathfield's report, the Mayor, on behalf of the Council congratulated him on his recent successful completion of his studies.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed 8.04 pm.