

## NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the online Newent Town Council Meeting held on 22nd 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, Cllr A Ralph

Also present – Town Clerk, Assistant Clerk, District Cllr V Vesma, and 3 members of the public

---

### Public Participation Session:

A member of the public expressed his thanks to the Town Council for all it was doing to address the flooding issues in Newent for which he was very appreciative.

40.1 Apologies – there were no apologies

40.2 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Mrs Gooch declared an interest in agenda item 6.1 Forest of Dean District Council – Consultation on draft statement of licensing policy (Licensing Act 2003)

40.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were approved following two minor amendments. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Beard, Seconded Cllr Mrs Wadley, 9 in favour, 2 abstentions.

40.4 Clerk's update and matters arising from previous minutes

Correspondence has been sent as required. All other items are being progressed.

40.5 Finance

40.5.1 To approve accounts to be paid

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

	Payment type	Total £
Lex Autolease	DD	548.80
Lloyds Bank	DD	16.48
EON	DD	38.94
Allstar	DD	152.75
Newent Association for the Disabled	BACS	35.00
GCC	BACS	3156.06

HMRC	BACS	2324.73
Itseeze (Spoton)	DD	54.00
Allstar	DD	3.60
EON	DD	30.09
EON	DD	476.52

<b>Barclaycard Transactions February Payment:</b>	Total
	£
Fasthost Internet	6.00
Fasthost Internet	11.99
Zoom	14.39
Fasthost Internet	5.99
EE	24.99
Mesh Direct	21.97

**Payments to be considered:**

	Payment Type	Total
		£
EE	BACS	87.30
Water Plus	BACS	124.62
Peninsula	BACS	22.28
Glebe Chapel	BACS	450.00
Ermin Plant	BACS	929.27
Safpro	15552	11.16
MKM	BACS	408.78
Chris Hyett	15553	105.00
Grundon	BACS	162.98

**Resolved:** The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £9223.69. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour

40.5.2 To receive budget update (February)

Members were furnished with the budget update for February. Cllr Mrs Howley advised that the Business Instant account stood at £147,52.14 credit and the Business account stood at £21,757.65 credit.

40.6 To consider response required to correspondence/consultations received

Cllr Mrs Gooch left the meeting at this juncture.

40.6.1 Forest of Dean District Council – Consultation on draft statement of licence (Licensing Act 2003)

Members considered the lengthy consultation document and felt it robust with no particular issues.

**Resolved:** No objection - to be left in the hands of the District Council. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Moseley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Duffield, All in favour.

Cllr Mrs Gooch returned to the meeting.

## 40.7 Planning

### 40.7.1 Planning applications to be considered

P0029/21 Discon Okle Byre (Barn 1), Okle Green, Golden Valley, Upleadon

Discharge of conditions 06 (mitigation) and 08 (Bio-diversity enhancement) relating to planning permission P1431/20/FUL

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

P0229/21/FUL Glengarth, Cliffords Mesne, Newent

Variation of condition 02 (Approved Plans) relating to P1774/20/FUL to allow for alterations to garage and access

**Resolved:** No Objection, but as there are two exits in close proximity near to a bend, feel the Highways Authority should be consulted. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Wadley, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

P0261/2/FUL Springfield, Anthonys Cross, Newent

Construction of an outdoor riding area

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

P0227/21//FUL 31-33 Broad Street, Newent  
Change of use from a tea room (A3) to residential (C3)

**Resolved:** No Objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Moseley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Gooch, 8 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention.

P0228/21/LBC 31-33 Broad Street, Newent  
Listed building consent for the change of use from a tea room (A3) to residential (C3).

**Resolved:** No Objection, **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Moseley, Seconded Cllr Beard, 8 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention.

## FOR INFORMATION

P0457/21/ADV Junction of Gloucester and Onslow Rd, Newent

Advertisement consent for the erection of a standing directional sign

## 40.7.2 To note planning decisions

## PERMITTED/CONSENT

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

P0004/21/Discon Newent Community Centre, Ross Rd, Newent

Discharge of condition 03 (surface water drainage) of planning permission P1219/19/FUL

## PRIOR APPROVAL REFUSED

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 dead wood

## 40.8. Estate Management

## 40.8.1 Request to hold Yoga classes at the Lake

Request to hold Yoga classes at the Lake on a weekly basis from 8.00 am to 10.30 am from 3 April 2021 (covid regulations permitting) – maximum of 6 participants including 1 teacher.

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

## 40.8.2 To consider Memorial tree applications

Members considered two memorial tree applications, both with preference for planting at the Lake, and with memorial plaques. Cllr Mrs Howley reminded Members of the procedure with regard to the siting of trees at the Lake.

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

## 40.9 To consider grant application request

## 40.9.1 Cobalt Health

**Resolved:** A grant be made in the sum of £300.00. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Duffield, All in favour.

