

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Newent Town Council held on **Monday 13th December 2021** at Newent Community School, Watery Lane, Newent at 7.00 pm

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

Also present – The Clerk and 7 Members of the public

Public Participation Session

Public Member 1

A Member of the Public spoke and 'Objected' to the Planning application P1888/21/FUL 1 Anchor House, Station Rd, Newent. Erection of garage block with overspill accommodation above.

1. To note apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Mr A Ralph, Mrs W Odhiambo and Mrs K Selwyn

2. Declarations and Interest on items on the agenda:

Councillor Mr E Heathfield declared an interest in item 7.1

Councillor Mrs K Draper declared an interest in item 7.1

Councillor Mrs G Moseley declared an interest in item 11.7

3. To sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 22nd November 2021

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

4. Clerk's update and matters arising from previous minutes

4.1 To note the Clerks Report

The Clerk's Report was noted.

4.2 To note the 2022 dates for Newent Town Council & Burial Authority Council Meetings

The 2022 dates for Newent Town Council & Burial Authority Council Meetings were noted.

5. Finance

5.1 To approve the accounts to be paid.

A Councillor asked if the payment for Mr Rooke for £100 was for the Christmas Lights Switch on refreshments.

The Clerk confirmed that it was for that payment.

The Council unanimously approved the accounts to be paid.

5.2 To note the RFO Report

The RFO's Report was noted.

5.2.1 To agree the Direct Debit Mandate as of 13th December 2021

The Council unanimously approved the Direct Debit Mandate as of 13th December 2021.

5.2.2 To note the Finance and Sundry Payments made

The Finance and Sundry Payments made were noted.

5.2.3 To note the Income and Expenditure Report

A Councillor commented that under the Market House Maintenance Budget £532 had been spent from the allocated £10,000 budget. The Councillor enquired if anything else can be spent against that budget.

A Councillor asked about further understanding of the budget. The Clerk commented that he is willing to meet with the Councillor to go through the budget Income & Expenditure Report.

The Income and Expenditure Report was noted.

6. Proposed Committee Structure Terms of Reference

6.1 To agree the proposed Committee Structure Terms of Reference, to commence from May 2022

The Councillors thanked the Clerk for the draft Terms of Reference.

A Councillor suggested amendments to 4.4 & 4.5 in the draft Terms of Reference.

The Councillor is to email the Clerk the information for review and possible inclusion.

A Councillor asked for all quorate numbers to be 3, as opposed to varying. The Clerk will adjust the draft, but the Planning Meeting will remain at 13 Councillors with a minimum quorate of 5.

Councillors raised concerns as to the additional workload that will impact on the Clerk if Council changes to a Committee Structure.

It was identified that Committees could be trialed for 12 months and then if they needed adjusting or altering then this could occur.

The Clerk reiterated that once the Committee structure was agreed and implemented then there will be no more 'Working Groups'.

However Sub-Committees could be formed, but these are subject to Public Meeting requirements with Agendas published with 3 Days' Notice of the meeting, 10 minutes per meeting allocated to the public to speak, at the discretion of the Chair and other requirements, as part of the Standing Orders for the Committee Meeting.

Councillors identified that the Council's Standing Orders may need altering, in light of the Changes to a Committee based structure.

The Clerk is to update the draft structure from the discussion outcomes.

A Councillor proposed that the Committee Structure should be a single Agenda Item and that an Extraordinary Meeting should be called to discuss this item.

The Council unanimously agreed to hold a single agenda item, Extraordinary Meeting, relating to a Committee based structure.

6.2 To agree the Proposed Committee Structure Dates, to commence from May 2022

The Council deferred this decision until after the Extraordinary meeting.

Councillors Mr E Heathfield & Mrs K Draper left the meeting.

7. Valegro Statue

7.1 To approve the amended figure offered from Newent Initiative Trust from the originally stated £6250 to £3037.92, subject to the 'Variance to Contract or equivalent' being signed.

The Councillors queried the cost of the repairs and the reduced figure from the originally stated £6250 to £3037.92, as the repairs were taken from the £6250

A Recorded Vote was called for.

A Councillor commented that previously the Town Council was assured by Newent Initiative Trust that the cost of the statue would be covered by a large donation and that this reduced figure of £3037.92 did not reflect this.

A Councillor asked why Newent Initiative Trust did not use their Insurance Company for the repairs and that more understanding regarding the reduced funds were required.

A Councillor commented that less money is not being given to the Council, as the statue has been repaired and the Council is receiving the remaining balance.

The Clerk commented that Newent Initiative Trust and Newent Town Council have a signed agreement, dated December 2020, which states the £6250 figure.

The Clerk also commented that the statue has been repaired and has had all the necessary certificates in place. In addition, County Council (Highways) and Forest of Dean District Council have agreed the location of the statue and the Clerk is in receipt of all relevant paperwork.

The Clerk reiterated that the vote is for the 'Variance to Contract or equivalent'.

The Council voted on requesting additional information on the amended figure offered from Newent Initiative Trust from the originally stated £6250 to £3037.92, subject to the 'Variance to Contract or equivalent' being signed.

Recorded Vote:

In favour: Councillors Mrs C Howley, Mrs M Duffield, Mrs S Marcovecchio, Ms C Birkan, Mr R Beard and Mrs G Moseley

Against: Councillors Mrs J Gooch and Mrs R Wadley

Abstain: 0

7.3 To accept ownership and responsibility for the Valegro Statue.

The Council requested additional information on the amended figure offered from Newent Initiative Trust from the originally stated £6250 to £3037.92,

A Councillor proposed that they would like to have a meeting with Newent Initiative Trust, as ownership of the Valegro Statue had not been agreed by the Town Council.

