

## NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Newent Town Council held on Monday 26 July 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 Selwyn, Mrs W Odhiambo, Mr A Ralph, Ms C Birkan, Mr E Heathfield and Mrs R Wadley.

Also present – The Locum Clerks and 7 Members of the public

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### **Public Participation Session**

Several Members of the Public raised their concerns and objections to planning application P1209/21/FUL – Land at Eastnor House, Botloes Green.

#### **47.1 To note apologies for absence**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Mrs K Draper.

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

Cllr E Heathfield declared an interest in Agenda Item 7.1 – Application P1209/21/FUL

Cllr Mrs J Gooch declared an interest in Agenda Items 6.2 – Love Newent Fayre, 6.6 – Newent Businesses Correspondence (Personal) and 9 – District Council Parking Charges.

Cllr G Moseley declared an interest in Agenda Item 6.4 Highways Local Funding (Personal).

#### **47.3 To sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

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

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

The Clerk's reported the following:

- The Waiting Restrictions have now been passed to the Gloucestershire County Councils Legal Department.
- A GAPTC Recruitment Consultant has now been appointed and has started the recruitment process.
- The proposed Lake Fencing project does meet Health & Safety guidelines.
- The Clerk's wished to thank all the Office and Ground staff for their excellent support and work especially during the extreme heat conditions.
- The leasing of Air Conditioning for the office will be pursued, but will have to be carefully utilised, so as not to compromise ventilation required to remain Covid secure.

- The Clerks' laptop is beyond repair; the warranty cover is being queried. Until a new laptop is provided or purchased, the Locum Clerks have no access to the accounting system or the Town Clerk server.
- The payroll has now been outsourced to a local firm; thus, providing specialist payroll and pension knowledge and an overall saving to the Council.

## **47.5 Finance**

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

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

<https://www.newenttowncouncil.org.uk/webedit/uploaded-files/All%20Files/Agendas%20%26%20Minutes/2021%20Agendas/RFO%20Report%2026th%20July%202021%20mtg.pdf>

The Council approved the accounts, as per the report.

### **47.6 To consider response required to correspondence/consultations received:**

#### **47.6.1 Market Square Working Group**

The Council received the report from the Working Group.

#### **47.6.2 Love Newent Fayre – 4 September 2021.**

(Cllr J Gooch left the meeting whilst this Agenda Item was being considered).

The Chairman detailed her report to the Council who agreed to the following:

That the Council request that the District Council allows free parking at the Lewell Street Car Park.

That the Council applies for a Road Closure for Saturday 4 September 2021

That the Council authorise the Working Group to make necessary expenditure decisions regarding the event of up to £1,000 from its Event Funds if the Welcome Back Funds are exhausted.

#### **47.6.3 GAPTC AGM held on 24 July 2021**

Cllr E Heathfield updated the Council on the GAPTC AGM which he attended representing the Town Council. He confirmed that the motion put forward by NTC was approved.

#### **47.6.4 To consider project for the County Councils Highways Local Highways Funding Scheme.**

The Council agreed to ask for the following projects to be included in the scheme.

Additional Grit Bins in Newent North.

Down pipes drainage repairs to ensure that the damage to the Pavement in Gloucester Street is mitigated.

Gully repairs in Bradford Lane.

#### **47.6.5 To consider applying for a grant from the Hills Ford Three Shires Rally, towards the costs of a mobile CCTV Camera.**

The Council agreed to pursue a potential grant and investigate further funding sources for a mobile CCTV.

#### **47.6.6 Correspondence from Newent Businesses.**

The correspondence was noted.

The Council approved spending of up to £500 to allow for additional hours, and the purchase a cordless jet washer; to enable the immediate cleaning up of the 'grot spots in the Town' and around the flower tubs.

### **47.7 Planning**

#### **47.7.1 P 0712/21/FUL Land At Malswick Adjacent B4215 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. (Re-submission).**

The Council agreed to 'No Objection' provided the existing access is stopped up.

#### **47.7.2. P1209/21/FUL Land At Eastnor House, Botloes Green Proposed development of a single dwelling house and associated garaging and parking.**

(Cllr E Heathfield left the meeting whilst this planning application was considered).

The Council agreed to object to the proposals and further request that the District Ward Councillor ask for it to be called before the Planning Committee if the Officer is minded 'to approve' the application.

The Council objects to this application:

- The application is contrary to current local planning policy as it is outside any settlement boundary in open countryside, with no exceptional circumstances outlined.
- Damage is almost inevitable to the historic, TPO'd Black Poplar Tree.
- Granting of permission would give a green light to other potential developers for infill in this area, which is characterised by Land Settlement Association (LSA) dwellings, potentially damaging the major remaining architectural characteristics of this area including the Scarr.
- The proposed development is in an unsustainable location with no community facilities or easy access to public transport.

- The Council are concerned that there is insufficient distance between the dwelling known as Eastnor and the proposed new dwelling, and about the overlooking of Hundred Cottage.
- The Council believe there may be risks associated with potential contamination of the land.
- The proposed access does not give sufficient visibility splay for safe traffic movement onto the carriageway.

**47.8 To resolve that despite the easing of Covid restrictions by the Government that the Council will continue to provide a Covid Secure environment for its Members, Buildings and Staff.**

The Council agreed to the resolution.

Cllr J Gooch and Cllr G Moseley departed the meeting at this point.

**47.9 To consider requesting that the District Council suspend all Parking Charges in its Car Parking facilities in Newent for a 1 year period.**

The Council agreed to request the suspension of parking charges for a 1 year period.

**47.10 Date of the next meeting -Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021 at 6 pm in the Newent School.**

**The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 20.34 pm.**