

NEWENT RECREATION GROUND TRUST

(Charity Number 301585)

Minutes of the Newent Recreation Ground Trust meeting on Monday 8th November 2021

Present: Mrs Howley, Mrs Duffield, Mr Ralph, Mrs Gooch, Mr Heathfield, Mrs S Marcovecchio, Mrs Draper, Mr Beard and Mrs Selwyn.

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1. To elect a Chairman for the meeting

Mrs Howley was unanimously elected to Chair the meeting.

2. To accept apologies for absence

Mrs Moseley and Mrs Birkan

3. Declarations of Interest on items on the agenda

Mrs Gooch declared an interest in agenda item 5.1

4. To approve Minutes of the virtual meeting held on Wednesday 28th April 2021 at 5.00 pm

The Trustees agreed by majority decision that the Minutes were a true and accurate summary of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

The Chair, in agreement with the Trustees, reordered the Agenda items.

6. Update on new Community and Recreation Facility.

The Trustees discussed that S106 funding is still being sought towards the building of the community centre, as there is between a £65,000 and £70,000 shortfall in funding.

A Trustee commented that he believes approximately £225,000 had already been drawn down by Newent Town Council for planning the build and that material costs have already increased.

There have been three submitted bids from potential builder/developers, based on the proposals to build the community centre.

A Trustee commented that the buildings on the Recreation Ground are in Newent Town Council's name and on their Asset Register for £1.00.

The Trustee commented that the children's play area and playing fields are assets to the Trust and that he Trustees may want Newent Town Council to have them as assets, away and separate from the Trust.

It was also commented that the Recreation Trust is not VAT registered for 20%, so this will add to building costs.

A Trustee commented that there was approximately £244,000 left in the S106 funding for the community centre building project and that approximately £11,100 had been drawn down from the previous financial figures received from Newent Town Council.

The Trustees raise that clarification is needed from Newent Town Council as to:

- I. Who owns the grounds and playing area?
- II. If the land belongs to the Trust?
- III. If the building belongs to the Trust or Council.

A Trustee commented that in previous years Grant fund activities had occurred, prior to the football club ceasing operating. However, it is unclear as to what has occurred since.

A Trustee commented that there was a 'Peppercorn' rent being paid by the Rugby Club but was certain of the full circumstances.

A Trustee commented that following advice, the Recreation Trust has to Minute that they would like the building to be transferred to the Town Council for it to be VAT free. The Council had previously drawn down funds to refurbish the building, changing room and showers. The Town Council also has a budget for maintenance and repairs.

A Trustee commented that there was a Working Group and that questions were raised regarding the working of the Trust, to help and provide advice.

Solicitors were to be consulted, but it is unclear if this action was undertaken. It was commented that if the Trust could commence the building work, that would be helpful, as well as funding from Sport England.

Trustees discussed the process of retaining local builders to undertake the work.

It was highlighted to the Trustees that any work or payments would have to go through due process and have appropriate processes in place.

A Trustee asked if they could ask the Town Council to take on the delivery of the building work.

A Trustee proposed the following:

1. That the Trustees ask the Trust Secretary to find out the relationship between the Trust and Town Council.
2. That the Trustees ask the Town Council to find out what can be done to help and assist them with the community build project.

The Trustees unanimously agreed the proposals.
(Mrs Gooch left the meeting)

5. To consider a request from Newent Rugby Club to site a Temporary Catering Container at the Recreational Ground

5.1 Newent Rugby Club request permission to have a Temporary Catering container at the Recreational Ground.

The Trustees unanimously agreed permission to have a Temporary Catering container at the Recreational Ground, subject to it being open when there are Newent Rugby Club training and playing times and it is limited to 11 months on site.

7. Any other urgent business

The Trust Secretary commented that the Charity Commission Annual Return has been sent through for completion.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm