

## **NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of Newent Town Council held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February 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 K Draper, Mr R Beard, Mrs K Selwyn, and Mrs J Gooch.

Also present – The Clerk and 5 Members of the public

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### **Public Participation Session**

#### **There were 4 public speakers**

##### Speaker 1

The speaker commented about the concerns regarding the reduction in local bus services and the adverse impact it will have on those who rely on those services.

##### Speaker 2

The speaker 'Objected' to

1. P2061/21/FUL Land at Moat Farm, Newent  
Ground mounted photovoltaic solar farm with an electrical generating capacity of up to 49.9MW together with associated equipment, infrastructure, and ancillary works.

##### Speaker 3

The speaker 'Objected' to

- P2061/21/FUL Land at Moat Farm, Newent  
Ground mounted photovoltaic solar farm with an electrical generating capacity of up to 49.9MW together with associated equipment, infrastructure, and ancillary works.

##### Speaker 4

The speaker 'Objected' to

- P2061/21/FUL Land at Moat Farm, Newent  
Ground mounted photovoltaic solar farm with an electrical generating capacity of up to 49.9MW together with associated equipment, infrastructure, and ancillary works.

The Clerk received 4 written 'Objections' to

- P2061/21/FUL Land at Moat Farm, Newent  
Ground mounted photovoltaic solar farm with an electrical generating capacity of up to 49.9MW together with associated equipment, infrastructure, and ancillary works.

#### **1. To note apologies for absence**

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Mrs W Odhiambo, Mrs R Wadley and Mr E Heathfield

#### **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 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

The Council by majority decision 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.

| <b>Name</b>                    | <b>Item</b>                    | <b>Amount Due<br/>£</b> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| B & B Services Ltd             | Electrical Install New Offices | 492.00                  |
| CEF (Gloucester)               | Batteries and lead             | 29.88                   |
| City Fire Protection Ltd       | Fire Extinguisher Inspection   | 67.20                   |
| Glebe Chapel                   | Office Rent                    | 450.00                  |
| GMT Solutions                  | Network cables & Equipment     | 834.08                  |
|                                | Bronze IT Support              | 117.12                  |
| KJS Accounts Ltd               | Accounts Services & Training   | 442.5                   |
| Makinson & Co                  | Payroll                        | 54.00                   |
| MKM BS (Newent) Ltd            | Hardwood Faced Plywood         | 72.00                   |
|                                | Timber-Office Counter          | 10.32                   |
|                                | Timber-Carcassing Wood         | 35.63                   |
|                                | Bolts & Wood                   | 7.42                    |
|                                | Battens; hinges;screws;plywood | 64.56                   |
|                                | Worktop                        | 145.00                  |
| Newent Community School        | Hall Hire 10.01.22&24.01.22    | 80.5                    |
| Defib Warehouse                | Powerheat Defib Pads           | 55.14                   |
| G D Parker & Co                | Tape Measures                  | 23.98                   |
|                                | Cleaning Liquid                | 2.39                    |
| Peninsula H&S                  | Business Safe H&S              | 173.42                  |
| Geosphere Ltd                  | Parish on-line Annual Payment  | 288.00                  |
| Rialtas Business Solutions Ltd | Year End Accounts Rialtas      | 720.00                  |
| Screwfix                       | Trade Oak Stain & Rollers      | 69.84                   |
|                                | Woodscrews; circular saw       | 79.98                   |
|                                | Paint; Wood Filler; Rollers    | 56.75                   |
|                                | Trunking for Office            | 47.40                   |
|                                |                                |                         |
| <b>Total</b>                   |                                | <b>4419.11</b>          |

The Council unanimously approved the accounts to be paid to a value of £4419.11

## 5.2 To note the RFO Report.

The RFO's Report was noted.

