



**Minutes of the Newent Town Council meeting held on Monday  
26<sup>th</sup> June 2023, Room G4, Newent Community School, Newent, 7.45 pm**

**Councillors Present:**

Cllr G Moseley  
Cllr J Escritt  
Cllr J Gooch  
Cllr S Hulbert (Chairman)  
Cllr E Wood  
Cllr A Hedley after Agenda Item 2&3.

**Also Present:**

Mrs Irena Litton, Mr N Sapsed and Miss C Reynolds (Officers of the Council)  
5 Members of the Public

**PUBLIC TIME**

A Member of the Public wanted to raise the following points:

- To thank the Council for publishing the meeting papers on their website.
- Requested that the Council tidy up the minutes on the website, there are nine sets going back to 2019 that still show the word draft.
- Requested that the Council ensure the leaflet reflects the current retail position.
- Requested that the Council publish the terms of reference for the Committees and update the Councillors details to reflect what Committees they are on.

**1. To note apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Kay Selwyn.

*The Chairman changed the order of business to ensure that Declarations of Interest were taken prior the co-options.*

**2. Co-option**

Refer also to Agenda Item 3 – Declarations of Interest.

The Chairman confirmed that there have been several candidates that have put themselves forward for co-option, and upon completion of this agenda item, the successful candidates will be able to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and join the meeting.

The Council considered the co-option of:

- a. Mrs Clare Stone

The Council was inquorate; therefore, the consideration of this Co-option has been deferred.

b. Mr Joshua Robertson

The Council agreed to co-opt Mr Joshua Robertson onto the Council.

c. Mr Alan Hedley

The Council agreed to co-opt Mr Alan Hedley onto the Council.

The Clerk witnessed the signing of the acceptance of office and Cllr Hedley joined the meeting.

### **3. Declarations of Interest on items on the agenda.**

Cllr Juli Escritt declared an interest in Agenda Item 2 for the co-option of Mrs Clare Stone and left the room.

Cllr Julia Gooch declared an interest in Agenda Item 2 for co-option of Mrs Clare Stone and left the meeting room.

### **4. To approve the Minutes of the Council held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

The Council resolved that the minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

### **5. Clerk's update and matters arising from previous Minutes.**

The Clerk sent the Members a report prior to the meeting.

<https://www.newenttowncouncil.org.uk/webedit/uploaded-files/All%20Files/Agendas%20%26%20Minutes/2023%20Meeting%20papers/Papers%20June%202023/Clerks%20Report%20for%20Newent%20Town%20Council%20Meeting%2026%20June%202023.pdf>

### **6. Chairman's Report**

“As the new chair to Newent Town Council I wanted to take this great opportunity to share what we have done and what we hope to do.

As with all new things there is often change, on this occasion there has been many changes all at once. As a council Newent said goodbye to the previous town clerk at the end of April, we also had an election on the 4th of May, which saw 6, all incredibly experienced, councillors not stand for re-election. However, 4 experienced councillors did stand for re-election and myself and one other stood as new candidates. As a current council of 6 with a new town clerk we have found ourselves in an exciting position, with fresh eyes, and renewed enthusiasm.

As a new council we have already strongly objected to a large development on the outskirts of Newent town itself and have requested a meeting with the town planner and strategic planner to ensure we have knowledge of how we strategically object in the future.

The Newent Recreation Ground Trust have continued with the project of the community pavilion on the recreation ground, the build has been incredibly fast paced, and the trust wish to thank the architects and builders for the smooth running of the project, the trust are now looking to set up a user or bookings group to set up the future calendar of the community pavilion. If you or a group you know might be Interested in using the pavilion once completed please contact the Newent town council office.

I have also attended a walk around the Haygrove Ell brook community gardens project. This wild meadow has the potential to be a wonderful addition to our community, for groups to enjoy and I encourage you to follow their progress on fb.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of June we also invited representatives from the Newent branch of the British legion and retired group captain Anny Reid to attend our armed forces flag raising in the town. It was only a small event but the first of its kind for our town for a few years and one we hope to add to our calendar in the future.

We had planned in a few weeks' time to welcome the Coldcroft Shires to an event at the lake, this was the planned final stop after their three shires adventure, sadly the adventure has now been cancelled due to an accident, and we wish Jamie, Millie, and everyone involved a speedy recovery.

Our estates team have recently managed to secure in place two more of the ornate wood carvings around the lake, which are a lovely asset to that area. The flower displays in the town have also had a seasonal refresh, the colour scheme, decided earlier in the year, of red white and blue is very fitting in the year of the kings coronation. The plants were also chosen carefully to withstand our increasingly dry summers. I wish to say a huge thank you to the hard working estates team, who often don't get the credit they deserve.

We hope very soon to have more new councillors which will allow us to continue with the committees, enabling us to build on the previous councils great foundations. We hope that through our committees we can welcome more of the community to work with the council, through working groups, using the great knowledge our community have and utilising individuals expertise and passion. We hope together we can build on some of the projects the previous council gifted us and initiate our own.

I hope to share more plans with you all as time goes on."

## **7. Finance**

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

A list of payments was sent to the Members prior to the meeting.

The Council approved the accounts as per the payment list for June 2023.

**b. To note the RFO Report**

The Council noted the RFO Report, which included a bank reconciliation and budget vs spend report as at the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023.

**c. To note the Internal Auditors Report for the F/Y ending 31 March 2023**

The Council noted the Internal Auditors report, the AGAR is published on the Council's website.

