



Newport (Shropshire) Town Council



MINUTES OF A MEETING

held on
Wednesday 13 April 2005
at
The Guildhall, High Street, Newport

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

IN ATTENDANCE: D. L. Halliday – Town Clerk
Mrs Frances Harper –
Newport Regeneration Partnership

Members stood for a Minute's Silence in remembrance of the Reverend Rod Biddle who died on Sunday 3 April 2005.

294/04-05 SUSPENSION OF MEETING

There being no members of the public present, the meeting continued without suspension.

295/04-05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs. David Adams and Glyn Gratton declared an interest in the grant application for the Street Fayre, as members of the Chamber of Commerce and took no part in the discussion or vote.

Cllr George Franks declared an interest in the grant application for the Newport Juniors Cricket Club as a member of the fund-raising committee and took no part in the discussion or vote.

296/04-05 NEWPORT REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP

Members welcomed Mrs Frances Harper who provided an update on Partnership issues. As background she reminded members of the structural changes to the partnership expanding the membership base to 20 organisations together with 5 parish councils. The Partnership is guided by a Board of Directors and has 5 major working groups which are:

Town Centre Development Group
Victoria Park / Canal Group
Community Development Group
Tourism and Promotions Group
Business Development and Inward Investment Group

The latter group works closely with Harper Adams University College.

Mrs Harper confirmed that the town has missed out on the main funding programme through the Market Towns Initiative and would need to look to Advantage West Midlands funding only if partnership money can be raised.

The main priority remains the improvement of the High Street which includes development of brown field sites behind the High Street frontages. There may be money in the transport / highways budget from Telford & Wrekin Borough as a base for matched funding. Section 106 money may also help with improvements to Stafford Street.

Other schemes still in the pipeline, such as the improvements to Victoria Park are unlikely to attract grant funding under current criteria as Newport is regarded as "too well off". Likewise lottery funding is now almost impossible for large schemes.

The Partnership has updated the town leaflet and is intending to spread it further and wider. It is currently with the printers but should be ready for distribution during May 2005.

Members thanked Mrs Harper for her presentation. One point for consideration with regard to Victoria Park was the possible re-opening of the stream, currently culverted.

297/04-05 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. A list of the Town Mayor's engagements is **attached** at **Appendix 'A'**.

298/04-05 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2005 were approved as a true record.

FINANCE

299/04-05 Finance Report

The Finance Report for March 2005, **attached at Appendix 'B'** and the payments therein were approved / ratified.

300/04-05 Quarterly Revenue Budget Spend Report

Members noted the Report for the period to 28 February 2005 **attached at Appendix 'C'**.

301/04-05 Direct Debits 2005/06

Members **RESOLVED to approve payments by Direct Debit in 2005/06 as listed at Appendix 'D'**.

302/04-05 Thank You Letters

Members noted a Thank You Letter for a grant awarded to Crucial Crew 2005.

303/04-05 Grant Applications

Members considered applications as follows:

a. Section 137

It was RESOLVED to award a grant of £250.00 to provide street entertainment for the Newport Street Fayre to be held on 17 June 2005.

Members noted that a similar amount has been pledged by the Chamber of Commerce. This grant was judged to have a neutral impact under the Crime & Disorder Act.

b. Section 19

It was RESOLVED to award a grant of £250.00 to purchase match and practice balls for the 2005 Newport Junior Cricket Club season. This grant was judged to have a positive impact under the Crime & Disorder Act.

Members were pleased to note that similar sponsorship over the last 8 to 9 years has resulted in

the Junior Club playing nearly 500 matches.

c. Neighbourhood Watch Vehicle

Members considered a letter from Telford & Wrekin Borough Council **attached at Appendix 'E'**.

It was **RESOLVED to pledge £150.00 to assist with the purchase of the existing vehicle.**

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

304/04-05 The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004

Members considered whether or not to recover the actual costs of communicating information released to an applicant as indicated in Paras. 3.3 to 3.6 of the Regulations **attached at Appendix 'F'**.

