

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Newent Town Council held on Monday 10th January 2022 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, Mr A Ralph, Mrs W Odhiambo, Mrs K Draper, Ms C Birkan, Mrs R Wadley and Mr E Heathfield (joined the meeting 7.04pm)

Also present – The Clerk and 7 Members of the public

Public Participation Session

There were 2 public speakers

Speaker 1

The speaker spoke against and objected to the following Planning application:

P1961/21/FUL Eastnor House, Botloes Green, Newent
Proposed development of a single dwellinghouse and associated garaging and parking. (REVISED SCHEME)

(Councillor Mr E Heathfield joined the meeting 7.04pm)

Speaker 2

The speaker spoke against and objected to the following Planning application:

P1961/21/FUL Eastnor House, Botloes Green, Newent
Proposed development of a single dwellinghouse and associated garaging and parking. (REVISED SCHEME)

1. To note apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Mr R Beard, Mrs J Gooch and Mrs K Selwyn

2. Declarations and Interest on items on the agenda:

Councillor Mr E Heathfield declared an interest in the following Planning applications:

P1961/21/FUL Eastnor House, Botloes Green, Newent and
P2048/21/FUL Cherry Tree Cottage, Botloes Green, Newent,

Councillor Mrs S Marcovecchio declared an interest in the following Planning application:

P1893/21/FUL 9 Culver Street, Newent.

3. To sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 13th December 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 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's Report was noted.

5. Finance

5.1 To approve the accounts to be paid.

The Council unanimously approved the accounts to be paid.

5.2 To note the RFO Report.

A councillor asked a question relating to the Black Rosettes payment and what it was for.

It was explained that in the event of the death of a senior national figure the Black Rosettes would be issued to councillors and staff, alongside black arm bands.

The RFO's Report was noted.

5.2.1 To note the Finance and Sundry Payments made

The Finance and Sundry Payments made was noted.

5.2.2 To note the Income and Expenditure Report

A councillor asked about the financial breakdown for 4918 Youth Facilities, as £8,330 had been spent under that code.

24/09/2021 Cashbook Payment S106 Project to be off set £8250.00
 19/10/2021 Purchase Ledger Cycle Marking Scheme at school £80.00
 Total £8,330

A councillor asked for a financial breakdown on 300 Open Spaces 4325 Utilities as £778.00 had been spent under that code.

The Clerk reported that he would update the councillors and email them information from the Ledger Reports.

The Income and Expenditure Report was noted.

6. Policy Reviews and updates

6.1 To approve the Standing Orders January 2022

Councillors were asked to submit any information for amendments to the Clerk for inclusion and discussion on the Standing Orders.

The Standing Orders are to be amended once Committees are due to commence.

The Council unanimously approved the Standing Orders January 2022.

6.2 To approve the Financial Regulations January 2022

A councillor proposed a change to the Financial Regulations.

The proposal was submitted by a councillor relating to 1.7 which was to read as:

“Members of Council are expected to follow the instructions within these Regulations and not to entice employees to breach them. Failure to follow instructions within these Regulations brings the office of councillor into disrepute and would automatically result in a code of conduct complaint”

The request was to alter 2.2 to the original wording so there are two Internal Checkers and that bank signatories are not included as checkers.

The proposal for 2.2 read as:

“On a regular basis at least once in each quarter, and at each financial year-end, two members other than the Mayor or Bank Signatories on an annual rotational basis shall be appointed to verify bank reconciliations (for all accounts) produced by the RFO. The members shall sign the reconciliations and the original bank statements (or similar document) as evidence of verification. This activity shall on conclusion be reported, including any exceptions, to and noted by the council.”

The councillor proposed that 11.1 Section (ii) be changed back to its original wording to broaden the clause by including the other professionals.

The proposal being 11.1 Section (ii) to read as:

"For specialist services such as solicitors, accountants, surveyors and planning consultants"

A Recorded Vote was called for on the proposals.

Recorded Vote:

In Favour: Councillors Mr E Heathfield, Mrs W Odhiambo and Mrs R Wadley

Against: Councillors Mrs S Marcovecchio, Mrs K Draper, Mr A Ralph, Mrs M Duffield and Mrs C Howley

Abstain: Councillors Mrs G Moseley and Mrs C Birkan

The Amendment proposals were not carried forward.

The Council approved the Financial Regulations January 2022, by majority decision, with no amended proposals.

6.3 To approve the Social Media Policy 2022

A Recorded Vote was called for on the Social Media Policy 2022.

Recorded Vote:

In Favour: Councillors Mrs R Wadley, Mrs W Odhiambo, Mrs S Marcovecchio, Mrs K Draper, Mr A Ralph, Mrs M Duffield, Mrs C Howley, Mrs G Moseley and Mrs C Birkan

Against: 0

Abstain: Councillor Mr E Heathfield

The Council approved the Social Media Policy 2022 by majority decision.

6.4 To approve the Member/Officer Relations Policy 2022

The Council approved the Member/Officer Relations Policy 2022 by majority decision

7. Fabioni's Events and Catering Pitch Hire

7.1 To agree to Fabioni's Events and Catering hiring of the Newent Town Council car park situated behind the Library and Doctors' Surgery, as a 6-month trial, subject to successful completion of the Amenity Hire/User Agreement.

The council discussed the site identified and found that it was not suitable for this type of activity.

Alternative locations were suggested, which the councillors asked the Clerk to communicate to Fabioni's Events and Catering business owners.

The Council unanimously agreed not to allow Fabioni's Events and Catering to hire the Newent Town Council car park situated behind the Library and Doctors' Surgery.

