



**MINUTES OF THE NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 23rd October 2023, room G4, NEWENT COMMUNITY SCHOOL, NEWENT,
7.25 pm**

Councillors Present:

Cllr Sara Hulbert (Chairman)
Cllr Juli Escritt
Cllr Julia Gooch
Cllr Trevor Beckwith
Cllr Kay Selwyn
Cllr Eddie Wood
Cllr Gill Moseley
Cllr Samuel Letchford
Cllr Alan Hedley

Also Present:

Town Clerk and Twelve members of the public

PUBLIC TIME

A resident of Blenheim Drive made a statement regarding the play area at Blenheim Drive In Newent, in Favour of turning it into a green amenity space with shrubbery for all residents to enjoy

A second resident of Blenheim Drive made a statement regarding the play area at Blenheim Drive in favour of the play area being redeveloped with new equipment for Children to enjoy

A third member of the public and resident of Blenheim Drive spoke further regarding the the play area and was also in favour of revamping the play area for future generation to enjoy

1. Two note apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Joshua Robertson and Cllr Linda Morris.

2. Declarations of interest on items on the agenda.

The following councillor's made a declaration of interest on the following items on the agenda.

Cllr Gill Moseley declared an interest on item 8 on the agenda

3. To approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 9th October 2023

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

4. Clerks Report

The Clerks report was noted

5. Finance

6.1 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 August 2023

6. To discuss and agree to move The Council CCTV system from the Library to the Fire Station and agree any further expenditure.

The Council agreed to move the CCTV system from the library to the fire station and agreed the extra annual cost of £561.50

7. To consider the proposal from Robert Hitchins regarding the regeneration and adoption of the play area at Blenheim Drive Newent.

The council by unanimous decision agreed to explore options available regarding Adopting the Play area and carryout a consultation with local residents

Cllr Gill Moseley left the meeting at this juncture

8. Allotments

8.1 to approve allotment fees for the season 1st November 2024 – 31st October 2025

The Council by unanimous decision approved the revised allotment fees and early payment discounts for the season 1st November 2024 to 31st October 2025.

- £57 per full plot (an increase of £3 on 2023/2024 fee)
- £29 per half plot (an increase of £2 on 2023/2024 fee)
- £15 per quarter plot (an increase of £1 on 2023/2024 fee)

Cllr Gill Moseley returned to the meeting

9. To elect the Vice Chairman (Deputy Mayor) of the Council and to receive the Vice Chairman (Deputy Mayor) Declaration of Acceptance of Office

The Council unanimously agreed to appoint Cllr Eddie Wood as its Vice Chairman, He duly signed the acceptance of office

10. Nominations to Committees

10.1 To review and appoint Members to serve on Planning and Environment Committee and to review and appoint the committee Chairman and Vice Chairman

The Council agreed that the serving Committee members remain the same and to defer this item until the policies are reviewed early 2024

10.2 To review and appoint Members to serve on Finance and Staffing Committee and To review and appoint the committee Chairman and vice chairman.

The Council agreed to leave the Vice Chair role vacant following the appointment of Cllr Eddie Wood to vice chairman of the Council and to defer the other membership to a future meeting

10.3 To review and appoint Members to serve on Christmas Light Committee and to Review and appoint the committee Chairman and Vice Chairman

The Council agreed that the serving Committee remain the same and that Cllr Samuel Letchford be elected as Vice chair to the Christmas lights Committee

11. To Discuss and agree the terms of reference for the Regeneration Working

The Council agreed the terms of reference subject to the following amendments

Original text; 10.2 Dealing with all asset matters inc Allotments; Cemetery Lodge, Cemetery, Market House, opens Spaces, Arboretum, Newent Lake and Office Accommodation Chapel Mortuary, Library Car Park, this list is not exclusive.

Amended text; To make recommendations to full Council regarding all asset matters inc Allotments; Cemetery Lodge, Cemetery, Market House, opens Spaces, Arboretum, Newent Lake and Office Accommodation Chapel Mortuary, Library Car Park, this list is not exclusive.

Original text; 10.5 To liaise with the Recreation Ground trust committee to enable local provision to be supported, maintained, and developed, accordingly.

Amended text; 10.5 To liaise with the Recreation Ground trust committee and make recommendations to Full Council to enable local provision to be supported, maintained, and developed, accordingly.

Original text; 10.8. The Chair of the working group, together with the Chairman Chairman of the Council, shall have the delegated authority to cancel any event held on Council Open Space/land due to inclement weather, ground conditions, health and safety or concerns identified and raised by Officers within Newent Town Council.

Amended text: 10.8 The Chair of the working group, or the Chairman/Vice chairman of the Council, together with the Town Clerk shall have the delegated authority to cancel any event held on Council Open Space/land due to inclement weather, ground conditions, health and safety or concerns identified and raised by Officers within Newent Town Council.

Original text: 10.13 To co-ordinate and promote the Council's community events programme and consider the provision of community events of the widest possible appeal and accessibility, organised by the Council or in partnership with other organisations, and to establish an annual programme of such events.

Amended text; 10.13 To co-ordinate and promote the Council's community events programme and consider the provision of community events of the widest possible appeal and accessibility, organised by the Council or in partnership with other organisations, and to establish an annual programme of such events and create sub committees as required.

12. Estate Supervisor Work Report.

12.1 To note the Estate Supervisors Work report

The Estates Supervisors Work Report was noted

12.2 To approve expenditure of no more than £200 from budget heading 340-4810 rec ground play area maintenance. To repair the surfaces in the recreation ground play area.

The Council by unanimous decision approved the expenditure of no more than £200 from budget heading 340-4810 rec ground play area maintenance. To repair the surfaces in the recreation ground play area.

12.3 To agree the expenditure of £80 Per calendar month for pest control at the old council yard for 2 months. From budget heading 300-4605.

The Council Approved the expenditure of £80 Per calendar month for pest control at the Old Council yard for 2 months. From budget heading 300-4605.

12.4 To approve donation of a memorial bench at Newent lake.

The Council approved the donation of a memorial bench at the lake in line with the memorial bench policy

13. To Approve and agree to the planting of 3 x containers with sustainable plants to provide year-round colour and interest and agree any expenditure.

The Council agreed to the planting of 3 x containers with sustainable plants to provide year-round colour and interest and approved the expenditure of no more than £150 already donated for planting within the town

14. Date of Next Meeting:

13th November 2023 at 7:30 PM or soonest after the previous meeting. To be held at G4, Newent Community School, Newent.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.47 pm.

Signed:..... Dated