

vision; he considered the system to be of outstanding value. Cllr Wellington agreed, adding that the quotation from Redland had been the lowest for Wotton and half of the most expensive quotation they received. The fixing of the cameras to the buildings was minimal as were the running costs. The system had been installed for three years with only one camera failure in that time. Cllr Lawton added that the Company who had installed the system had access to it in terms of its location and maintenance at all times from their own location and could adjust the cameras if for instance they became mis-aligned – perhaps by a contractor working on a building on which they were situated. There is also the ability of the Police at another location to use the facility of the internet to look at the images the cameras produce as well.

Cllr Lawton added that given the system was wireless it was very easy to install additional cameras as and when funds permitted. This was very difficult to do under the existing system given the very expensive infrastructure that was needed to facilitate this. He stated that within the quotation received from Redland was the ability to install two cameras within the dome currently on Barclays Bank which could “look” in both directions, currently the existing camera, whilst a pan, tilt and zoom type, could only “look” in one direction. All the cameras take pictures only when there is movement and shut down when quiet.

Cllr Lawton said that the Members who had attended Wotton liked the system and had very favourable positive comments about it. Cllr Lawton asked Members if they were happy to proceed and reiterated the breakdown of costs involved. He reminded Members that he needed to give the District Council a decision by 31 August as to whether the Town Council wished to have CCTV in Newent, the current system having been paid for until the end of September. If the Town Council wished to go ahead, the District Council could begin decommissioning their present system with a view to the new system being up and running by the end of September. The Council’s contractor could decommission the system for which there would be a cost and Cllr Lawton advised the District Council had confirmed they would meet this.

Cllr Parsons proposed that the Town Council accept the quotation from Redland and proceed with the new system. This was seconded by Cllr Wellington and a vote was taken resulting in 10 in favour, 1 against.

6.1.4 Any Other Business

The Clerk advised that the Police meeting at Highnam scheduled in September had been postponed until 12 October. Cllrs Lawton and Wellington advised they would be attending – the Clerk reminded them that questions to be put to the Police were required to be submitted by 31 August.

This concluded the business of the meeting and it was declared close 8.55 pm.

estimated to be £250K. The new building will be in use during the day and evening and will be multifunctional. They have identified there are Section 106 monies available and they are shortly to have a meeting with Gloucestershire County Council who will give details of this and what is available to draw down. In addition there are Section 106 monies available from the Forest of Dean District Council which they will be pursuing.

They are looking at combining the Youth and Chill Out Zone so there will be funding available from the Chill Out building. The Town Council may wish to take a more central position – a conservative view of the sale of its current office could be £200K. There is a short-fall of approx £300K which is achievable. There are a number of site options ie the existing site, the site around the Library and also the Paddock in the ownership of the Town Council. Cllr Mrs Duncan suggested an ideal location would be the site of the existing Memorial Hall – a focal point in the town, however Cllr Beard advised that the Memorial Hall Committee did not wish to move from that site and in addition, the car parking availability was limited. Cllr Beard added that they had identified this site but it was not a deliverable site at the present time. Cllr Parsons asked if the rooms in the new Centre would be adequate for all the users – ie Army Cadets, Air Cadets etc to which Cllr Beard confirmed would be the case and the at the space available will not be dis-similar to that existing. Cllr Mrs Bevan asked if the public could rent a room at the Centre at commercial rates, which again Cllr Beard confirmed would be the case. Cllr Wellington asked how it would be financed – Cllr Beard replied that the User groups will pay for the use of the building which will cover the running costs.

Members briefly discussed the options possibly available to site a new Community Centre. Cllr Blick suggested that any new Centre should include for a new Council Chamber and Council Offices. It was further suggested that if the Health Centre could find a way to relocate to the already earmarked site of the Paddock, their existing site in Watery Lane could be a further option.

Cllr Lawton formally asked Members if they were in favour of having a new Community Centre to which there was a unanimous response in favour. He then asked if Members wished the Town Council to be part of this process to which again there was a unanimous response in favour.

Cllr Beard advised that he would come back to the Council at a future meeting with preliminary drawings and further details on this project as matters progressed.

6.1.3 CCTV progress

Cllr Lawton advised that he together with Cllrs Wellington, Pilkington and Clissold had visited Wotton-under-Edge Town Council that afternoon to look at a CCTV system that had been installed by the Company whom Newent had favoured to install a system in the town centre. Cllr Lawton advised that the system they saw was fully operational and was shown how it worked and they also had the opportunity to look at the cameras which were considerably smaller than the cameras presently installed in Newent. The other Members had been impressed by what they saw – Cllr Pilkington believed the picture quality of the cameras to be of excellent quality, in colour and with night time

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Newent Town Council held on Monday 8 August 2011 at the Market House, Newent at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr L Lawton (Mayor), Cllr S Barker, Cllr R Beard, Cllr Mrs J Bevan, Cllr D Blick, Cllr J Celino, Cllr J Clissold, Cllr Mrs M Duncan, Cllr A Parsons, Cllr R Pilkington, Cllr B Wellington

Apologies: Cllr E Wood, Cllr Mrs K Draper

6.00 Chairman's Announcements

The Mayor reminded Members of the Town Walkabout scheduled for the following evening.

6.1. Business

6.1.1 Planning applications – see attached

Cllrs Beard and Parsons declared interests in planning application DF642 P1064/11/OUT Land at Sheppard Way, Onslow Road and refrained from voting on this matter.

6.1.2 To give consideration to Town Council involvement in future planning re Newent Community Centre

Discussion took place regarding the planning and development of the town's Community Centre for the future benefit of the town including the possible involvement of the Town Council.

Cllr Beard thanked Cllrs Pilkington, Blick and Mrs Bevan for their involvement to date. He explained the Community Centre currently has 15 user groups and 450 people walking through its doors each week. A Focus Group was recently set up to run the Centre following the retraction of the County Council's involvement. The Focus Group is made up from representatives from Newent Initiative Trust, Newent Town Council, Civic Society, Round Table and the Users, and in the last few days Dr Drewett from the Health Centre. He explained the building had been very costly to run and to maintain by the County Council. However, a focal point was needed for the users groups and the Newent Initiative Trust therefore signed a short term lease with the County Council for a six month period. Newent Initiative Trust intends to look to taking on a longer term lease for 5 years – this is currently in hand and being looked at by their legal people. It was envisaged to be a 5 year project, however the monies available from Gloucestershire County Council ie 50% of the sale of that site, is only available to this project for the duration of the current Council – ie approx two and a half years. It has therefore shortened the timing but Cllr Beard said he was confident that this would not be a major problem to them and that they would achieve all that was needed within that timescale. He said he hoped the Town Council would get involved – it was a real community project and was important for the town. The best cost is approx one and a quarter million to build – 1000 sq metres, land cost