

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Newent Town Council held on Monday 11th April 2022 at Newent Community School, Watery Lane, Newent at 7.00 pm

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

Also present – The Clerk and 6 Members of the public

Public Participation Session

There was 1 public speaker

Speaker 1

The speaker spoke about the Youth Action Group and that the telephone box project they were seeking funding for which was not agreed by Council. The speaker commented that the Council's decision was understandable.

The speaker commented that Mr Eli Heathfield had resigned as a Councillor and that he would like to thank the Clerk for the responses to his emails and the Council regarding the support offered and provided to the Youth Action Group. The Speaker commented that the young people involved with the Youth Action Group would like to become independent of the council and are seeking assistance in how to do this from the council, for several reasons.

The Clerk will provide information and guidance to the Youth Action Group.

1. To note apologies for absence

Mr E Heathfield resigned as a Councillor from Newent Town Council on 06.04.22 at 7.58pm.

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 28th March 2022

The Council by majority decision agreed that the Minutes were a true and accurate summary of the meeting subject to the following change:

Page 1033: Item 9 Concerns were raised and a discussion took place regarding the lack of financial procedure and as such the Council by majority decision agreed not to spend up to £56.00 on the Jubilee Projects, to be spent from the Youth Action Group budget and agreed not to spend up to £144.00 on new shelving for the Phone Box, to be spent from the Youth Action Group budget.

Subject to this change the Minutes were a true and accurate summary of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

A Councillor noted an incorrect procedure on Page 1035 from the Standing Orders when Councillors Mrs C Howley & Mrs M Duffield left the meeting as the Clerk presided over the meeting and not a Councillor.

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

4.1 To note the Clerk's Report

Discussions occurred regarding using the Market House, from 9th May, for Council meetings.

The Clerk mentioned that the School Hall had been booked for Council Meetings until 29th April. In addition, Councillors had previously commented about the acoustics and difficulty in hearing in the room. As the Covid-19 restrictions had eased it was a return to the previous venue for council meetings.

The Clerk asked councillors to provide alternative venues, if the Market House is unsuitable for Council meetings.

The Clerk's Report was noted.

5. Finance

5.1 To note the RFO Report.

The RFO's report was noted.

RFO REPORT 5.1				
NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL RFO REPORT PAYMENTS MADE SINCE 19.03.22				
Finance & Sundry Payments Made				
PAYMENTS MADE				
Date	Payee	Total	Description	Fast Payment Out Method
23.03.22	Salaries	£ 10,318.89	Staff Salaries	FPO
23.03.22	Pension	£ 3,729.16	Pension	FPO
23.03.22	HMRC	£ 3,230.46	NI Contribution	FPO
29.03.22	W&N Adams	£ 1,452.14	Christmas Socket installation/Isolators & clock timers	FPO
29.03.22	Npower	£ 23.43	01.12.21-31.12.21 CCTV Electric	FPO
29.03.22	White Knight Group	£ 459.45	Vehicle Annual Insurance cover Mitsubishi L200 DS66FDV 02.04.22-01.04.23	FPO

29.03.22	SAFPRO	£	93.60	Safety Boots	FPO
29.03.22	Network Connections	£	8,394.00	CCTV replacement of 11 cameras in the town centre	FPO
29.03.22	Jenny Smith	£	40.00	Office Cleaning	FPO
29.03.22	Ford Fuels	£	729.04	Gas Oil - Red Diesel	FPO
29.03.22	FoDDC	£	259.48	Market House Business Rates	FPO
30.03.22	Chris Hyett	£	315.00	Mole/Vermin removal	FPO
30.03.22	Peninsula	£	173.42	Business Safe	FPO
30.03.22	KBS Depot	£	621.60	Notice Board for Lake Play/Lake area	FPO
31.03.22	Lighting & Illumination	£	16,373.29	Electrical installation; Christmas lights	FPO
31.03.22	Network Connections	£	777.00	CCTV Quarterly Charges	FPO
	Totals	£	46,989.96		
	Standing Orders paid				Standing Order
	Payee				
25.03.22	Newent Association for the Disabled	£	35.00	Council vehicle parking	SO
01.04.22	Glebe Chapel	£	450.00	Office Rent	SO
	Totals	£	485.00		
	Direct Debits Paid				
Date	Payee	Total		Description	Method
21.03.22	Grundon Waste	£	185.14	Waste Management	DD
21.03.22	Lex Autolease	£	263.69	Lease Truck 07.02.22-06.03.22	DD
23.03.22	AllStar	£	99.23	Fuel	DD
30.03.22	AllStar	£	100.96	Fuel	DD
31.03.22	EE	£	90.04	Mobile phone	DD
01.04.22	Lex Autolease	£	378.98	Vehicle Charges	DD
	Totals	£	1,118.04		

