

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Newent Town Council held on Monday 14 June 2021 at Newent Community School, Watery Lane, Newent at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors Mrs C Howley, Mrs M Duffield, R Beard, Mrs C Birkan, Mrs J Gooch, E Heathfield, Mrs S Marcovecchio, Mrs G Moseley, Mrs K Selwyn, Mrs W Odhiambo, A Ralph

Also present – The Clerk, Assistant Clerk and 2 members of the public

Public Participation Session

None

45.1 To note apologies for absence – Cllr Mrs Draper, Cllr Mrs Wadley

45.2 Declarations and Interest on items on the agenda

Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio declared an interest in Planning application - P0987/21/FUL 9 Culver Street, Newent

45.3 Members' interest forms update reminder

The Clerk reminded Members of the need to keep their interest forms up to date and to amend their details if necessary.

45.4 To sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 24 May 2021

Resolved: The minutes of the Council meeting of 24th May are approved.

Record of Voting: Proposed Cllr Mrs Moseley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Selwyn, 10 in favour, 1 against.

45.5 Clerk's update and matters arising from previous minutes

Deed of Variation Grant – Gloucester County Council raised a couple of queries, which St Mary's Church have answered. We are just waiting for the decision from Gloucestershire County Council.

South West Regional Crime Unit – Offer to provide free fraud prevention presentation – Contact has been made and we are awaiting to receive suggested dates.

Holiday Hunger Session – The event went ahead at the Recreation Ground on Thursday 3rd June between 11 am – Midday. The following feedback has been received from Forest Voluntary Action Forum:

“Bookings for the session did not exceed 10 which was the number I mentioned to you last Thursday morning. Sadly on the day one family of 5 who had booked failed to show up, despite us having sent an email

reminder the evening before. We had one 'walk up' on the day so actual participants were 6.

The feedback from the Youth workers who ran the session was that it was well received, and the general feedback was that it was well received and the 11 year old lads actually said they would like to see it happen again and would invite their friends along!

Promotion wise we shared the event on our Facebook pages, the Newent Noticeboard, Newent Initiative Trust and Chillout Zone, as well as emailing details to Margaret and also Gary Deighton at the Forest of Dean District Council Community Wellbeing Team.

I have discussed the bookings level with Chris Brown our CEO, and we both feel, in the spirit of an ongoing partnership with Newent Town Council, that we would be happy to reduce the price for this event to £300 to reflect the 10/15 spaces that were booked. I trust that this is acceptable to you?"

Street Name for Southend Lane development – The street name put forward was rejected by the Royal Mail. The Council asked to suggest another name. Due to the timeframe, this was completed by email and the voting was recorded as follows:

Southerns Barn - In favour - Cllrs Mrs Odhiambo, Beard, Mrs Selwyn, Mrs Marcovecchio, Mrs Wadley, Mrs Duffield, Mrs Howley, Mrs Moseley.

Woodland View – In favour – Cllrs Ralph, Mrs Draper, Heathfield

Larch Close – In favour - Cllr Ms Birkan

Cllr Mrs Gooch abstained.

The majority voted for Southerns Barn and Forest of Dean District Council was notified. Unfortunately, this has also been rejected by Royal Mail (9/6), so a further suggested name is requested.

The following email has been received from the developer:

"I am furious to hear that still we have no name for our 6 dwellings at Southend Lane. I understand you want the site to have a connection with it's name. Well why can't it be Woodland View!!! The connection being 1. There were trees on the site beforehand, 2. There are several trees down Southend lane that have orders on them, 3 you can see Mayhill from them and the biggest connection I feel is because half the house is cladded with wood. Also royal mail are ok with 2 of our suggestions.

You are now holding the site up which I know Tracey Griffiths has explained to you. Without a postcode we can't get the MPAN numbers for the electric to be put on. Tradesman are being delayed!

I would suggest you get your heads together asap and get this job done. Surely Newent has bigger matters to deal with than going back and forward over an address".

P0816/21/FUL – Land North of Southend Lane, Newent – The Planning Officer has confirmed the strip of land behind the properties of Whitegates

was never purchased by the developer and never part of the planning application.

Oak & Beech Tree – Both trees will be felled on 23rd June, as agreed.

Carvings at the Lake – The solar farm community benefit funds are not available, as they have already been accounted for through the budget setting process. Apologies to Cllr Mrs Gooch who did state this at the last meeting. Only the entrance posts will be progressed at this time, until further funding is sourced for the tree carving.

Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio commented that the suggested name for the housing development had in fact been Southern Meadow, not Southern Barn. It was pointed out however, that the rejection appeared to be in the “Southern” part of the name.

The name Woodland View was put forward, proposed by Cllr Heathfield and seconded by Cllr Mrs Birkan. **Resolved:** The proposal failed. **Record of Voting:** 4 in favour, 5 against, 2 abstentions.

Cllr Mrs Gooch proposed an alternative name. **Resolved:** Sycamore Close was chosen. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded by Cllr Heathfield, All in favour.

45.5 Finance

45.5.1 To approve accounts to be paid

Payments made since last meeting		£
Wages		7494.19
Newent Plant Centre	BACS	86.00
Memorial Trees (reimbursed)		
Payments to be considered		
	Payment Type	Total
	BACS/Cheque	
Green Farm Seeds	BACS	223.20
BT	BACS	720.00
Ledbury Garden Machinery	BACS	500.00
Glebe Chapel	BACS	20.00
EE	BACS	90.06
Vision	BACS	42.43
Glebe Chapel	BACS	450.00
Peninsula	BACS	173.42
Rialtas Business Solutions	BACS	459.60
SLCC	BACS	246.00

GMT Solutions	BACS	117.12
GMT Solutions	BACS	12.00
EON	BACS	32.22
Shaw & Son	BACS	69.13
Mainstream Digital	BACS	8.12
HB Digital Printing Ltd	BACS	15.96
Just Bin Bags	BACS	249.74
Ermin Plant	BACS	165.60
Forest of Dean Fasteners	15564	3.14

Resolved: The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £11,177.93. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Gooch, All in favour.

