

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Newent Town Council held on Monday 25th 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, Mrs J Gooch, Mrs R Wadley, Mr Ralph, Mrs C Birkan and Mrs S Marcovecchio

Also present – The Clerk and 6 Members of the public

Public Participation Session

There were 2 public speakers

Speaker 1

The speaker spoke in favour of the Laynes Wood Solar Farm development and commented that there have been local responses, with some raising concerns and others supporting the application.

Various technical reports are to be received, then a full review will be undertaken and additional information will be submitted towards the end of May 2022.

Speaker 2

The speaker spoke about the Meek Road recreation area and the local environment of the area. This included the need for development of a local environment plan, meadow, and replanting of trees.

The speaker commented that the housing stock was built within a rural setting, however the local environment plans had not been implemented.

The speaker asked for clarification on this.

The speaker spoke against the skatepark and asked for the funding to be allocated appropriately.

The speaker commented that anti-social behaviour is occurring on a regular basis, with litter being left in public areas. The issues had been reported to the appropriate authorities. There is a local resident that regularly litter picks, however more help is needed.

The Clerk is to contact the FoDDC and the speaker and provide an update to the questions.

1. To note apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted for Councillors Mr R Beard and Mrs K Selwyn.

2. Declarations and Interest on items on the agenda

Councillor Mrs C Howley declared an interest in the following Planning application:

P0281/22/GPDE 28 West View Newent GL18 1TE

Councillor Mrs J Gooch declared an interest (Other) in Item 10 Solar Farms Planning Applications in Newent.

Councillor Mrs G Moseley declared an interest in the following Planning applications:

P0497/22/TOA Tan House, 33 Culver Street, Newent

P0383/22/FUL Burnside Cottage Bouldson Newent GL18 1JH

3. To sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 11th April 2022

A Recorded Vote was called for on the Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 11th April 2022.

In Favour: Councillors Mrs C Howley, Mrs M Duffield, Mrs R Wadley, Mrs S Marcovecchio, Mrs K Draper Mrs Birkan and Mrs G Moseley.

Against: Councillor Mrs J Gooch

Abstain: Councillor Mr A Ralph

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

(a) Invoices due for Payment 31.03.22

A councillor asked if Ermin Plant was in relation to the lake/reeds work undertaken around the lake?

The Clerk to provide the information to council.

Name	Item	Amount Due £
Ermin Plant	Timberwolf Woodchipper	264.96
	6 tonne swivel dumper waste	393.98
	Midi Excavator: Bucket: H&S sign	725.18
	Total	1384.12

KJS Accounts Ltd	March Training ; Policy; EMR; Year End	1032.50
Land & Water Plant Ltd	Amphibious Reed Cutter	3732.00
LWP Blandford & Son	Hedge Trim; tractor; driver; path	150.00
National Association of Local Councils (NALC)	Eventbrite NALC Training	38.93
G D Parker & Co	Office Equipment (Toilet Brushes: Office keys; washers plasterboard fixings	24.96
Safpro Industrial Supply Company	Safety Boots & Waterproof Items	177.53
Streetmaster (South Wales) Ltd	Cemetery Bench for Resident	1015.08
Total		7555.12

The Council by majority decision approved the accounts to be paid to a value of £7,555.12

(b) Invoices due for Payment 01.04.22-14.04.22

A councillor asked whether Zurich insurance had increased?
The Clerk will provide the information to councillors.

A councillor asked about the subscription to South West Council and what they offered to Newent Town Council?
The Clerk to provide the information to councillors.

A councillor asked about the payment to GAPTC?
The Clerk clarified that the payment was for registration for the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA).

Date of Invoice	Payee	Description	Total
01.04.22	BT	CCTV Waterwells Business Centre; Yearly Charge: 01.04.22-31.03.23	£1,224.00
01.04.22	Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management	Corporate Subscription- Yearly Charge; 01.04.22-31.03.23	£95.00
01.04.22	Npower-Electricity	CCTV Various locations 01.01.22-31.01.22	£24.10
01.04.22	Npower-Electricity	CCTV Various locations 01.02.22-28.02.22	£21.19
03.04.22	GMT Solutions	Bronze Monthly Support Package; Microsoft 365 Software Upgrade; Server Backup; Circleloop Phone system	£135.12
05.04.22	Green Farm Seeds	Greenspace Lawn Grass Mix	£75.00
05.04.22	Npower-Electricity	CCTV Various locations 01.03.22-31.03.22	£22.58

07.04.22	Newent Community School	Meeting Room Bookings: 14.02.22/28.02.22/14.03.22/28.03.22	£161.00
10.04.22	Peninsula	Business Safe Service Agreement	£22.28
11.04.22	Newent Initiative Trust	Buses4Us -Community Transport Trial Bus Replacement	£520.00
12.04.22	Zurich Insurance	Zurich Annual Premium	£4,514.30
12.04.22	Forest of Dean District Council	Welcome Back Fund -Refund to FoDDC as overpaid	233.70
13/04/2022	South West Councils	Annual Subscription to South West Councils 01.04.22- 31.03.23	£558.00
14/04/2022	Forest Products Ltd	Timber for Memorial Tree	£35.51
14.04.22	GAPTC	Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) Registration	£395.00
14.04.22	Makinson & Co Accountants	Payroll April 2022	£72.00
Total			£8,108.78

The Council by majority decision approved the accounts to be paid to a value of £8,108.78.