| <b>RFO REPORT 5.2</b>  |                                     |                    |  |                                |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| <b>NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL RFO REPORT PAYMENTS MADE SINCE 24.01.22</b> |                                     |                    |  |                                |
|  | Finance & Sundry Payments Made      |                    |  |                                |
|  | <b>PAYMENTS MADE</b>                |                    |  | <b>Fast Payment Out Method</b> |
| <b>Date</b>  | <b>Payee</b>                        | <b>Total</b>       | <b>Description</b>                           | <b>Fast Payment Out Method</b> |
|  |                                     | £ -                |  |                                |
| 24.01.22   | Salaries                            | £ 8,315.12         | Staff Salaries                               | FPO                            |
| 24.01.22   | Pension                             | £ 2,948.19         | Pension                                      | FPO                            |
| 24.01.22   | HMRC                                | £ 2,253.58         | NI Contribution                              | FPO                            |
| 26.01.22   | Newent Association for the Disabled | £ 35.00            | Vehicle Parking                              | FPO                            |
|  |                                     |                    |  |                                |
|  | <b>Totals</b>                       | <b>£ 13,551.89</b> |  |                                |
|  |                                     |                    |  |                                |
|  | <b>DIRECT DEBITS PAID</b>           |                    |  | Direct Debit                   |
| 14.01.22   | Mainstream Digital                  | £ 9.62             | Call Charges 01.12.21-31.12.21               | DD                             |
| 14.01.22   | Lloyds Service Charges              | £ 35.38            | Bank Service Charge                          | DD                             |
| 17.01.22   | Barclaycard                         | £32.37             | Zoom Meeting Calls & Fasthost                | DD                             |
| 18.01.22   | Viking                              | £37.42             | Stationery                                   | DD                             |
| 20.01.22   | Grundon Waste                       | £146.24            | Waste Removal & Disposal                     | DD                             |
| 21.01.22   | Lex Auto Lease                      | £ 263.69           | Lease Rental Truck 07.12.21-06.01.22 DS66FDV | DD                             |
| 26.01.22   | All Star                            | £ 192.80           | Fuel   | DD                             |
| 31.01.22   | EE                                  | £ 90.04            | Phone charges                                | DD                             |
| 01.02.22   | Lex Auto Lease                      | £ 378.98           | Lease Truck Rental                           | DD                             |
| 02.02.22   | All Star                            | £ 1.80             | Fuel   | DD                             |
|  |                                     |                    |  |                                |
|  | <b>Totals</b>                       | <b>£ 1,188.34</b>  |  |                                |

|          | <b>DIRECT DEBITS PAID</b> | <b>Total</b>    | <b>ITEM</b>   | <b>METHOD</b> |
|----------|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 31.12.21 | EE                        | £ 90.06         | Mobile Phone  | Direct Debit  |
| 27.12.21 | AllStar                   | £ 222.44        | Fuel          | Direct Debit  |
| 04.01.22 | Lex Autolease             | £ 378.98        | Vehicle Lease | Direct Debit  |
| 05.01.22 | AllStar                   | £ 1.80          | Fuel          | Direct Debit  |
| 07.01.22 | Spoton                    | £ 54.00         | Internet      | Direct Debit  |
| 13.01.22 | Lex Autolease             | £ 18.00         | Vehicle Lease | Direct Debit  |
|          |                           |                 |               |               |
|          | <b>Totals</b>             | <b>£ 765.28</b> |               |               |

### 5.3 To approve Direct Debits and Standing Orders

The Council unanimously approved the Direct Debits and Standing Orders

#### Direct Debit

- Plusnet  
Broadband Provider - new offices

#### Standing Order

- Newent Association for the Disabled  
£35.00 per month for Council vehicle parking
- Glebe Chapel  
£450.00 per month - Office Rent

### 5.4 To note the Income & Expenditure Report

The Income and Expenditure Report was noted

### 6. CCTV update

6.1 Newent Town Council agrees to update the eleven old CCTV cameras to pan tilt and zoom cameras that can be managed from an office/or from Police HQ, and accepts the quotation received for £6995.00 plus vat

The Council unanimously agrees to update the eleven old CCTV cameras to pan tilt and zoom cameras that can be managed from an office/or from Police HQ, and accepts the quotation received for £6995.00 plus vat.

### 7. To agree the following policies

#### 7.1 Community Winter Action Plan

The Council by majority decision agrees the Community Winter Action Plan

#### 7.2 Scheme of Delegation 2022

The Council unanimously agrees the Scheme of Delegation 2022

#### 7.3 Community Engagement

The Council unanimously agrees the Community Engagement policy

#### 7.4 Grants & Donation Awarding Policy

The following to be included into the policy as follows:

*5. Organisations must have a Safeguarding Children Policy where children and young people are involved, which is updated and in-line with current 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' Guidance.*

With the inclusion of the information the Council by majority decision agrees the Grants & Donation Awarding Policy.

#### 7.5 Freedom of Information Policy

The Council unanimously agrees the Freedom of Information Policy.

### 8. Office Relocation

8.1 To agree funding of up to £9,000 towards the relocation of offices.

The Council unanimously agrees funding of up to £9,000 towards the relocation of offices

### 9. Wild Seed Planting - Newent Lake

9.1 To approve the planting of Wild Seeds at Newent Lake.

The Council by majority decision approve the planting of Wild Seeds at Newent Lake.

