



NEWPORT TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING

held on

Wednesday 13 December 2006

at

The Guildhall, High Street, Newport

PRESENT:

Cllrs: Glyn Gratton – Town Mayor
Janette Treagust – Deputy Town Mayor
David Adams
Irene Evans
John Evans
Brenda Flowers
George Franks
Glyn Holland
Adrian Meredith
Bob Unwin
Sally Wiggin

IN ATTENDANCE:

D. L. Halliday – Town Clerk
J. Parnham – Deputy Town Clerk / RFO

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllr Martyn Edwards via answer phone.

220/06-07 SUSPENSION OF MEETING

There being no members of the public wishing to raise issues the meeting continued without suspension.

221/06-07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Brenda Flowers declared an interest in the Newport Cottage Care Centre and took no part in discussions relating to the possible grant towards the purchase of a new minibus.

222/06-07 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. A list of the Town Mayor's engagements is **attached** at **Appendix 'A'**.
- b. The Town Clerk briefed members on the Guide Dogs for the Blind recycling bin.

- c. Thank you letters relating to the Switch-On of the Christmas Lights had been received from Mark Pritchard MP, Severn Hospice and the County Air Ambulance.

223/06-07 MINUTES

The Minutes of meetings held on 8 November 2006 and 22 November 2006 were approved as a true record. The Confidential Minutes were referred to in public session.

FINANCE

224/06-07 Finance Report

The Finance Report for November 2006, **attached** at **Appendix 'B'**, and the payments therein were approved / ratified.

225/06-07 External Audit 2005/06

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the **Certificate and Opinion of the External Auditor, relating to the Town Council's Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2006, as attached at Appendix 'C'**.

Members thanked Mrs Parnham for her excellent work as evinced by the lack of comments from the auditors.

226/06-07 2007/2008 Budget Report

Members considered the Budget Report detailed at **Appendix 'D'** and **RESOLVED:**

- a. **that the recommendations as detailed below be accepted:**

(1) Administration – Page 1/1a

- B/1/2006 a. (1) – LSN 13
- a. (2) – LSN 14
- a. (3) – LSN 18
- a. (4) – LSN 20

(2) The Guildhall – Page 2

- B/1/206 b. (1) – LSN 52

(3) Cemetery – Pages 4/1 and 4/1a

- B/1/2006 d. (1) – LSN 72
- d. (2) – LSN 81
- d. (3) – LSN 82
- d. (4) – LSN 92
- d. (5) – LSN 97

(4) Recreation & Amenities – Pages 4/2 and 4/2a

- B/1/2006 e. (1) – LSN 107

(5) Section 19 – Page 4/2b

- B/1/2006 f. (1) – LSN 153

(6) Public Toilets – Page 4/3

- B/1/2006 g. (1) – LSN 168
- g. (2) – LSN 171

(7) Civic Lighting – Page 4/4

- B/1/2006 h. (1) – LSN 179
- h. (2) – LSN 185

(8) Community Safety – Page 5

- B/1/2006 j. (1) – LSN 192
- j. (2) – LSN 196
- j. (3) – LSN 198 to increase to £7000 to include renumbering.

(9) Section 137 – Page 6

- B/1/2006 k. (1) – LSN 226
- k. (2) – LSN 228
- (3) – LSN 229

It was further **RESOLVED** to include at LSN 230 the sum of **£5000** towards the purchase of a new minibus for the Newport Cottage Care Centre.

- b. **That the recommendations in B/2/2006 in relation to Charges / Fees by the Council be accepted as detailed.** The Table of Fees for the Cemetery is included herein as Appendix 'E'.

- c. That the Finalised Budget Statement for 2007/08 be that detailed at Appendix 'F'.

227/06-07 Free Resource – Section 137

It was **RESOLVED** that in pursuance of the powers conferred by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the Town Council approves the payments detailed in page 6 of the 2006/07 Budget Statement Appendix 'F' and listed at:

LSN's	215 – 219
LSN's	223 – 230
LSN	233

being a total expenditure of £33450.

228/06-07 2007/2008 Expenditure

It was **RESOLVED** that a Precept requiring the Borough of Telford & Wrekin to pay £358115 to Newport Town Council to meet its 2007/08 expenditure be issued.

229/06-07 Thank You Letters

Letters of thanks for grants awarded have been received from:

Newport Music Club
Age Concern Newport

TOWN PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

230/06-07 Planning & Economic Development Committee Meeting – Minutes

Members noted the Minutes of a meeting held on 8 November 2006.

231/06-07 Borough of Telford & Wrekin Plans Board – Minutes

Members considered an Agenda Report and attachment from the Town Clerk, detailed at **Appendix 'G'** regarding a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) confirmed in respect of 12 individual trees and three groups of trees on land between Newport Cemetery and the A41. They concurred with concerns regarding the potential for the TPO's in respect of the poplars to be overturned. The concern regarding an objection by a developer was further compounded by receipt of a second TPO in respect of weeping willows on the Audley Avenue Playing Field site also **attached** at **Appendix 'G'** which it appears has been acquired by the Borough

Council. Enquires of two Newport Borough Councillors revealed that neither was aware of this nor the authority for it to occur. The Town Clerk was directed to seek through the Freedom of Information Act complete disclosure regarding the ownership of this site.