A Councillor asked about Lighting & Illumination (Christmas Lights) £16,373.29. It was clarified that this was paid for from Grant Funding of £12,000, from the previous financial year's budget (2021/22).

The lights are to replace the previously used lights and are an upgrade, with low energy bulbs.

A Councillor asked about the KBS Depot £621.60 payment. It was commented that this payment is from Grant Funding from the previous financial year.

A Councillor asked about the Forest of Dean District Council's Market House Business Rates of £259.48 and whether there were any dispensations.

It was commented that other buildings are £0.00 rated, but payment must be made on the Market House.

6. To agree the following policies

6.1 Leave Policy

The Council have asked the Staffing Committee to review the Leave Policy document.

6.2 Model Publication Scheme

The Council have asked the Staffing Committee to review the Model Scheme Publication document, as it relates to Recording of Council Meetings (Own) Meetings Procedure.

6.3 Health & Safety General Policy Statement

The Council have asked the Staffing Committee to review the policy.

7. Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Council (GAPTC) AGM Annual Parish Meeting, scheduled for Saturday 23rd July 2022

7.1 To consider submitting a resolution for debate to Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Councils (GAPTC) for their Annual General Meeting scheduled for Saturday 23rd July 2022

The Council decided not to submit a resolution for debate to Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Councils (GAPTC) for their Annual General Meeting scheduled for Saturday 23rd July 2022.

8. Newent Town Planting

8.1 To approve to spend £1,082.00 from the Earmarked Reserves Town Centre Planting and £209.25 from the Town Enhancement/Promotions budget for 2022/2023 at a total net cost of £1,291.25 to the preferred provider, for the Newent Town planting scheme.

The Council thanked representatives from Newent in Bloom for their work.

The Council unanimously agreed to approve to spend £1,082.00 from the Earmarked Reserves Town Centre Planting and £209.25 from the Town Enhancement/Promotions budget for 2022/2023 at a total net cost of £1,291.25 to the preferred provider, for the Newent Town planting scheme.

9. Queen's Jubilee Update

To note the Queen's Jubilee update.

A Councillor commented that the reading of the Proclamation should be read at 1pm by the Town Crier.

It was commented that the Town Crier that works with Newent Town Council is not available until Saturday 4th June. As such the Proclamation will be read by the Mayor, at a time to be decided.

The Queen's Jubilee update was noted.

10. Planning

10.1 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 11 April 2022.

1. P0375/22/LD2 Prior Approval for Method of Demolition
18 The Scarr, Newent
Application under Section 192 to establish whether the proposed stationing of a mobile home within the residential curtilage requires planning permission

The Council unanimously agreed to make "No Comment" to this application.
2. P0395/22/FUL Annexe, 28 Strawberry Hill, Newent
Erection of a single storey extension with associated works.
(resubmission)
The Council unanimously agreed to make "No Comment" to this application.
3. P0318/22/FUL Amended Description. Springbank Farm, Birches Lane, Newent
Erection of a new garage and office outbuilding with associated works

The Council by majority decision agreed to "Strongly Object" to this application, on the following grounds.

- Size, scale and rural character of Birches Lane
- Commercial use on open countryside
- Over development of the site
- Impact of build on neighbouring properties
- It is too close to neighbouring properties
- Highways and safety issues relating to traffic flow
- Loss of privacy
- Concerns regarding trees and root zones
- Concerns on potential future use away from a garage into residential use

10.2 To Note Planning Decisions

DECISIONS on planning applications received from the Forest of Dean District Council to date.

There were none.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7.48 pm