40.10 To consider NALC advice for preparing to return to face-to-face meetings from 7<sup>th</sup> May

Members considered ways in which face-to-face meetings could safely be resumed for members and the public from May 2021 taking into account securing a suitable venue large enough where socially distancing could be undertaken as well as potential resultant audio issues arising therefrom. Further consideration was given to fixing a date for the Annual Parish meeting given the impending way in which meetings could legally be undertaken.

**Resolved:** Enquiries be made of the Community School to establish if a suitable room and audio equipment were available for hire and that the Annual Parish Meeting be held online in April. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Beard, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Moseley, 10 in favour 1 abstention.

40.11 To consider supporting the NHS and frontline workers day on 5 July 2021

Members considered how the Council might support the NHS and frontline workers day. One Member suggested an open invitation to a strawberry tea in the Market Square. In addition a flag could be raised with a 2 minute silence.

It was agreed that the cost of a flag be sought and further consideration be given to any additional ideas/suggestions to mark the day.

40.12 To approve newsletter – Cllr Mrs Wadley

The draft newsletter was amended with insertions and deletions, including a request from Cllr Mrs Moseley that a reference to flooding be inserted – “Newent Town Council has made a request to Gloucestershire County Council the local lead flood authority, that a multi-agency flood forum for Newent be set up to look at further flood prevention and alleviation measures. This will enable the councillors, public and officers to discuss the wide range of ideas and solutions.”

**Resolved:** the newsletter with amendments be approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Draper, All in favour.

40.13 To consider marketing and promotions working group’s report and proposals

A response from Mark Harper MP had been made to the letter sent to him as part of the working group’s proposals which has been circulated to Members. This to be discussed at a further meeting of the working group.

**Resolved:** To accept the report and the Clerk be asked to add links onto the website. The School has made some excellent posters which too could be added to the website. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Gooch, Seconded Cllr Beard, 10 in favour, 1 abstention.

- 40.13 To consider working group's proposed responses to the National Planning Policy Framework and National Design Code consultation proposals

Members considered the working group's proposed responses to the consultation proposals. **Resolved:** Acceptance of the working group's report and make it the substantive response to the documents involved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Moseley, Seconded Cllr Beard, 7 in favour, 4 abstentions.

- 40.14 To agree to advertise for deed of variation grant application submissions

Members were advised that a balance of monies had been available in the sum of £12,488.25. Newent Initiative Trust and Newent Angling Club had received funding previously. **Resolved:** Further advertising be undertaken to attract further applicants. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

- 40.15 To consider Newent Youth Action Group's proposal for a noticeboard in the phone box in Tythings/Vauxhall

Cllr Heathfield put forward a paper showing various types of board and costings to install in the phone box to be used as an Information point.

**Resolved:** A wooden frame cork centre 90cm x 20cm at a cost of £32.70 be agreed as the best choice. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Heathfield Seconded Cllr Beard, All in favour.

The Clerk left the meeting at this juncture.

- 40.16 To consider Staff Committee's recommendation with regard to staff leave

Members were given an update with regard to the remaining leave left to staff members given the difficulty in taking it due to the pandemic but that the majority of it could be taken by the end of the leave year or just beyond. The exception was that of the Clerk who had been left with a number of days leave left to her which she had been unable to take. **Resolved:** The Clerk be paid for 10 days in lieu of holiday and staff leave can be carried forward as detailed in the report. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, Seconded Cllr Mrs Duffield, 9 in favour, 2 abstentions.

The Clerk returned to the meeting.

- 40.17 To consider the Market Square and Market House working group's improvement proposals.

Members considered the working group's improvement proposals. Whilst there was some criticism with regard to it being too vague and requiring support with facts and figures, it was agreed that the information was sufficient for it to be submitted to the District Council to try to secure funding and that the town needed to be registered with little time left in which to do so. **Resolved:** The document be approved for submission to the District Council. **Record of Voting:** Proposed: Cllr Beard, Seconded: Cllr Mrs Gooch, 9 in favour, 2 abstentions.

- 40.18 To consider appointing Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio to the Asset Working Group in regard to the Lodge review

**Resolved:** Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio be appointed to the Asset Working Group in regard to the Lodge review. **Record of Voting:** Proposed: Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Gooch, All in favour.

- 40.19 To receive committee/representative reports

A report was received from the Youth Advisory Group regarding their current projects and activities. Cllr Heathfield confirmed there was an open invitation on 25<sup>th</sup> March to a meeting with the Police.

Cllr Mrs Howley gave an update about the Digibus – they were still looking into it and think they may have a bus but further funding is required. If successful it will go into the Co-op carpark and will need the facilities of electricity and toilets.

Cllr Mrs Howley further advised that the Orchard planting will start on Wednesday with funders coming in this week.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 20.38 pm.