[https://www.newenttowncouncil.org.uk/\\_webedit/uploaded-files/All%20Files/Agendas%20%26%20Minutes/2023%20Meeting%20papers/Papers%20June%202023/AIAR%202022-23%20completed.pdf](https://www.newenttowncouncil.org.uk/_webedit/uploaded-files/All%20Files/Agendas%20%26%20Minutes/2023%20Meeting%20papers/Papers%20June%202023/AIAR%202022-23%20completed.pdf)

**d. To adopt the accounts for the F/Y ending 31 March 2023**

The Council adopted the accounts for Financial Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

[https://www.newenttowncouncil.org.uk/\\_webedit/uploaded-files/All%20Files/Agendas%20%26%20Minutes/2023%20Meeting%20papers/Papers%20June%202023/Item%207d%20Statutory%20Income%20and%20Expenditure%20Account%20for%20Year%20Ended%2031st%20March%202023%20%281%29.pdf](https://www.newenttowncouncil.org.uk/_webedit/uploaded-files/All%20Files/Agendas%20%26%20Minutes/2023%20Meeting%20papers/Papers%20June%202023/Item%207d%20Statutory%20Income%20and%20Expenditure%20Account%20for%20Year%20Ended%2031st%20March%202023%20%281%29.pdf)

**e. To approve the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statement for the F/Y ending 31 March 2023**

[https://www.newenttowncouncil.org.uk/\\_webedit/uploaded-files/All%20Files/Agendas%20%26%20Minutes/2023%20Meeting%20papers/Papers%20June%202023/Item%207%20Annual%20Governance%20Statement%20FY%20ending%2031st%200March%202023.pdf](https://www.newenttowncouncil.org.uk/_webedit/uploaded-files/All%20Files/Agendas%20%26%20Minutes/2023%20Meeting%20papers/Papers%20June%202023/Item%207%20Annual%20Governance%20Statement%20FY%20ending%2031st%200March%202023.pdf)

i. The Council approved the Annual Governance Statement for the Financial Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

ii. The Council approved the Annual Accounting Statement for the Financial Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

**f. To note the dates of the Exercise of Public Rights (19<sup>th</sup> June until - 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023).**

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The Council noted the dates for the Exercise of Public Rights.

**g. To approve a quotation to undertake Inspection of 291 trees**

The Council approved the quotation of £2565, for Treework Environmental Practice.

**h. To approve an investment of up to £175,000 in The Public Sector Deposit Fund**

The Council approved an investment of £175,000 in The Public Sector Deposit Fund.

**i. To approve the appointment of Makinson & Co to assist with the Accounts**

The Council approved the appointment of Makinson & Co to assist with the Accounts subject to ensuring that there is an opportunity to break off the contract if felt necessary.

**j. To consider and agree to a quotation to appoint Mr Ian Crowe FFA to assist with the formation of a Business Plan and Budget for the new community building on the Recreation Ground**

The Council agreed to the quotation of £500 to appoint Mr Ian Crowe FFA to formulate a Business Plan and Budget for the new Community Building on the Recreation Ground.

**8. Town Centre Markets**

To approve to Re-establish the Green Tops Town Market on the third Saturday of each Month.

The Council approved to re-establish the Green Tops Town Market on the third Saturday of each month.

**9. Town Promotion and Marketing.**

a. To approve the update and printing of Newent marketing materials

The Council approved the update and printing of Newent marketing materials, for the 6-month option.

b. To approve the distribution of updated marketing materials through Glide Media.

The Council agreed the distribution of updated marketing materials through Glide Media.

**10. Committee Membership**

a) To re-evaluate and re-appoint Membership on the Finance and Staffing Committee, and to re-appoint the Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman following the Co-option process

The Council agreed to appoint the following to the Finance and Staffing Committee:

The Council agreed to the appoint Cllr Gooch as Chairman and reconfirmed Cllr Edward Wood as Vice Chairman. The Council also agreed that the Members remain unchanged: Cllrs Escritt, Selwyn and Moseley.

b) To re-evaluate and re-appoint Members to serve on the Planning & Environment Committee, and to re-appoint the Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman following the Co-option process

The Council agreed to re-appoint Cllr Gill Moseley as Chairman and Cllr Kay Selwyn as Vice Chairman of the Planning & Environment Committee. The Council further reaffirmed that the Committee Members are made up of all the Town Councillors.

c) To agree to appoint Members, Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman to the Regeneration Committee following the Co-option process

The Council agreed to defer this agenda item.

## **11. Nominations on other Bodies**

The appoint Members onto the following bodies:

a) Parish & Town Council Association	(1 Member)
b) Newent United Charity – appointee	(1 Member)
c) Freedom Leisure Joint User Group	(2 Members)
d) Newent Allotment Association	(2 Members)
e) Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum	(2 Members)
f) Newent Initiative Trust	(3 Members)
g) Newent Doctors /Patient Discussion Group	(1 Member)
h) Forest of Dean Health Forum	(1 Member)
i) Forest Youth Association	(1 Member)
j) Forest Economic Partnership	(1 Member)
k) Dolphin Club Committee	(1 Member)
l) Forest Executive Committee	(1 Member)
m) Flood Association	(1 Member)
n) FODDC Climate Adaption & Resilience Project	(1 Member)

The Council agreed to appoint Cllr Moseley to the FODDC Climate Adaption & Resilience Project and also appoint Cllr Escritt as a substitute representative.

The Council agreed to appoint Cllr Escritt to the Newent Neighbourhood Flood Association.

The Council agreed to defer appointments to other bodies (a – l) until further candidates have been co-opted.

## **12. Date of Next Meeting: 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Signed:.....

Dated .....