5.2 To note the RFO Report

Date	Payee	Description	Method	Total
05.04.22	BT	CCTV Line from Library 01.02.22- 31.03.22	DD	£48.90
06.04.22	All Star	Card Fee	DD	£1.80
07.04.22	Spoton	Website Subscription	DD	£54.00
07.04.22	Screwfix	Trunking; Locks; Letterbox; office fixtures	DD	£160.86
08.04.22	Office Depot	Photocopying paper;A4 note Pads; Stamps	DD	£44.20
08.04.22	Lloyds Bank	Service Charges 10.02.22- 09.03.22	DD	£15.50
13.04.22	Allstar	Fuel Charges DS66FDV	DD	£100.87
Total				£426.13

As of	Funds available to Council	
19.04.22	Earmarked reserves Balance	£139,351.26
19.04.22	Business Account Balance (ending 1229)	£107,396.63
19.04.22	Business Account Balance (ending 1008) account used for payments	£13,715.25
	Total in Lloyds Bank accounts available to Council	£260,463.14

The RFO Report was noted.

6. Council Meeting Venue

6.1 To agree a venue for Council Meetings for Monday 9th May 2022 onwards, subject to venue availability

Councillors discussed acoustics, access, and venues of possible venues for use.

A councillor proposed an amendment to the proposal as follows:

To agree to the Clerk identifying a suitable venue for Council Meetings for Monday 9th May 2022 onwards, subject to venue availability, and ensuring that it is Equality Act (2010) compliant. This includes the Clerk reporting to council, through a group email with cost and venues that are compliant and making recommendations.

The council by majority decision agreed the amendment.

The Council by majority decision agreed to the Clerk identifying a suitable venue for Council Meetings for Monday 9th May 2022 onwards, subject to venue availability, and ensuring that it is Equality Act (2010) compliant. This includes the Clerk reporting to council, through a group email with cost and venues that are compliant and making recommendations.

6.2 To agree to the Clerk booking alternative venues, subject to the primary venue being unavailable.

The Council unanimously agreed to the Clerk booking alternative venues, subject to the primary venue being unavailable.

7. Casual Vacancy Newent North-East

7.1 To agree to pay the Forest of Dean District Council, up to £3,500.00 for Poll Cards for the vacant Casual Vacancy for the North-East Ward, from the Elections budget

The Council by majority decision agreed to pay the Forest of Dean District Council, up to £3,500.00 for Poll Cards for the vacant Casual Vacancy for the North-East Ward, from the Elections budget.

8. Estates Supervisor's Report

8.1 To note the Estate Supervisor's Work Report

The Estates Supervisor's Report was noted.

9. Ukrainian Support Group

9.1 To agree to Councillor Mrs Christine Howley being a member of the Ukraine Support Group, for Newent and District, on behalf of the Council

A councillor mentioned that they had received information from the district regarding Ukrainian resettlement within the Gloucestershire area.

The Clerk will distribute the information to council.

The Council unanimously agreed to Councillor Mrs Christine Howley being a member of the Ukraine Support Group, for Newent and District, on behalf of the Council.

10. Solar Farms Planning Applications in Newent

10.1 To agree that a letter is to be sent on behalf of Newent Town Council, by the Chairman, to senior officers and councillors of the Local Planning Authority regarding solar farm planning applications

A councillor commented that she had not been invited to a meeting that was held on 13th April 2022 regarding solar farms. She was not invited at District nor Town Council level.

The councillor commented that if a letter is to be sent it should be from the Clerk and not Chairman.

Councillor Mrs J Gooch left the meeting.

A councillor commented that the meeting held on 13th April 2022 was an informal meeting with adjacent parish councils, called at the request of another parish council chair.

The letter is to enable the Planning Authority to understand the cumulative impact of applications when considering each individual application for solar farms.

The letter is not to declare the council's stance on solar farms, however a process is needed for the Planning Authority to consider solar farm applications, as it applies to the overall landscape, it was commented.

The Clerk to circulate the draft letter to councillors for comment prior to submission to the Planning Authority.

The Council unanimously agreed that a letter is to be sent on behalf of Newent Town Council, by the Clerk, to senior officers and councillors of the Local Planning Authority regarding solar farm planning applications.

Councillor Mrs G Moseley left the meeting.

Councillor Mrs J Gooch returned to the meeting.

11. Planning

11.1 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 25th April 2022.

1. P0497/22/TOA Tan House, 33 Culver Street, Newent
Cypress hedge in car park at rear of building – reduce height by 50% (approximately 2.5 metres)

The Council by majority decision agreed to “No objection, subject to the work being carried out outside of nesting season”.

2. P0383/22/FUL Burnside Cottage Bouldson Newent GL18 1JH
Erection of a single storey rear extension with associated works

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

Councillor Mrs G Moseley returned to the meeting.

3. P0308/22/LD2 21 Manor Road Newent GL18 1TH
Application under section 192 to establish whether the erection of a single storey rear extension requires planning permission

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

Councillor Mrs C Howley left the meeting.

4. P0281/22/GPDE 28 West View Newent GL18 1TE
Erection of a single storey rear extension (general permitted development extension)

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

Councillor Mrs C Howley returned to the meeting.

11. 2 To note Planning decisions

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

CONSENT

1. P1711/21/FUL Unit rear of 32 Ford House Road, The Scarr, Newent
Erection of proposed building and change of use of land from horticultural to B2 (general industry).
2. P0267/22/TPO Land adjacent 8 Meek Road, Newent
T20 Oak – crown reduce height and spread by up to 2 m (20%)
3. P0239/22/FUL 249 Foley Road, Newent
Proposed side/rear extension with associated works
4. P0237/22/FUL Cherry Tree Cottage Botloes Green Newent GL18 1DW
Erection of single storey side extension and single storey front extension with associated works
5. P1711/21/FUL Unit Rear 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)

REFUSED

1. P1961/21/FUL Land at Eastnor House, Botloes Green, Newent GL18
1DW
Proposed development of a single dwellinghouse and associated
garaging and parking (REVISED SCHEME)

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.17pm