### 10. Bus Services numbers 132 and 32

10.1 To decide whether Newent Town Council wishes to make representations to Stagecoach in respect of their decisions to withdraw the bus route 132 from Gloucester to Ledbury, via Newent and route 32 from Gloucester to Ross-on-Wye via Newent.

Discussion occurred regarding the possible withdrawal of the bus route 132 from Gloucester to Ledbury, via Newent and the reduction to route 32 from Gloucester.

The Council unanimously agree to Councillor Mrs G Moseley sending information to the Clerk, for distribution to Councillors, to enable comments and feedback to be reported to Gloucestershire County Council and relevant parties by Councillor Mrs G Moseley.

### 11. Tree Inspection Report 2022

11.1 All works as recommended by the appointed arboriculturist are carried out at the earliest convenience and prices are gathered for further diagnostics for trees G223 and T348 by way of sonic tomography to identify the extent of decay.

The Council by majority decision approves all works as recommended by the appointed arboriculturist are carried out at the earliest convenience and prices are gathered for further diagnostics for trees G223 and T348 by way of sonic tomography to identify the extent of decay.

### 12. Land Registry advice with regard to registering the Cemetery Land

12.1 To agree that the Lodge be registered within the Cemetery grounds, and if sold in the future at that time a Transfer of Part be executed, as described by the Land Registry.

The Council unanimously agree that the Lodge be registered within the Cemetery grounds, and if sold in the future at that time a Transfer of Part be executed, as described by the Land Registry.

### 13. Planning

#### 13.1 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 14 February 2022.

1. P2117/21/FUL Horsley Grove (also known as Plot3) Cliffords Mesne, Newent Removal of condition 03 (occupancy condition) relating to planning permission P1798/20/FUL

The Council by majority decision “Object” to this application.

On the following grounds

- a) It contravenes the FODDC planning policy on the original conditions of use.
- b) It will generate excessive vehicle movement causing road safety concerns.

2. P1553/21/FUL 47 Orchard Road, Newent  
Proposed conversion of part of disused horticultural building into a dwelling  
Revised plans/information

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

3. P0064/22/FUL 1 Barton Court, Gloucester St, Newent  
Erection of a two-storey rear extension and alterations and replacement of part of roof with the installation of rooflights with associated works

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

4. P2061/21/FUL Land at Moat Farm, Newent  
Ground mounted photovoltaic solar farm with an electrical generating capacity of up to 49.9MW together with associated equipment, infrastructure, and ancillary works.

The Council “Strongly Object” to this application.

On the following grounds

- a) It is over development of the site; it will overshadow neighbouring properties.
- b) It will generate excessive vehicle movement causing road safety concerns.
- c) There will be impact on the neighbouring properties as the development will overlook the private space of properties, thus leading to a loss of privacy.
- d) The ecological impact on wildlife, including bats, deer, birds, and great crested newts will be affected by the development, and therefore this will impact on conservation of the local area

- e) Installation of solar panels being installed on arable land that has been successfully used to grow crops for over 25 years
- f) Noise and ambient noise disturbance from the constant drone of the machinery, operating 24 hours per day, and the impact of the noise pollution on the local residents within the vicinity of the proposed development.
- g) Traffic generation and access is insufficient for the development and this will contribute to the issues regrading road access relating to the development site.

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

5. P0092/22/LD1 Annexe, 28 Strawberry Hill, Newent  
Application under Section 191 to establish whether the use of annexe as separate dwelling is lawful

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

### **13.2 To note planning decisions.**

The Planning Decisions were noted

## **DECISIONS ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

### Consent

1. 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.
2. P1847/21/LBC The Porch House, Church Street, Newent  
Listed Building Consent for the provision of a lift from the ground floor pantry to the first-floor study/store to provide disability access for the elderly. Replacement of existing French doors with new French door with glazing bars to replicate original Georgian detailing
3. P1846/21/FUL The Porch House, Church Street, Newent  
Replacement of existing French doors with new French door with glazing bars to replicate original Georgian detailing
4. 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
5. P1897/21/FUL Lowlands, Stardens, Tewkesbury Road, Newent  
Erection of a replacement balcony with associated works

**Refused**

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

**Application withdrawn**

P1873/21/FUL 28 Strawberry Hill, Newent  
Erection of a single storey extension to dwelling with associated work

**The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.32pm**