

## NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Newent Town Council held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October 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 R Wadley, Mrs J Gooch Mr A Ralph and Mrs W Odhiambo

Also present – The Clerk and 10 Members of the public

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### **Public Participation Session**

#### Public Member 1

A member of the Public commented on an Association that had been formed within Newent. They are called 'Newent Neighbourhood Flood Association'.

One of the aims of the organisation is to support the cohesive and informed involvement of residents, business', landowners to join with Newent Town Council, Gloucestershire County Council and Forest of Dean District Council, to work together to reduce Newent's flood risk, improve future resilience and supporting the community in times of flood.

The Association also aims to help identify the current Flood Defence limitations and support a unified plan to create a resilient flood reduction strategy that is fit for current requirements and takes into account future impact of development of Newent and its neighbourhood.

Also to set up Newent Neighbourhood Flood Association, to act as a resource, a single point of contact for local flood communication and to help disseminate information to the neighbourhood and feedback community ideas and concerns.

Other aims and objectives were highlighted by the member of the public.

The Mayor thanked the member of the public for their presentation and identified that Newent Town Council has been in contact with County and District Officers to organise a Public Meeting.

The aim being to discuss and address these issues, as the Town Council has limited responsibilities in relation to flood management.

The Mayor commented that when a Public Meeting date has been identified the group will be notified.

The Mayor asked the member of the public to contact the Town Clerk.

#### Public 2 - Presentation in regards to Laynes Wood Solar Farm

A Project Manager from JBM Solar Farms gave a presentation on Laynes Wood Solar Farm.

Details of the consultation can be obtained via the link below

[Layne's Wood Solar Farm Virtual Consultation \(layneswoodsolarfarm.co.uk\)](http://layneswoodsolarfarm.co.uk)

## **1.0 To note apologies for absence**

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Mr Beard, Mr E Heathfield Mrs K Draper, Mrs K Selwyn and Ms C Birkan

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

There were none.

## **3.0 To sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

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

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

The Clerks report was noted.

## **5.0 Newent Town Council Newsletter**

The Council unanimously agreed the newsletter proposals.

## **6.0 Finance**

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

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

The Council unanimously approved the accounts.

### **6.2 To receive a half yearly budget review**

The Council received the half yearly budget review

The Council thanked the Locum Clerk for the work on the half year budget review.

### **6.3 To receive confirmation of an internal financial check.**

The Locum Clerk commented that Councillors Heathfield and Selwyn were unable to complete the internal financial check.

Councillor Wadley was able to undertake an internal financial check on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021, and additional internal financial checks will occur.

The Locum Clerk thanked Cllr Wadley was for her help and assistance.

### **6.4 To review the Bank Mandate**

It was identified by the Locum Clerk that Bank Signatories are unable to undertake quarterly internal financial checks, as this is a conflict of position.

Good practice regarding bank signatories recognises that there should be an additional signatory from the Town Council added to the Bank Mandate.

The Council unanimously agreed that the Cllr Wadley will be added as a Bank Signatory.

The Council unanimously agreed that the Clerk will be added to the Banking accounts as an Administrator.

### **6.5 To review the Direct Debit Mandates**

The Clerk sent a report with an updated review of the direct debits but asked for an additional one for BT to be included.

The Council unanimously agreed the Direct Debit Mandates Review.

### **7.0 Market House**

**To approve the Resolution to borrow from the Public Works Loan Board. Following the Public Consultation, that ran from Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2021 until Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.**

**7.1 It was resolved to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to apply for a PWLB loan of £58,000 over the borrowing term of 7.5 years for the essential repairs and works to the Market House, Newent.**

**The annual loan repayments will come to around £8,200.00.**

**It is also intended to increase the council tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayments by £8,200.00 which is the equivalent of an additional £3.80 a year.**

**This will be subject to a precept increase consultation.**

A Public Consultation ran from Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2021 until Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 regarding the proposed application to the Public Works Loan Board.

