

which mean there are more Police that the area has ever seen before, however the Council still had an opportunity to remind the Police there is still a need for a Police Station in Newent.

5.7.8 Any Other Business

1. Mulching

Cllr Blick advised that on inspection of the mulching recently undertaken at the Lake, that it was his view it was a disgrace and urged Members to go to see it. He urged consideration be given to the installation of a path and requested the matter be put to the next meeting of the Recreation & Environment Committee.

2. The Clerk advised that judging of the Allotments for the Best Kept Allotment Competition needed to be undertaken. It was agreed that Cllrs Wood, Mrs Bevan and Mrs Draper would undertake the judging this year.

3. The Clerk advised that she had received a letter from the District Council advising there was a Town and Council representative vacancy on their Standards Committee. The Clerk advised the Standards Committee meet four times a year on an informal basis. Sub-Committees meet more regularly to assess complaints as and when they are received. Training is provided for all members of the Committee on a regular basis.

There were no volunteers to sit on this Committee

Cllr Lawton proposed that the following item of business be heard in Committee under Standing Order 66:-

5.7.9 CCTV

This concluded the business of the meeting and it was declared closed at 9.45 pm.

Planning applications received from the Forest of Dean District Council for consideration by Newent Town Council at its meeting on Monday 11 July 2011.

1. DF1958 P1140/11/LBC Beeches Two Ltd, Whittington Hall, Whittington Rd Worcester
20 Broad Street Newent – proposed entrance gates to 18-20 Broad Street, Newent

Comment No Objection

2. DF14470 P1225/11/FUL Mr F Hamer, Pretoria, Gloucester Rd, Upleadon
Land adjacent to 48 Orchard Road, The Scarr, Newent
300 solar panels and alterations/extensions to existing store

Comment No Objection

Cllr Pilkington expressed his concern that work had not been carried out fully to the area beneath the Market House. He said he believed that each of the flagstones would be lifted and re-laid and any broken ones replaced but this had not happened. The Clerk advised that this had been taken up with Peter Street, Project Manager with Newent Initiative Trust and who had overseen this matter, and he had said the broken slabs were to be replaced by the Lighting Engineer – these slabs having been damaged when the new floor lighting had been installed. Members believed this did not address the matter in question and queried why all of the slabs had not be re-laid as originally intended. It was agreed to take this matter up with the Highways Dept. Cllr Lawton said he was also unhappy about the lighting installation and was still waiting for the Lighting Manager to contact him. The Clerk to chase this matter and request a site meeting.

The issue of parking in the area was addressed. Cllr Lawton advised that once the improvements had been completed it was envisaged the parking spaces currently reserved for taxi-parking would revert to general parking given that parking specifically for taxis was no longer required.

5.7.7 Travellers – Southend Lane update

Cllr Lawton advised that Officers from the District Council would be attending the Travellers' site in Southend Lane the following day to ascertain if the work required to be undertaken from the latest appeal decision had in fact been carried out. This included all fencing now to be open rail and the vast majority of the lighting disconnected and removed, the current drainage system was also not acceptable. Cllr Lawton advised that if the conditions imposed had been complied with the temporary consent granted to stay at the site until 31 January 2012 would remain in place.

5.7.7 Representative Reports

Representative reports were received from

Cllr Barker - Cliffords Mesne Village Hall Committee

Cllr Lawton – Policing of District

Cllr Lawton advised he had attended a meeting of the four towns to discuss policing of the district. He advised the Police were happy with the arrangement of briefing their Officers in Cinderford and they have stipulated in writing that their PCSO's in particular will not be using public transport between Cinderford and Newent. However, it was understood that Stage Coach had offered them free travel on their network system. Cllr Lawton said he was unhappy that they didn't have any IT locally, which was an obvious disadvantage to everyone and he would personally be reminding the Police about this. He added that currently there are across the District 10 Senior Officers, 55 established Officers including Sergeants, and 17 PCSO's all of

Cllr Beard advised that the Newent Initiative Trust and its partner organisations recently signed a short term lease for six months for the continued running of the Community Centre. Within that timescale they will be putting in place a long term lease which will run until the re-development of the site which will lead to a new Community Centre. They have recently had a meeting with the Asset Manager of Gloucestershire County Council and also the Manager of Property Services. He is looking to get the best return on the asset disposal but is also looking to make sure that Newent gets the best deal it can from this. All the current users are safe – they will continue to use the Centre in the same way as before. Cllr Beard asked Members to give consideration as to whether it wanted to join forces with them and to look to the future with regard its involvement and possible relocation of Offices to the new Centre.

