

## NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the online Newent Town Council Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7pm.

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

Also present – Town Clerk, Assistant to the Clerk, County Cllr Windsor-Clive and 7 members of the public

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### Public Participation Session:

Three Members of the public had requested to speak:

The first two members of the public spoke of flooding issues in the town, why they believed this was happening, the effect of the bund in place at Scragg's Bank and possible remedial action needed, and other options that could be taken to alleviate flooding in the future, including an early warning system.

The third member of the public spoke against a current planning application at No. 2 Peacock Close - erection of a first floor extension with part cantilever extension and raising of west gable to provide additional living accommodation at first floor level. He advised that the proposal would give the property a further 4 double bedrooms increasing the capacity from 3 to 11 people. Concern was raised with regards to the increase in traffic this would bring, insufficient parking, overload on the sewer dedicated to the three existing properties in the close and the impact on neighbouring property particularly with that relating to blockage of light.

39.1 Apologies – Apologies were received from Cllr A Ralph

39.2 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Mrs Gooch declared an interest in agenda item 6.1 but advised she had been given dispensations to allow her to participate in discussion and voting on recommendations 1 and 3. Cllr Mrs Gooch further advised she had been given a dispensation to allow her to participate and vote on agenda item 11.

39.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 08<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 08<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

### 39.4 Clerk's update and matters arising from previous minutes

National Association of Local Councils – Right to regenerate consultation - the working group's response was sent and a copy circulated to all councillors.

Revetments – works should be completed by 12<sup>th</sup> March.

Correspondence has been sent as required. Orders have been placed.

### 39.5 Finance

#### 39.5.1 To approve accounts to be paid

Payments made since last meeting	Total £
Wages	8503.57
Mainstream Digital	6.42
Parish Online	360.00
Ermin	340.85
Ladder & Fencing (re-issued)	

#### Monthly Direct Debit/Standing Order/BACS payments January:

	Payment type	Total £
Lex Autolease	DD	548.80
Lex Autolease	DD	6.00
Lloyds Bank	DD	17.85
Allstar	DD	54.83
Allstar	DD	82.89
Newent Association for the Disabled	BACS	35.00
GCC	BACS	3166.26
HMRC	BACS	2340.22
Itseeze (Spoton)	DD	54.00
Allstar	DD	1.80
EON	DD	408.35

Barclaycard Transactions January:	Total £
Fasthost Internet	6.00
Fasthost Internet	11.99
Zoom	14.39
Fasthost Internet	5.99
Debenhams	33.49
Amazon	4.39

Payments to be considered

	Payment Type	
	BACS/Cheque	Total
Newent In Bloom	15548	1000.00
Safpro	15549	364.26
Newent Auto Centre	15550	67.68
Chris Hyett	15551	105.00
Grundon	BACS	146.24
NALC	BACS	38.93
Peninsula	BACS	195.70
Glebe Chapel	BACS	490.00
MKM	BACS	126.00
Ermin Plant	BACS	1703.22
Ford Fuels	BACS	267.49
Smiths - Dean Drums	BACS	87.12
GMT Solutions	BACS	117.12

**Resolved:** The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £20,711.85. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio  
Seconded Cllr Mrs Moseley, All in favour

#### 39.5.2 To receive budget update (January)

Cllr Mrs Howley gave an overview of the budget report and confirmed the current account stood at £190,406.31 which was made up from £17,886.15 in the Ord. a/c and £172,520.16 in the account that funds are transferred from. In addition a notation was supplied showing overspends which were due to cover matters connected to the pandemic.

Cllr Mrs Gooch referred to Professional and Consultancy fees and sought clarification at a later time that the Newent Initiative Trust legal agreement covered Newent Town Council's legal costs.

A question was raised with regard to the level of reserves held – the Clerk advised this would not be known until the year end, however at the year end last year they stood at just under 3 months which was slightly less than that recommended.

#### 39.6 To consider response required to correspondence/consultations received

##### 39.6.1 Forest of Dean District Council – To consider proposal for town centre spring trails and raffle

Members considered a proposal put to the District Council by High Street Safari, a company looking to offer free to play digital town centre trails to reinvigorate the high streets. They advised it is believed this type of marketing campaign is something that could

support the Forest town centre businesses and marketed correctly would encourage a safe, socially distanced return.

Details were given as to how the trails would work, along with three recommendations:-

1. Forest of Dean District Council allocate £1,000 budget within their Reopening High Street Safely (RHSS) grant award to experiment with the family trail initiative before 30 June 2021. As this activity is eligible for RHSS funding support, there would be nil cost for the Town Councils or businesses to participate with this marketing campaign.

**Resolved:** This recommendation be supported. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley, All in favour.

Cllr Mrs Gooch left the meeting at this point.

2. Forest of Dean District Council, the four Town Councils and Forest of Dean & Wye Valley Tourism (FDWVT) to explore the Shop Local Raffle idea and if this can be taken forward to boost local sales. Please note this activity is not eligible for RHSS funding support.

Cllr Mrs Duffield advised this should be worked in conjunction with the local shops and questioned who would be responsible for providing the prizes?

**Resolved:** Support be given to this recommendation and that it be explored further. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Draper, 7 in favour 2 abstentions.

Cllr Mrs Gooch returned to the meeting.

3. Forest of Dean District Council, the four Town Councils and FDWVT to agree a collaborative "Shop Local, Shop Safely" marketing approach. This will involve a named contact at each Town Council working with the Forest of Dean Regeneration team and FDWVT to identify participating businesses/trail locations; and each partner to use their existing website and social media platforms to help market the family trail and/or raffle.

Cllr Mrs Gooch advised she would be happy to help.

**Resolved:** Support be given to this recommendation. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Gooch, seconded by Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

### 39.6.2 Neighbourhood Policing Team – Request to move the mobile CCTV camera

Members considered a report from the Neighbourhood Policing Team. They advised they no longer require the ASB camera at Foley Road now there is now a permanent one in place and would like to move it to the May Hill View area to a particular location where they are receiving calls. The cost will be approximately £200 assuming there is a lamppost in the area, however a request has been made to Two Rivers Housing to cover the cost.

Cllr Mrs Draper put forward a proposition that the Council accept the request providing the cost is met by Two Rivers Housing, which was seconded by Cllr Mrs Duffield.

Cllr Mrs Gooch proposed an amendment: that the Council accept the request providing that Two Rivers Housing meet half of the cost, with the Town Council meeting the other half, based on the reasoning the Town Council had a duty to consider the safety of all of its residents. Cllr Mrs Moseley seconded the amendment. The amendment was put. **Resolved:** Approval be given to moving the camera, subject to Two Rivers covering half of the cost of doing so. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Moseley, 6 in favour, 4 against.

### 39.6.3 Gloucestershire County Council – Public Rights of Way and the significance of 2026 (unrecorded rights of way)

Advise of change in legislation where the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 introduced a cut-off date for adding historic paths to the Definitive Map (the legal record of rights of way). This means certain routes which existed before 1949 and which aren't recorded on the Definitive Map by 1 January 2026 may be extinguished. In order to protect any currently unrecorded routes, they will need to be identified and claimed before 1 January 2026. These unrecorded routes exist in law; many exist on the ground and are in current use, while others could provide useful additional routes and links to the existing path network.

Members considered the significance of the potential loss of paths and the impact on those who enjoyed walking in the area.

**Resolved:** A working group be set up consisting of Cllrs Heathfield, Ms Birkan, Mrs Marcovecchio, Mrs Wadley and Mrs Gooch to identify historic paths not currently on the Definitive Map and for them to engage the assistance of local Ramblers and others with local/historic knowledge in such matters, in doing so. **Record of Voting:** Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

#### 39.6.4 Newent Cricket Club – to consider supporting the pink fortnight event from 7<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> August 2021

Newent Cricket Club advised, in association with the local businesses in Newent they are planning to run the Pink Fortnight that they successfully ran in 2019 where the shop windows had a pink theme and raised money and awareness of breast cancer. As well as pink windows and collection boxes, they would like to encourage local residents to sow pink wildflower seeds in their front garden or a pot to get involved. The seeds will be sold locally and all profits will be donated to Against Breast Cancer charity. They hoped the Town Council will – as they did in 2019, put up pink ribbons on the Market House in support.

**Resolved:** In support of Pink Fortnight the Council agree to putting pink ribbons on the Market House to a maximum spend of £50.00.

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

#### 39.6.5 National Planning Policy Framework and National Design Code consultation proposals

Members gave consideration to the consultation and agreed that its important and lengthy content, should be considered by a working group. **Resolved:** A working group be set up to give consideration to the consultation consisting of Cllrs Mrs Moseley, Mrs Gooch, Ms Birkan, Cllr Mrs Howley. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Moseley, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Gooch, All in favour.

### 39.7 Planning

#### 39.7.1 Planning applications to be considered

P0051/21/FUL 2 Market Square, Newent

Variation of condition 02 of planning permission P0942/18/FUL to allow the addition of a roof light on the rear elevation.

Cllr Heathfield put forward a proposal of objection on the grounds it will harm the conservation area, seconded by Cllr Mrs Duffield. The objection failed. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Heathfield, seconded by Cllr Mrs Duffield, 2 in favour, 7 against, 1 abstention.

A further proposal was put. **Resolved:** No Objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Moseley, Seconded by Cllr Beard, 8 in favour, 2 against.

P0105/21/FUL The Green Farm, Cliffords Mesne, Newent  
Erection of manege with associated works

**Resolved:** No Objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Wadley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Marcoveccho, 9 in favour, 1 abstention.

P0285/21/TCA Redwood House, High Street, Newent  
Remove low hanging branches from 1 x Yew Tree

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

P2006/20/TCA 35 Church Street, Newent  
3 x Magnolia Fell. 1 x Contorted Willow Fell. 1 x Ginkgo Prune back to live growth. 2 x Magnolia reshape. 2 x Moribund trees Fell. 1 x Magnolia crown reduction by 1 to 2 metres. 1 x unidentified species remove moderate deadwood.

**Resolved:** No Objection subject to approach of bird nesting season  
**Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, 9 in favour, 1 against.

P0189/21/FUL 2 Peacock Close, Newent  
Erection of a first floor extension with part cantilever extension and raising of west gable to provide additional living accommodation at first floor level

**Resolved:** Object – on the grounds of over-development, lack of parking space, out of character, potential problems of overlooking neighbouring properties and sewage capacity. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Moseley, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Draper, All in favour.

P0017/21/Discon Southend Nurseries, Southend Lane, Newent  
Discharge of conditions (verification report) relating to P0981/19/FUL

**Resolved:** No Objection subject to the satisfaction of the Land Contamination Officer's concerns. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour

#### 39.7.2 To note planning decisions

##### PERMITTED/CONSENT

P2126/20/TCA Larksmead, Graces Pitch, Newent  
Removal of x 1 Silver Birch tree at Larksmead

P2077/20/LBC Tan House, 33 Culver Street, Newent  
Listed Building Consent for internal and external structural repairs

P2122/20/TPO Land between Court Road and Peacock's Brook south of Newent Lake  
Trees 44, 58, 61 Ash – Pollard to 1.5m

P2043/20/TPO 17 Lakeside, Newent  
Re-pollarding to previous pruning points of one Lime tree at 17 Lakeside, Newent

P2176/20/TPO Newent Lake, Lakeside, Newent  
Works to trees as set out in supporting information (Trees T109, 124, 135) of G41 TPO 54 1961 area A2

P0004/21/Discon Newent Community Centre, Ross Rd, Newent  
Discharge of condition 03 (surface water drainage) of planning permission P1219/19/FUL

P2076/20/TCA Newent Lake, Lakeside, Newent  
Works to trees T103, T331, T363, T368, and T481 as set out in the supporting information

P1933/20/FUL Roses Country Fayre, 52 Ledbury Rd, Newent,  
Erection of a canopy to provide a protected area for outdoor dining

#### APPEAL DECISION

Appeal Ref: APP/P1615/W/20/3260287 Spring Bank, Malswick, Newent GL18 1HF

The appeal is made by Mr Reg Daldrey against the decision of the Forest of dean District Council. The application Ref: P0121/20/FUL dated 29 January 2020 was refused by notice dated 30 March 2020. The development proposed is erection of an office building with associated parking and works. Demolition of existing office building.  
APPEAL ALLOWED

#### 39.8. To consider flooding report and agree actions

Cllr Mrs Howley advised the flooding reports submitted to the Council on 25<sup>th</sup> January were deferred until a public meeting was held with those residents and businesses who were affected by the flooding, in order that they may be involved and to then decide a way forward. With the agreement of the relevant parties, this report incorporates the items from those reports, along with a request from a member of the public. The questions raised at the meeting will be directed to the relevant authorities to answer and details will be published on the website. Residents made some very good suggestions for the Council's consideration regarding actions to be taken forward. Cllr Mrs Howley advised for the benefit of the resident who had spoken earlier that his question no. 3 would be addressed at the next meeting of the Council.