Guidance of the Public Work Loan is to be forwarded to Councillors.

The Locum Clerk confirmed that the budget. for the Market House Maintenance can be looked to be reduced to off-set a New Line Entry in the budget for 2022/2023 for the Public Works Loan.

The Council unanimously approved the Resolution to borrow from the Public Works Loan Board.

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## **8.0 To note the report from the Cemetery Lodge Working Group**

The Council noted the report from the Cemetery Lodge Working Group.

The Mayor thanked the Working Group for their work.

It was identified that additional work is to be undertaken prior to a final report with recommendations and Motions being provided to the Council, from the Working Group for the meeting scheduled for Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

The additional information required from the Working Group includes:

- a) The value of the Lodge.
- b) Cost for change of use.
- c) Cost of redevelopment into (i) Office (ii) residential
- d) Boundaries/curtilage
- e) Information regarding Deeds

The report for the Council meeting, scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> December, will need to include information from the previous public consultation that has occurred.

The financial value of the Cemetery Lodge was discussed, and that a decision will need to be taken as to what will occur with the building and site overall, in the very near future.

The Council unanimously agreed that the Cemetery Lodge Working Group will submit a final report, with recommendations and related Motions for the Council meeting to be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

## **9.0 To approve Councillor Training as provide by the Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Councils (GAPTC), to be held in the Council offices on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November between 7pm-9pm**

The GAPTC are offering training on the Roles and Responsibilities of being a Councillor. The Clerk has offered to attend the training.

The presentation will be made available for those councillors who are unable to attend the training event.

The Council unanimously agreed that GAPTC will be used to deliver Councillor Training on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November between 7pm-9pm

## 10.0 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 25 October 2021

**1. 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.**

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

**2. P1380/21/FUL 1 The Stables, Southend Lane, Newent  
Creation of new access to 1 The Stables (revised scheme)**

The Council agreed by a majority to make “No Comment” to the application.

**3. P1376/21/FUL 2 The Stables, Southend Lane, Newent  
Creation of new access to 2 The Stables (revised scheme)**

The Council agreed to make “No Comment” to the application.

**4. P1667/21/FUL 33 Ford House Road, The Scarr, Newent**

**Variation of condition 6 (car parking) and 7 (vehicular access) relating to planning permission P0243/18.CO**

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

**5. P1711/21/FUL**

**Unit Rear Of 32 Ford House Road The Scarr Newent GL18 1LQ**

**Erection of proposed building and change of use of land from Horticultural to B2 (general industry).**

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

**6. P1667/21/FUL**

**33 Ford House Road The Scarr Newent Gloucestershire GL18 1LQ**

**Variation of condition 6 (car parking) and 7 (vehicular access) relating to planning permission P0243/18.CO**

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

**7. P1646/21/LD2****26 The Crofts Newent Gloucestershire GL18 1SQ**

**Application under section 192 to establish whether the construction of single storey extension to rear requires planning permission.**

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

To note Planning Permissions DECISIONS on planning applications made by the Forest of Dean District Council for noting by Newent Town Council

**CONSENT**

P1474/21/LD2

2 Peacock Close Newent Gloucestershire GL18 1RD

Application under section 192 to establish whether the Installation of dormers to both side elevations, hip to gable conversion requires planning permission.

P1441/21/NONMAT

Land North Of Southend Lane Newent Gloucestershire

Non-material amendment to planning application P0816/21/FUL to allow for a change in the plot numbering attributed to some plots.

**REFUSED**

P1364/21/OUT

Land Adjacent To Pear Tree Cottage Cliffords Mesne Gloucestershire  
GL18 1JT

Outline application for the erection of a dwelling and associated works. (All matters reserved.)

P1363/21/OUT

Land Adjacent To Pear Tree Cottage Cliffords Mesne Gloucestershire  
GL18 1JT

Outline application for the erection of 2 no. bungalows with double garages. (All matters reserved.)

**Date of the next meeting - Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7pm in the Newent Community School.**

**The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.04 pm.**