232/06-07 Borough of Telford & Wrekin Plans Board – Agenda

Members considered an Agenda Item to be examined at a meeting held on 13 December 2006 as detailed at **Appendix ‘H’**. They noted that the officer recommendation was now to approve the scheme as originally proposed even though this has now gone to appeal regarding non-determination. All attempts to enforce affordable housing units, despite the size of the proposal have now been withdrawn on legal advice.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION / NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (SALC / NALC)

233/06-07 Strong & Prosperous Communities – NALC Briefing

Members considered the NALC Briefing Notes on the latest Government proposals for Local Government, **attached at Appendix ‘J’** and registered concern about the removal of the local democracy engendered through the election of councillors who can direct policy, if replaced by directly elected mayor and town managers. They were unable to support an elected leader and cabinet for the full term of a Council, citing the removal of the Telford Borough Council leader as a result of the about turn on Car Parking Charges perhaps not being possible under this proposed option. Members indicated their intent to continue to monitor these proposals and register comments once final options are offered.

234/06-07 City Region Proposal

Members considered a letter from SALC concerning Telford’s Proposal to be included in the City Region, **attached at Appendix ‘K’**. They only saw merit in the proposal if it can be proved that the rural hinterland will also directly benefit.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT MATTERS

235/06-07 Visit to House of Commons

Members considered an invitation from Mark Pritchard MP to visit the House of Commons in New Year 2007, as detailed at **Appendix ‘L’**. Members keen to avail themselves of this invitation will notify the Town Clerk of available dates.

236/06-07 Green Apple Awards

Members noted a letter of congratulation to the Town Council regarding the Gold Award for the Newport Worm Farm **attached** at **Appendix 'M'**. The Town Clerk was directed to write to the Daily Mail in answer to a question posed by correspondents also detailed at **Appendix 'M'**.

237/06-07 Footways and Disabled Access

Members noted a reply sent to Mark Pritchard MP from the Leader of Telford & Wrekin Borough Council, **attached** at **Appendix 'N'**.

TELFORD & WREKIN BOROUGH COUNCIL (T&WBC) MATTERS

238/06-07 Mobile Telephone Masts

Members noted a response from the Leader of the Council, **attached** at **Appendix 'P'**.

239/06-07 Newport High Street Pavements

Following on from comments made by Cllr Meredith with regard to the Borough's intent to re-lay the High Street pavements, the Town Clerk took the opportunity, having received a letter from an Edgmond resident, to request information from the Leader of the Council as detailed at **Appendix 'Q'**. A full answer has been promised by 22 December 2006.

240/06-07 Traffic Management Capital Programme

Members considered an update on the Traffic Management Capital Programme and a request for other suggestions, detailed at **Appendix 'R'**.

They wished confirmation that signalisation is no longer an option for Stafford Street and directed the Town Clerk to raise this together with requests to extend the pavements along Chetwynd Road and consider installing a second pedestrian crossing point on Wellington Road by the Boughey Road / Granville Road junctions. Since the bus lay-by adjacent to the school is rarely used for this purpose, it may now be possible for this area to be used.

241/06-07 Scrutiny Review of Borough Council Street Lighting

Members considered an invitation to comment on the street lighting provided by the Borough Council as detailed at **Appendix 'S'**.

Members wished to see as much attention being paid to maintenance as replacement, particularly with regard to a monitorable process for reporting lighting faults.

242/06-07 Draft Service Level Agreement (SLA)

Members noted a draft SLA for use between the Borough Council's Human Resources Section and Parish Councils when advice is sought by parishes regarding human resource issues, **attached at Appendix 'T'**. At present they see little need to avail the Town Council of the SLA.

243/06-07 Parishes Forum Meeting

Members noted the Agenda for the meeting held on 11 December 2006, together with the Minutes of the previous meeting, **attached at Appendix 'U'**.

244/06-07 Newport & Edgmond – Proposed Parking Restrictions

Members noted a series of proposals to amend parking restrictions in the Newport area, held in the Council Offices and chose to make no comment.

RESOURCES & ADMINISTRATION

245/06-07 Standing Orders

Members noted legal advice from the Society of Local Council Clerks, published in the November 2006 newsletter, regarding the "six – month rule" **attached at Appendix 'V'**.

This confirms that there is no absolute time rule restricting a council from discussing or making decisions on any item a second time and its inclusion in Standing Orders is by the Council's choice under Paragraph 42 of the 12th Schedule of the Local Government Act 1972.

246/06-07 Birmingham Post Article

Members noted and welcomed the very favourable lead article on Newport, in the Property Section of the Birmingham Post, **attached at Appendix 'W'**.

247/06-07 Heart of England Magazine – Winter 2006

Members noted an article summarising the Heart of England in Bloom results which mentions Newport's results in Britain in Bloom, attached at **Appendix 'X'**.

248/06-07 Fieldwork – December 2006

Members noted receipt of the CPRE Newsletter.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

249/06-07 Trench Lock Interchange – Bicycle Use

Members noted a letter sent through the auspices of T&W Bug attached at **Appendix 'Y'**.

250/06-07 Rural Funding for Cycle Parking and Dropped Kerbs

Members noted details of the Rural Access to Services Programme relating to improved cycle parking and the provision of dropped kerbs, detailed at **Appendix 'Z'**.

LEISURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

251/06-07 Allotments Regeneration Initiative 2002 – 2006

Members noted receipt of the Report.

252/06-07 S&News – Autumn 2006

Members noted receipt of the newsletter.

253/06-07 The Journal – Winter 2006

Members noted receipt of the newsletter.

254/06-07 Shropshire Path Times – November 2006

Members noted receipt of the newsletter.

Signed

Dated