45.5.2 To receive budget updates for March and April and full list of receipts and payments

Cllr Mrs Howley advised that the accounts for April stood at £270,626.41 credit made up of £20,381.35 Business Account, £250,245.06 Business Instant Access Account. The Accounts for May stood at £265,240.72 credit made up of £21,493.12 Business Account, £243,747.60 Business Instant Access Account.

45.6 To consider response required to correspondence/consultations received

45.6.1 Dymock Parish Council – inviting the Council to consider agreeing with and supporting the UK Government’s endorsement of The Stockholm Agreement to reduce speeding in rural towns and villages

Cllr Heathfield spoke in favour of supporting this and that the County Councillor representative be asked to bring forward as a motion at the next meeting of the County Council. **Resolved:** Dymock Parish Council’s proposal be fully supported and that the County Councillor for the Newent area be asked to bring forward as a motion at the next meeting of Gloucestershire County Council. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Heathfield, Seconded by Cllr Ms Birkan, 2 in favour, 0 against, 9 abstentions.

45.6.2 Forest of Dean District Council – Street trading consent variation consultation – F/21/00175/STC at Newent Industrial Estate (Outside B&B Services Ltd)

Cllr Mrs Howley advised the variation referred to extending hours of trading to include a Sunday. **Resolved:** No Objection, **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Duffield, 10 in favour, 1 abstention.

45.6.3 Haygrove – Invitation to participate in the Open Farm on Sunday 27th June

Resolved: The Council be represented - Cllrs Mrs Moseley, Ms Birkan, Mrs Howley to attend. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Ms Birkan, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

45.6.4 Newent Rotary Club – Request support to place two chat benches in the town

Resolved: The Market Square Working Group liaise with the Rotary Club with regard to design and style of the benches and to bring two designs back to the Council for consideration. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded by Cllr Beard, All in favour.

45.6.5 Newent in Bloom – Request to hold midsummer moth event at the Lake on 25/26th June

Resolved: No Objection, subject to Covid-19 restrictions in place and being adhered to at the time. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Mrs Duffield, All in favour.

45.7 Planning

45.7.1 Planning applications to be considered

Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio and one member of the public left the meeting at this juncture.

P0987/21/FUL 9 Culver Street, Newent
Variation of condition 02 (approved plans) of planning permission P0800/09/FUL to allow for amendments to house type and external arrangements.

Resolved: No Objection **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Moseley, 7 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention.

Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio and one member of the public returned to the meeting.

P1056/21/TCA Pound House, Market Square, Newent

Fell x Twisted Willow, due to its height and proximity to house

Resolved: No Objection **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Duffield, 10 in favour, 1 abstention.

45.7.2 To note planning decisions

Consent

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

P2069/20/FUL Great Bouldson Farm, Great Bouldson, Newent

Change of use of redundant rural building to single dwelling house

45.8 Estate Management

45.8.1 To consider extending wire at bridge at the Lake

Cllr Ralph put forward a proposition to reinforce the wire barrier at the bridge at the Lake to prevent theft of carp from the water by poachers.

Resolved: The Estate Supervisor be asked to undertake a report illustrated with pictures, together with full costings to bring back to Council. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duffield, Seconded Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio. 4 in favour, 4 against, 3 abstentions. The Mayor used her casting vote in favour of the proposition and it was therefore carried.

45.9 Notification of public rights and publication of unaudited accounts for year ended 31 March 2021

The Clerk advised the Notification of public rights and the unaudited accounts had been published on Friday 11 June and the inspection period was 14 June – 23 July.

45.10 To complete and approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21

Members addressed each of the 9 statements to which affirmative responses were made to all. **Resolved:** The Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21 be approved. **Record of voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

45.11 To review and approve the Accounting Statement for 2020/21

Members considered the Accounting Statement for 2020/21.

Resolved: The Accounting Statement for 2020/21 be approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, 10 in favour, 1 abstention.

45.12 Recruitment update

Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio advised that the vacancies for Assistant Groundsman and weekend litter picker had been filled. Furthermore, 2 locum Clerks had been appointed undertaking 30 hours between them per week, until the Town Clerk vacancy could be filled.

45.13 To review the strategic plan update

Cllr Mrs Howley suggested that the numerous updates to the strategic plan needed time to be addressed and considered, and this could be done at another time in preparation for the plan to be brought back to a future meeting of the Council.

Resolved: A virtual meeting be set up to look at the updates in preparation for the Plan to be formally reviewed at a future meeting of the Council.

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

45.14 To consider and approve newsletter – Cllr Heathfield

Cllr Mrs Howley congratulated Cllr Heathfield on producing a full and informative newsletter. Cllr Mrs Moseley proposed a couple of amendments. **Resolved:** The newsletter be approved, subject to the amendments highlighted. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Moseley, 10 in favour, 1 abstention.

45.17 Cllr Mrs Howley reminded Members the Council still required two members to volunteer to undertake internal financial checks – this was a requirement under Financial regulations.

45.18 Cllr Mrs Howley advised that the funeral of former Councillor and Mayor – David Blick had taken place the previous week to which she had attended, and that many townsfolk had turned out in the street to watch the funeral procession pass through the town.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 20.31 pm.