Cllr Pilkington agreed that the Council should focus on the future in this regard and make up its mind with regard whether it wanted to continue with its plan to relocate to the former Cemetery Chapel, particularly now that considerable monies were going to have to be spent on the roof of the building and a justifiable use needed to be made of the building or whether it wished to look at possibly becoming part of the new Community Centre.

Cllr Mrs Duncan pointed out that whilst she accepted no firm plans had been made to re-build on the present Community Centre site, she believed this was a possible choice and questioned how this fitted in with the significant development that had and was taking place at the eastern end of the town beyond the by-pass and which was at the further point away from this site?

Cllr Beard confirmed that no decision had indeed be made as to the location of the new Centre and there were various sites in and around that the town that may be suitable. This was something that needed to be looked at further and with the assistance of public consultation.

It was agreed that the Council would look at this matter in more detail with a view to forming a strategy on the way forward at the Planning meeting in August.

Cllr Beard went on to ask the Council if it was its wish that the Newent Initiative Trust continue as in previous years to organise the Christmas lights switch on event. Members unanimously agreed to request that it did so.

5.7.6 Town Council Wish List – Cllr Lawton

It was established that only two Members had forwarded their wish list items to the Clerk. Cllr Beard pointed out that there was already two wish lists in existence. It was agreed that these would be amalgamated to form one official list – to be done by the end of this week.

5.7.6 Town Centre Improvements

5.7.1 Planning applications – see attached

The Clerk advised that she had received a letter from Linden Homes with regard to proposals to redevelop land off Onslow Road Newent. Advise they are now seeking to engage local residents and elected representatives as part of its work in progressing these proposals and ahead of the submission of a formal planning application. Advise a public exhibition has been arranged on Tuesday 19 July 2011 at the George Hotel between 3.00 pm and 7.00 pm. There will also be a special stakeholder preview session between 2.00 pm. and 3.00 pm.

Cllr Lawton reminded Members that it was the Council's policy not to comment on such development until the formal planning application to which it related, came before the Council. He advised however, that Members as individuals and not representing the Council were of course, at liberty to attend the exhibition.

5.7.2 Town Council vacancy

Cllr Lawton advised that three applications had now been received in writing to fill the Town Council vacancy. Two of the applicants had offered their apologies that they were not able to attend the meeting that evening. The third applicant was present at the meeting and Members were invited to ask questions of him which they duly did. Cllr Lawton explained the voting process to Members and that there needed to be an overall majority to co-opt the successful member. The voting process resulted in 2 votes in favour of Mr Stonyer, 8 votes in favour of Mr Clissold and 2 votes in favour of Mr Price. Mr Clissold was duly co-opted.

5.7.3 To give consideration to public question time at Council meetings – Cllr Lawton

Cllr Lawton asked Members if they wished to give further consideration to introducing a public question time at the beginning of Council meetings. Members considered the merits of this but felt that the agendas of Council meetings were already full and this procedure would lengthen the meetings further. It was also considered that it would be difficult to manage and that the current process of the public contacting the Council via written form worked very well and there was no need to alter procedures.

5.7.4 Live at the Lake – request to use Lake area – 31 July 2011

Request to utilise the Lake area for “Live at the Lake” on 31 July 2011 – a similar event to that undertaken last year. Members agreed to the event subject to the necessary paperwork and required procedures being put in place.

5.7.5 Newent Initiative Trust update

event of potential. Cllr Wood proposed acceptance of the quotation which was seconded by Cllr Blick and agreed by 11 votes in favour, 1 against.

P.49 Coleford Area MCTI Partnership – Stakeholders event – 7th July 2001

Cllr Mrs Bevan advised that unfortunately she had been unable to attend this meeting

5.4.2 Finance & General Purposes Committee

Approval of the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting of 27 June 2011 was proposed by Cllr Lawton and unanimously agreed.

5.5 Finance & Sundry Payments

Cllr Lawton declared in interest in a payment to Isis Services

Finance & Sundry Payments were unanimously agreed and considered lawful to a figure of £29,607.33

5.6 Correspondence

5.6.1 Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Councils – AGM 13 Oct 2011 Call for Resolutions

Cllr Blick put forward the proposed resolution that: “Gloucestershire County Council gives greater priority to the road maintenance programme in the County.” This was seconded by Cllr Parsons. Cllr Wood put forward an amendment that added to this “and also to maintenance of hedges and grass verges.” This was seconded and agreed by 11 votes in favour, 1 abstention. Cllr Blick agreed to attend the AGM to put the resolution in person.

