

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Newent Town Council held on Monday 22nd November 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 A Ralph, Mr Beard, Mrs K Draper, Mrs K Selwyn, Mrs Wadley, Mr E Heathfield (arrived 7.04pm), and Ms C Birkan (arrived 7.36pm)

Also present – The Clerk and 2 Members of the public

Public Participation Session

There were no public speakers

1. To note apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Mrs W Odhiambo

2. Declarations and Interest on items on the agenda:

There were none.

3. To sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 8th November 2021

The Council unanimously 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 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's Report was noted.

5. Finance

5.1 To approve the accounts to be paid.

A Councillor asked a question as to under what financial heading 2Commune Technology is to be paid?

The Clerk responded that they are being paid under 'Subscription & Support.'

A Councillor asked about Christmas lights payments. It was identified that this was part of a grant payment.

(Cllr Mr E. Heathfield arrived 7.04pm).

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 22nd November 2021

The Council unanimously approved the Direct Debit Mandate as of 22nd November 2021

5.2.2 To note the Finance and Sundry Payments made

The Finance and Sundry Payments made was noted.

5.2.3 To note the Income and Expenditure Report

A Councillor asked about the overspend in Professional/Consultant Fees. The Clerk identified that payment had been made to Locum Clerks under this budget heading.

A Councillor asked about Grant Income of £11,625. The Clerk will find out more information on the Grant Income.

A Councillor asked a question on Maintenance and Consumables. The Clerk commented that some of the spend is related to Covid-19 safety.

The Income and Expenditure Report was noted.

6. To consider the Youth Action Group Open Air Theatre Proposal

6.1 To approve to have an Open-Air Theatre on the Balustrade for both musical and theatrical events.

6.2 To approve that artists and performers are to apply to the Council and will comply with all Council conditions and legal requirements.

6.3 For the Council to receive either a proportion of the ticket sales or a set fee, as per the Town Council's Hire Charged, dated 1st April 2020.

The Council thanked the Councillor for bringing this Proposal forward.

It was identified that the Town Council has a policy for Hiring, updated 1st April 2020, and that charges are in place, alongside other procedures for booking and hiring.

7. Proposed Committee Structure

7.1 To agree the Committee Structure Proposal

The Council discussed the proposals and Committee structures: -

- Full Council Meetings to continue on the 4th Monday of the Month.
- Planning Committee 2nd and 4th Monday of the Month.

Other Committees: -

It is recommended that these Committees meet at least twice a year.

- Amenities and Recreation (with a Sub-Committee 'Youth Action Group')
- Finance and Staffing Committee
- Emergency Planning and Climate Change Committee
- Traffic and Community Safety Committee (incorporating CCTV)
- Events Committee

The Council unanimously approved the amended Committee Structure Proposal.

8. Newent Recreation Ground Trustees questions from their Meeting held on 08.11.21

8.1 Newent Town Council responds to the questions raised by the Newent Recreation Ground Trustees, through a Working Group of the Lead Councillors for Amenity sites. (Cllrs Mrs Marcovecchio, Mrs Howley and Mr Heathfield)

A Councillor commented that they have a legal report, dated 29th June 2016, that indicates who owns the land, which is the Trust, but not the building.

The Councillor is to scan the document and forward it to the Clerk.

(Cllr Mrs C Birkan arrived 7.36pm).

A Councillor commented that her understanding is that the land was left in Trust to the Council for recreational facilities.

The Town Council has raised funds to help and have been extremely generous regarding the maintenance and buildings that are on the site. The equipment has been maintained by the Town Council since 2007.

A Councillor commented that a paper trail is needed in relation to decision-making.

A Councillor commented that Councillors have distinct roles and there has to be clear decision-making using those separate roles.

The Council by majority decision approved to respond to the questions raised by the Newent Recreation Ground Trustees, through a Working Group of the Lead Councillors for Amenity sites.

8.2 Newent Town Council seeks advice on the relationship between the Town Council and Newent Recreation Ground Trust.

It was noted that the Clerk will seek advice on the relationship between the Town Council and Newent Recreation Ground Trust.

8.3 Newent Town Council seeks clarification from the Forest of Dean District Council on available and potential future S106 funding.

A Councillor commented that they would be willing to assist with the S106 funding request as they were seeking clarification regarding additional S106 for Newent for developments, such as Whitegates Development. The Councillor suggested that readily available projects may be needed by the Town Council, which are ready to be put forward once S106 funding is identified.

Another Councillor commented that they had been identifying S106 funding and have a full list of funding. There is no S106 for the Recreation Ground or for the Town Council to access, at the moment. There is approximately £62,000 for the Skatepark and Whitegates Development is for maintenance only.

It was noted that the Clerk will seeks clarification from the Forest of Dean District Council on available and potential future S106 funding.

9. Planning

9.1 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 22 November 2021.

1. P1845/21/FUL 2 Peacock Close, Newent, Glos Installation of x 2 side dormers, skylights and rear hip to gable bonnet conversion

The Council discussed the Planning application and identified a number of concerns.

The Town Council objects on the following grounds:

- a) It is a completely unacceptable over development of the property, it will overshadow neighbouring properties.
- b) The application is for a five-bedroom house on a footprint of a two-bedroom bungalow, thus out of scale with the character of the building.
- c) If built the dwelling is likely to generate excessive vehicle movement in an exceedingly small cul-de-sac, causing road safety concerns.
- d) If built the dwelling is likely generate excessive parking in a very small cul-de-sac, causing road safety concerns.
- e) It promotes an unacceptable change of appearance in the character of the three compact bungalows which have a planning uniformity of architectural form, therefore its scale is such that it appears to be out of character with its surroundings.
- f) There will be an impact on adjoining properties as these will be overlooked if the development proposal proceeds, which would lead to previously private areas being overlooked.
- g) There will be impact on the neighbouring properties on Brookside as the development will overlook the private space of those properties, thus leading to a loss of privacy.
- h) There is no significant change to the previously submitted application.

The Town Council by majority decision 'Object' to this planning application.

9.2 To note planning decisions.

DECISIONS ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

CONSENT

1. P1577/21/FUL Land Adjacent 48 Orchard Road, Newent
Erection of proposed agricultural/horticultural building
2. P1126/21/FUL 24 Knights Crescent, Newent
Erection of a two-storey extension with dropped kerb and associated works

REFUSED

1. P1529/21/FUL Top Barn, Great Bouldson Farm, Great Bouldson, Newent
Conversion of rural building to form single dwelling (part retrospective)

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7.56pm