7.2 For the Council to recommend suitable local charities for donations, based on Fabioni's income generation.

The Council unanimously agreed to not allow Fabioni's Events and Catering to hire the Newent Town Council car park situated behind the Library and Doctors' Surgery and therefore this vote is not required.

8. Memorial Bench

8.1 To approve the installation of a Memorial Bench at the cemetery for a resident.

The Council unanimously approved the installation of a Memorial Bench at the cemetery for a resident.

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 10th January 2022

1. P1960/21/FUL 17 The Scarr, Newent
Proposed erection of a steel framed agricultural building for the housing of livestock

The Council unanimously agreed to make “No Objections” and are “In favour” of this application.

Councillor Mr E Heathfield left the meeting.

2. P1961/21/FUL Eastnor House, Botloes Green, Newent
Proposed development of a single dwellinghouse and associated garaging and parking. (REVISED SCHEME)

The Council unanimously agreed to “Object” to this application on the following grounds.

- Ecological damage to wildlife and nature conservation
- Increase in Traffic
- Vehicular access
- Loss of important trees, including the protected rare and veteran Black Poplar growing on the public space that lies between the site and the highway.
- Not in accordance with the provisions in the current core strategy
- The application is factually incorrect and misleading, as the property is not Eastnor House, as stated on the application, but a separate plot of land.

The Council unanimously agreed to “Object” to this application.

Councillor Mrs S Marcovecchio left the meeting.

Councillor Mr E Heathfield returned to the meeting.

3. P1893/21/FUL 9 Culver Street, Newent
Erection of x 2 two bedroom apartments

Conditions(s) Removal:

Proposed conversion of the permitted garages into a 2 beds apartment, for that necessary changes made to the approved drawings

Drawing(s) Title No.(s) Received on: Drawing(s) Title No.(s)

Proposed site plan 04 REV 13 September 2021 requested of approval and replacement for Proposed site plan 04 REV C

Proposed elevations 06 REV A 1 July 2021 requested of approval and replacement for Proposed elevations 06 REV B

Sections or cross sections 07 REV A 1 July 2021 requested of approval and replacement for Sections 07 REV B

Sections or cross sections 08 REV A 1 July 2021 requested of approval and replacement for cross sections 08 REV B

Location Plan 01 REV A 13 September 2021 requested of approval and replacement for Location Plan 01 REV B

Proposed floor plans 05 REV A 1 July 2021 requested of approval and replacement for Proposed floor plans 05 REV B

The Council “Strongly Object” to this application on the grounds this has

- Breached FODDC Planning Rules, especially regarding additional properties not scheduled to be built.
- Design and appearance of the buildings.
- Traffic generation
- Adequacy of parking
- Noise and the disturbance to the local community regarding building work and useage
- Effect on conservation areas
- Loss of daylight and sunlight

The Council unanimously agreed to “Strongly Object” to this application.

Councillor Mrs Moseley left the meeting

Councillor Mrs S Marcovecchio returned to the meeting.

4. P2040/21/TPO Land between Court Road and The Stream, Newent Lake, Lakeside, Newent. On the strip of land between Court Road and the stream: Ash (T63) – Fell due to sparseness of crown indicating likely chalara infection. Ash (T69) – Fell due to sparseness of crown indicating likely chalara infection. Ash (T74) – Fell due to sparseness of crown indicating likely chalara infection.

On the green north of The Butts:

Sycamore (T6) – Reduce crown spread on south side by 25% due to uneven crown distribution owing to a large, outcurving limb.

Sycamore (T12) – Reduce crown height and spread by 25% to alleviate the forces acting on the main union which has a large bark inclusion.

A Councillor commented that they would prefer if the trees were not cut directly to the ground (roots), but a suitable base be left intact.

Another councillor asked that at least 2 trees are replanted, in place of those that are felled.

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

5. P1897/21/FUL Lowlands, Stardens, Tewkesbury Rd, Newent
Erection of a replacement balcony with associated works

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

6. P1981/21/LD1 Hillyfields Nurseries, Tewkesbury Road, Newent
Application under Section 191 to certify the commencement of Permissions P0520/17/OUT, P0920/19/APP and P0068/18/Discon for the erection of up to 3 dwellings and the demolition of existing greenhouses.

The Council by majority decision agreed to make “No Objection” to this application.

Councillor Mr E Heathfield left the meeting

7. P2048/21/FUL Cherry Tree Cottage, Botloes Green, Newent
Erection of single storey side extension and single storey rear extension with associated works

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

Councillor Mr E Heathfield returned to the meeting

8. P1736/21/FUL Glebe Orchard, Cliffords Mesne, Newent
AMENDED DESCRIPTION – Erection of a first floor extension over garage and alterations to rear of property with associated works (originally Erection of a first floor extension over garage and single storey rear extension with associated works)

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

9. P2020/21/FUL 316 Foley Road, Newent
Erection of a single storey extension to create ground floor bedroom and wet room for the benefit of a disabled person

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

9.2 To note planning decisions.

The Planning Decisions were noted

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

CONSENT

1. P0111/21/Discon Land North of Southend Lane, Newent
Partial discharge of conditions 16 (LECMP) and 18 (Biodiversity)
P1330/18/OUT Outline Application for residential development (up to 230 dwellings), including infrastructure, ancillary facilities, open space and landscaping.
2. P1367/21/FUL Land North of Southend Lane, Newent
Variation of condition 04 (vehicular charging and parking details) relating to P0816/21/FUL to amend the condition wording
3. P1272/21/LD1 Great Bouldson Farm, Great Bouldson, Newent
Use of land for the siting of four residential caravans
Lawful Development Certificate issued.
4. P1900/21/AG Commonfields Farm, Bouldson, Newent
Prior notification for the erection of a grain store
5. 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 Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.34pm