5.6.2 Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Councils – nomination for election to County Committee

There were no volunteers for nomination for election to the County Committee.

5.6.3 Local Government Boundary Commission – Electoral Review of Gloucestershire Draft Recommendations

Members noted the information within the draft recommendations

5.7 Business

completed in September. Until they are confident that Stagecoach still wish for their bus service to stop in front of the Co-op, this phase will not be implemented. The Clerk further advised that Chris Townley from Gloucestershire County Council had advised that they were working on a detailed design based on a half lay-by. However the District Council were keen for them not to do any more work outside of the Co-op until the County Council has completed their bus review this Autumn which will also co-incide with a review of service by Herefordshire County Council which may have a knock-on effect for bus services in Newent.

5.3 Approval of Minutes of Council meeting (Planning) – 27 June 2011

Approval of the minutes of the Council meeting (Planning) 27 June 2011 was proposed by Cllr Lawton and unanimously agreed.

5.4 Committee Reports

5.4.1 Recreation & Environment Committee

Approval of the minutes of the Recreation & Environment Committee meeting of 27 June 2011 was proposed by Cllr Wood and unanimously agreed.

P.46 3.2.2 Transition Group - request to hold food stall beneath Market House

Following further communication from the Transition group it was agreed by 9 votes in favour, 3 abstentions to allow them to utilise the area beneath the Market House free of charge given their not for profit status.

P.48 3.3.2 Cemetery Chapel/mortuary

The Clerk advised following the Committee having taken a decision to seek quotations for the re-roofing of the building she had sought a quotation from Messrs Clarke Nichols to undertake a specification for the work. They have confirmed that their fee for providing a specification for re-roofing the Chapel would be £300.00 plus vat. They advised the quantities involved would have to be assessed by the tenderers from a site visit, it is therefore important for purposes of comparison that they provide a suitably detailed breakdown of their price. The extent of any damage to rafters and other roof timbers may not be apparent until the roof is stripped and so there should be a contingency sum. The tender should include a schedule of rates so that variations can be properly priced and this would be included within the specification.

Whilst some Members were not in favour of spending £300.00 on the drawing up of a detailed specification and suggested alternative persons who might be able to do this more cheaply or freely, it was agreed eventually that a detailed technical specification was required to be undertaken by a qualified person to ensure the work was carried out correctly and to protect the Council in the

Minutes of a meeting of Newent Town Council held on Monday 11 July 2011 at the Market House, Newent at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr L Lawton (Mayor), Cllr E Wood (Deputy Mayor), Cllr D Blick, Cllr R Pilkington, Cllr Mrs K Draper, Cllr R Beard, Cllr T Parsons, Cllr B Wellington, Cllr Mrs J Bevan, Cllr Mrs M Duncan, Cllr S Barker, Cllr J Celino

Apologies:- -

Also Present: District Cllr Mrs J Gooch

5.00 Mayor's Announcements

1. Cllr Lawton announced that he would be shortly be setting up a small group to assist with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations next year, and may also be seeking volunteers in this regard.
2. Regarding postponement of works at the Co-op bus stop, there is to be a meeting shortly with Mr Thomas of Stagecoach at which the Town Council will be invited to send a representative.
3. Cllr Lawton presented recently retired Cllr Bill Offord with a framed print of the town on behalf of Members of the Council and the community in recognition of his long standing and dedicated role as a Town Council member. Mr Offord expressed his appreciation to Members and thanked them for marking the occasion of his retirement from Office in this way.

5.1 Approval of Minutes of Council meeting – 13 June 2011

Approval of the minutes of the Council meeting of 13 June 2011 was proposed by Cllr Lawton and unanimously agreed after the following amendment:-

Insert: Present: Cllr Wood

5.2 Matters Arising

P.40 8.00 Newent Police Station.

The Clerk advised that she had written to the Police Authority expressing the Council's interest in the acquisition of the Station and requesting a valuation but had received no response. She had followed this up with a telephone call and had eventually been advised that the Police acknowledged the Town Council's interest but were not in a position to move forward with this matter immediately, but would be in touch when they were in a position to do so.

P.41 8.5 Town centre developments

The Clerk advised that Wendy Jackson from the District Council had advised the public realm improvements and bus stop installation outside the Co-op has been deferred for the time being. Stagecoach is currently reviewing all of their Gloucestershire and Herefordshire bus services and this exercise will be