



**MINUTES OF THE NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023, room G4, NEWENT COMMUNITY SCHOOL, NEWENT,  
7.25 pm**

**Councillors Present:**

Cllr Sara Hulbert (Chairman)  
Cllr Juli Escritt  
Cllr Julia Gooch  
Cllr Alan Hedley  
Cllr Eddie Wood

**Also Present:**

Town Clerk and 11 Members of the Public.

Prior to the start of the meeting the Chair asked that all present observed a minutes silence in respect for the recently departed Bill Offord. Who had done so much for the community during his long service to Newent Town Council as a Councillor, Mayor, and a valued member of the Community.

**PUBLIC TIME**

**1. Two note apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Gill Mosley and Cllr Joshua Robertson, Cllr Kay Selwyn.

**2. Declarations of interest on items on the agenda.**

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

Cllr Sara Hulbert, Cllr Juli Escritt, declared an interest on item 9.7 Grant Applications.

**3. To approve the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2023.**

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

**4. To consider and approve Co-option applications for the five vacancies**

4.1 To agree the co-option of Linda Morris onto Newent Town Council.

The Council by unanimous decision agreed to the Co-option of Linda Morris onto Newent Town Council.

4.2 To agree the co-option of Clare Stone onto Newent Town Council.

The proposition to agree the co-option of Clare stone did not receive a seconder, so the item was not carried

4.3 To agree the Co-option of Samual Letchford onto Newent Town Council.

The Council by unanimous decision agreed to the co-option of Samual Letchford onto Newent Town Council.

The Clerk witnessed the signing of the acceptance of office for Cllr Linda Morris and Cllr Samual Letchford and they joined the meeting.

**5. To discuss and approve the options available to fund Newent Recreation Ground Trusts identified deficit and a contingency to enable the New community Building To be completed.**

The Council by unanimous decision agreed for The Clerk to seek the approval from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to receive a loan of £100,000 over the borrowing term of up to 20 years, to enable the completion of the new Community building following the identified financial shortfall. The proposed interest rate being a maximum of 3.5% of which includes all administration fees, with no premature repayment fee. The annual loan repayments will come to circa £7000.00. anticipating an annual precept increase of circa 2%. and to further place a consultation advertisement to engage with the community in the local New Add free paper and publish the consultation forms on the Councils website and social media platforms. To seek the views of the local residents on this borrowing.

**6. 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.

**7. Council Meetings. To Consider and agree increasing the frequency of council Meetings from once a month to twice monthly, in line with the Planning and Environment Committee meetings.**

The Council approved to increase the frequency of council meetings for a trial period of six months, from once a month to twice Monthly, in line with the Planning and Environment Committee meetings.

**8. To approve the appointment of Andrea Pellegram LTD for the purposes of planning support.**

The Council agreed to the appointment of Andrea Pellegram Ltd for the purpose of Planning Support, and approved the expenditure of up to £2250 + Vat. to come from reserves.

**9. Grant Applications**

9.1 To Consider and decide on the grant application submitted by 186 (Newent) Squadron RAF Air Cadets, for £1,550.00

By unanimous decision the council agreed to award an amount of £1200.00 to 186 Squadron RAF Air Cadets by way of grant funding, from budget heading 4860 section 137 donations.

9.2 To Consider and decide on the grant application submitted by Great Western Air Ambulance Charity, for £300.00

By unanimous decision the council agreed to award an amount of £300.00 to Great western Air Ambulance by way of grant funding, from budget heading 4860 section 137 donations.

9.3 To Consider and decide on the grant application submitted by Newent & District Business Group (NBG), for £2,000.00 - £6,000.00

By unanimous decision the Council agreed to not award the grant in this instance but Will consider the points raised in the application when the budget for 2024-2025 is set.

9.4 To Consider and decide on the grant application submitted by Newent and District Men's Shed, for £599.98

By unanimous decision the council agreed to award an amount of £599.98 to Newent and District Men's shed by way of grant funding, from budget heading 4860 section 137 donations.

9.5 To Consider and decide on the grant application submitted by Newent in Bloom, for £320.00

The council agreed to not award the grant on this occasion.

9.6 To consider and decide on the grant application submitted by Newent Initiative Trust, for £10,000.00

By unanimous decision the Council agreed to award an amount of £10,000.00 Newent Initiative Trust by way of Grant funding, from budget heading 4860 section 137 donations.

Cllr Sara Hulbert and Cllr Juli Escritt left the room at this juncture, by Unanimous decision Cllr Eddie Wood was appointed to Chair the meeting for the duration of the next item.

9.7 To Consider and decide on the grant application submitted by Newent Neighbourhood Flood Association, for £550.00

By Unanimous decision the Council agreed to award an amount of £550.00 to Newent Neighbourhood flood association by way of grant funding, from budget heading 4860 Section 137 donations.

Cllr Sara Hulbert and Cllr Juli Escritt returned to the meeting, and Cllr Kay Selwyn joined the meeting.

9.8 To Consider and decide on the grant application submitted by The Recycling Shop CIC, for £2500.00

The council agreed to not award the grant on this occasion.

Cllr Juli Escritt left the meeting at this juncture.

**10. To approve permission for the Newent Onion Fayre Committee to use the Arboretum as the main venue for a weekend music event in September 2024**

By unanimous decision the Council approved permission for the Newent Onion Fayre Committee to use the Arboretum as the main venue for a weekend music event in September 2024.

Cllr Juli Escritt returned to the meeting.

**11. To agree forming a working group to review documents and provide costed business plans for the Cemetery Lodge**

By unanimous decision the Council approved to set up a working group to review Documents and provide a business plan for the cemetery lodge, consisting of Cllr Julia Gooch, Cllr Alan Hedley, Cllr Joshua Robertson and Cllr Samuel Letchford and in the future consider to co-opt members of the public onto the Working Group.

**12. To review and approve the Neighbourhood Development Steering Group Terms of Reference**

The Council reviewed the Neighbourhood Development Steering Group Terms of Reference and agreed by unanimous decision to approve the Terms of Reference with the following amendments,

Remove; *the maximum of six Councillor's.*

Add; *the Committee Quorum is a minimum of four Councillors*

**13. To agree Newent Town Council's participation in Anti-Bullying week 2023**

By unanimous decision the Council approved to sign the pledge and promote making a noise and wearing odd socks through their website and social media accounts from Monday 13th November to 17th November.

**14. To note the Estate Supervisor's Work Report**

The Estate Supervisor's Work Report was noted, and members wished to thank the staff for all their efforts.

<https://www.newenttowncouncil.org.uk/webedit/uploaded-files/All%20Files/Agendas%20%26%20Minutes/2023%20Meeting%20papers/Papers%20Sept%202023/Item%2014%20Estate%20Supervisor%27s%20Work%20Report%20Sept%2023.pdf>

**14. Date of Next Meeting:**

9<sup>th</sup> October 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 9.08 pm.

Signed:.....

Dated .....