

## NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Newent Town Council held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at Newent Community School, Watery Lane, Newent at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors Mrs C Howley, Mrs M Duffield, Mr R Beard, Mrs J Gooch, Mrs S Marcovecchio, Mrs G Moseley, Mrs K Draper, Mrs W Odhiambo, and Mrs R Wadley.

Also present – The Locum Clerk and 12 Members of the public

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### **Public Participation Session**

A Member of the Public apologised to County Cllr Moseley for any misunderstanding that was caused regarding the bund at Scraggs Bank. He also thanked the Mayor and the Councillors for the help and assistance that has been provided in trying to move forward the flood alleviation measures in Newent. The Member of the Public commented that a Focus Group will be developed to assist and collaborate with the Town Council.

#### **49.1 To note apologies for absence**

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Mrs K Selwyn Mr A Ralph Ms C Birkan, Mr E Heathfield

#### **49.2 Declarations and Interest on items on the agenda:**

Cllr C Howley declared an interest (non- pecuniary) in Agenda Item 6.2.

Cllr K Draper declared an interest (pecuniary) in Agenda Item 6.4.

Cllr J Gooch declared an interest relating to the Welcome Fund Agenda item 6.1

#### **49.3 To sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021**

The Council agreed that the Minutes were a true and accurate summary of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

#### **49.4 To note appointment of Michael Greenfield as Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer was noted.**

The Council noted the appointment of the new Clerk, his appointment will commence on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

The Councillors welcomed the new Clerk at the meeting and commented that they looked forward to working with him.

#### **49.5 Clerk's update and matters arising from previous minutes**

The Locum Clerks thanked the Town Council for all the help and support offered and provided during their tenure in office and looked forward to supporting the new Town Clerk in the coming months.

The Love Newent Event Fayre was well attended, and it was an excellent community event for the Town of Newent.

## **49.6 Finance**

### **49.6.1 To approve the accounts to be paid.**

Cllr J Gooch declared an interest on the payments relating to Love Newent Fayre.

A Financial report was circulated to the Members prior to the meeting.

The Council approved the accounts by a majority decision.

### **49.6.2 To confirm no changes to the allotment rental fees for the period 2022/2023**

(Cllr C Howley left the meeting whilst this Agenda Item was being considered. Cllr M Duffield Chaired the meeting).

The Council unanimously agreed to no changes to the fees for 2022 / 23.

### **49.6.3 To confirm that Newent Youth Angling Project will not incur match fees when holding matches at Newent Lake**

(Cllr C Howley returned to the meeting & resumed Chairing the meeting).

The Council unanimously agreed that no match fees will be incurred for the Newent Youth Angling Project.

### **49.6.4 To consider a funding application from Newent Initiative Trust**

(Cllr K Draper left the meeting whilst this Agenda Item was being considered).

The request for the grant of £10,000 was approved by a majority decision.

## **49.7 To consider responses required to correspondence/consultations received**

(Cllr K Draper returned to the meeting).

### **49.7.1 To consider a report from the Cemetery Rules and Regulations Working Group**

The Council agreed by a majority decision to permit low level spring bulbs on cemetery graves.

The Council unanimously agreed that Officers will have discretion on operating procedures. This is to ensure decisions can be taken by Officers without it going to Full Council, and to ensure decision are made in a timely manner.

The council unanimously agreed that names can be added to the back of headstones.

Shoring of graves was discussed regarding contractors digging new graves.

The council unanimously agreed that shoring of graves to be undertaken by all contractors.

The agreed changes are to be updated in the Newent Town Council Cemetery Rules & Regulations Guidance, dated May 2016.

**(Cllr Mrs Moseley joined the meeting)**

**49.7.2 Consider options for use of email addresses, using .gov or alternative email addresses.**

The Council having received a comprehensive report from the Locum Clerks agreed to the following:

The council agreed by a majority decision to accept the quotation from 2 Commune.

£75.00 per annum plus £35.00 per Councillor email account.

The council agreed by majority vote that an amended motion be added that this was subject to financial availability.

The Locum Clerk commented that assistance and help will be available to all Members when setting up the new email addresses to various electronic devices.

**49.7.3 To receive a report on the Emergency Planning Working Group regarding Flood Management**

The Council receive the report from The Working Group which met on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021. The Council discussed the Flood Sacks offer from the District Council.

Newent Town Council had requested 100 but have been offered 75.

Councillors will accept the offer of the donated 65 sacks but will purchase an additional 35 for distribution to the residents. These will be sold to the residents at cost price (no additional cost to the residents) after taking account of the donated sacks.

**49.7.4 To note and approve Newent Town Councils Busking Code of Practice.**

The Council discussed the Busking Code of Practice as drafted by the Locum Clerk.

Subject to the deletion of the reference to a railway arch the Council unanimously approved the Code of Practice.

**49.7.5 To note Newent Town Councils response to the Forest of Dean's District Councils Draft Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan**

The Council noted the response made in regards to the Forest of Dean's District Councils Draft Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan.

#### **49.8 Planning**

##### **49.8.1 Planning Applications to be considered**

**P0111/21/Discon Land North Of, Southend Lane, Newent  
Partial discharge of conditions 16 (LECMP) and 18 (Biodiversity)  
P1330/18/OUT Outline Application for residential development (up to 230 dwellings), including infrastructure, ancillary facilities, open space and landscaping.**

The Council unanimously agreed to make No Objection to this application.

Finally it was advised by Cllr K Draper that the Newent Christmas Event will be held on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and that there will be a road closure by the shops from 2.30pm to 8.00pm.

**49.9 Date of the next meeting - Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7 pm in the Newent School.**

**The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.11 pm.**