The Council agreed by majority decision that a Councillor will meet with representatives from Newent Initiative Trust to discuss the shortfall in funds.

Councillors Mr E Heathfield and Mrs K Draper re-joined the meeting.

8 Vauxhall/Tythings telephone box door repair

8.1 To agree to the payment of repairs to the door of the telephone box at a cost not exceeding £420 including VAT.

The Council by majority decision approved to the payment of repairs to the door of the telephone box at a cost not exceeding £420 including VAT.

A Recorded Vote was called for:

In favour: Councillors Mrs C Howley, Mrs J Gooch, Mrs R Wadley, Mr E Heathfield, Mrs S Marcovecchio, Mrs K Draper, Mr R Beard and Mrs G Moseley

Against: 0

Abstain: Councillors Mrs M Duffield and Ms C Birkan

9. Newent Town Council's Action on Climate Change Draft Plan
9.1 To note Newent Town Council's Action on Climate Change Draft Plan

The Newent Town Council's Action on Climate Change Draft Plan was noted

10 Cemetery Lodge Working Group
10.1 To agree to extend the time required by the Cemetery Lodge Working Group to submit a final report, with recommendations and related Motions for the Council meeting to be held on Monday 28th March 2022.

The Council unanimously agreed to extend the time required by the Cemetery Lodge Working Group to submit a final report, with recommendations and related Motions for the Council meeting to be held on Monday 28th March 2022.

11. Planning
11.1 Planning applications to be considered

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Planning applications received from the Forest of Dean District Council for consideration by Newent Town Council at its meeting on Monday 13 December 2021.

1. P1846/21/FUL The Porch House, Church Street, Newent
 Provision of lift from the ground floor pantry to the first-floor study/store to provide disability access for the elderly.
 Replacement of existing French doors with new French door with glazing bars to replicate original Georgian detailing as a mitigation measure to the lift addition.
2. P1847/21/LBC The Porch House, Church Street, Newent
 Listed Building Consent for the provision of lift from the ground floor pantry to the first-floor study/store to provide disability access for the elderly.
 Replacement of existing French doors with new French door with glazing bars to replicate original Georgian detailing as a mitigation measure to the lift addition.

Planning applications P1846/21/FUL and P1847/21/LBC were discussed as one item.

The Council unanimously agreed to make "No Objections" to these applications.

3. P1086/21/APP Land Off Bradfords Lane, Newent
Approval of Reserved Matters (Appearance, landscaping, layout, scale) of outline permission P1990/18/OUT for 50 dwellings

The Council "Objects" on the following grounds:

- a) The felling of trees, especially those with Tree Preservation Orders will have a negative environmental impact within the local area, contrary to Officer reports, as a result the Council is objecting based on nature conservation.
- b) The density of buildings does not reflect the affordability of housing due to how it is being distributed, as a result the Council is objecting on layout and density.

The Council unanimously agreed to "Object" to this planning application.

4. P1873/21/FUL 28 Strawberry Hill, Newent
Erection of a single storey extension to dwelling with associated works

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

5. P1888/21/FUL 1 Anchor House, Station Rd, Newent
Erection of garage block with overspill accommodation above

The Council "Objects" on the following grounds:

- a) It is over development of the site, it will overshadow neighbouring properties.
- b) It will generate excessive vehicle movement into Bridge Street, Newent, causing road safety concerns.

The Council by majority decision agreed to "Object" to this application.

6. P1900/21/AG Agricultural and Forestry Development
Commonfields Farm, Bouldson, Newent
Prior notification for the erection of a grain store

The Council by majority decision are "in favour" of this application.

Councillor Mrs G Moseley left the meeting.

7. P1891/21/FUL 35 Ford House Rd, The Scarr, Newent
Erection of an agricultural building with hardstanding and associated works

The Council by majority decision have "No Objections" to this application

Councillor Mrs G Moseley re-joined the meeting.

8. P1718/21/FUL Swanpool Barn, Kents Green, Tibberton, Glos
Erection of garage with store, new stable and manege

The Council by majority decision have "No Objections" to this application

A Councillor queried why this application is being viewed by Newent Town Council.

It is understood that the site is within both parish areas, with the manege in Newent. Both parishes are being consulted.

11.2 To note planning decisions.

DECISIONS ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS CONSENT

1. P1646/21/LD2 26 The Crofts, Newent
Application under Section 192 to establish whether the construction of single storey extension to rear requires planning permission
LCD issued
2. P1406/21/LBC Puffs Alley, Culver Street, Newent
Listed building consent for the reduction in height of the wall including repointing the wall and replacing some of the bricks that have suffered deterioration in the lower part of the wall and associated works
3. P0712/21/FUL Land at Malswick adjacent B4215 Newent
Construction of working section of canal, complete with a firm towpath to one side as well as a level mown grass path to the remaining side and two culverts to allow for existing water courses to continue to flow unrestricted below the level of the canal itself and associated works (re-submission)
4. P1785/21/TCA Rose Cottage, Bury Bar Lane, Newent
1 x Cypress – remove due to excessive shading and too close to building/retaining wall
5. P0051/21/Discon Land adjacent Southernns Barn, Southend Lane, Newent, Glos GL18 1AR
Discharge of condition 09 (surface water drainage) relating to P0241/20/FUL

The Planning Decisions were noted

12. Notices and Information

To resolve that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

The Mayor read the Notice of Information to the Public. The Public withdrew from the meeting.

The Council entered a Closed session.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.27pm