Emergency Plan – the Emergency Plan is being updated taking on board comments made by residents and will be considered at a Council meeting shortly, as the plan may need further amendments following any decisions made this evening.

Discussion took place on various options to be considered:-

Should the Council provide sandbags/hydrosnakes/hydrosacks and eco blocks? If so, a long list of further considerations needed to be addressed with regard to how this would be managed in terms of stock, storage, replenishment, delivery/collection.

An alternative option could be to write to residents who are at risk of flooding suggesting they may wish to purchase sandbags and the Council could deliver them, so that they are ready at a property in case of a flooding event.

Cllr Mrs Gooch advised that the Forest of Dean District Council who was looking at its own Emergency Plan would be writing to Parish and Town Councils with an offer to bulk buy hydrosnakes/hydrosacks and eco blocks which would be a cheaper option for the Parishes/Town Councils to source them.

One member spoke strongly against the purchase of sandbags for distribution and felt that this should be left to the residents themselves albeit the Council could assist in the delivery of them.

**Resolved:** The Council offer the facility of purchasing sandbags or sandbag equivalent, and they are offered to residents and interested parties as a choice. The Council would get the best possible price for purchasing them and the residents/interested parties would pay for them and store them themselves. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Wadley, Seconded by Cllr Beard, All in favour.

Highway Drainage – Newent Town Council to liaise with Gloucestershire County Council to request that drains are cleared (minimum quarterly), including late in the autumn when leaves have fallen. Request that Newent Town Council is notified when drains are being cleared, so residents can be advised to ensure parked cars are not blocking access. This is particularly an issue in Watery Lane.

To ask Highways to consider replacing the drain covers in Watery Lane with sloping covers.

Ask for the High Street to be added to the “hot spot” cleaning regime to ensure the drains are checked on a regular basis.

**Resolved:** The above is agreed and that Cllr Windsor-Clive is involved (including copying him into correspondence) who may be able to add

leverage. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

Maintenance of Watercourses – Send annual letters to riparian owners reminding them of their responsibilities with regards to maintaining watercourses. Request that Highways inspect the culverts on a minimum of a quarterly basis and after any flood events. **Resolved:** Annual letters are sent to riparian owners, and that Highways be asked to inspect the culverts on a minimum of a quarterly basis and after any flood events, also that a link regarding this is added to the website. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Gooch, All in favour.

Alert System - General support was given to this. **Resolved:** An alert system is supported in conjunction with a longer-term solution. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded by Mrs Moseley, All in favour.

Flood Forum/ Additional flood measures - to provide all information gathered from residents to the Lead Local Flood authority (LLFA) to help with their undertaking of a higher flood risk assessment/investigation for the town, which will indicate potential next steps/actions. To liaise with the LLFA to progress actions recommended in the report.

Cllr Mrs Moseley proposed to request Gloucestershire County Council, as the LLFA to facilitate a Newent Multi-Agency Stakeholders' Flood Forum, seconded by Cllr Beard.

Cllr Mrs Gooch put forward an amendment that Newent Town Council convene a Multi-Agency Stakeholders' Flood Forum at the earliest convenience. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Wadley. The amendment was lost. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Wadley, 3 in favour, 6 against, 1 abstention.

The original proposition was put to the vote. **Resolved:** The original proposition was carried. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Moseley, Seconded by Cllr Beard, 8 in favour, 2 abstentions.

Property level protection advice – **Resolved:** Residents be made aware of advice regarding property level protection is available from Officers of Forest of Dean District Council. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Moseley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, All in favour.

At this point, due to the overrun on time, the remaining items of the agenda were put back to the next meeting and the Mayor brought the meeting to a close at 9.01 pm.