It was **RESOLVED that the Town Clerk draws up a policy whereby any applicant is issued on receipt of an enquiry with a Fees Notice which includes:**

- a. postage -
fixed minimum up to 200 grams 2nd class £0.60**
- b. printing / photocopying –
fixed minimum @ 10p per sheet £0.50**
- c. initial response to applicant (postage / printing) £0.40**

A minimum charge of £1.50 must be paid by the applicant within a period of 3 months from issue of the Fees Notice before any information is supplied. There should be no exceptions to this policy.

TELFORD & WREKIN BOROUGH MATTERS

305/04-05 Walkabout – Wrekin

An information pamphlet on local walks was circulated to members.

306/04-05 Telford Town Centre

Members considered a letter from Oakengates Town Council **attached at Appendix 'G'**.

They agreed that the situation bears monitoring and would be more than happy to work with other parishes on matters of mutual benefit and interest as was demonstrated so well in the partnership with Wellington Town Council over the issue of Car

Parking Charges. The Town Clerk confirmed that contact with clerks of larger parishes had increased since the Car Parking saga seeking views on mutual issues, many of these parishes having Quality Status. Cllr Flowers requested that this be minuted together with the thanks of the Town Council for the Clerk's professional expertise.

RESOURCES & ADMINISTRATION

307/04-05 Trafalgar Weekend 21-23 October 2005

Members considered a letter regarding the commemorations of the bi-centenary of the Battle of Trafalgar **attached at Appendix 'H'**. Cllr Franks confirmed that both the Royal Naval Association and the Cottage Care Centre had planned events for the weekend. Members thanked him for this information.

308/04-05 Civic Sunday

Members considered the format of Civic Sunday on 12 June 2005 in the light of the death of Reverend Rod Biddle. It was **RESOLVED that Civic Sunday proceeds as normal and that the Church Service be used in part as a celebration of Rod's life.**

COMMUNITY SAFETY

309/04-05 Testing Times – Spring / Summer 2005

Members noted the Newsletter of the West Midlands National Probation Service.

LEISURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

310/04-05 Leisure & Environmental Services Committee Meeting – Minutes

Members noted the Minutes of a meeting held on 23 March 2005 **attached at Appendix 'J'**.

311/04-05 Christmas Lights Column Display

Members considered the recommendation of the committee at **L&ES/46/04-05** and **RESOLVED to purchase 2 "Evening Star" Displays form balances at a cost of £650.00, including brackets.**

312/04-05 Heart of England in Bloom (HEIB)

Cllr Glyn Gratton reported that it is the continued aim of the HEIB committee to improve Newport twelve months of the year as an ongoing project.

Over the winter months the committee ably aided by teams of volunteers including school children had planted 30 sacks of daffodil bulbs at some twelve locations around the town.

Harper Adams students had planted 1000 fritillary bulbs alongside the canal behind Broomfield which should form a perennial summer display. A native species hedge has been planted at the bottom of Cheney Hill in two sessions by pupils from Newport Junior School and Burton Borough School. Trees have also been planted.

Last week 27 volunteers together with the Committee and representatives from Shropshire Wild Life Trust planted a 200 m stretch of the Newport by-pass with wildlife plugs.

The colours for 2005 are pink, white, silver, purple, grey and lilac.

A Basket for Businesses scheme has been started and the Committee is on the point of ordering a new water bowser.

With regard to finance, the Committee is very grateful to the Town Council for their grant assistance. A personal donation of £100 has been made by a resident and over £1000 has been raised from the sale of tea towels etc.

The Committee is attending the Spring Seminar in Hereford on 15 April 2005 and the Guildhall window currently is exhibiting a display on the HEIB initiative.

Cllr Gratton finished with profuse thanks to the Committee and all agencies and volunteers who have given their assistance.

313/04-05 CPRE Annual Report – Spring 2005

Members noted receipt of the report.

314/04-05 Salopian Recorder – Spring 2005

Members noted receipt of the newsletter.

315/04-05 Fieldwork – March 2005

Members noted receipt of the newsletter.

316/04-05 Parish Pump News – Spring 2005

Members noted receipt of the newsletter.

TOWN PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

317/04-05 Planning & Economic Development Committee Meeting – Minutes

Members noted the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2005.

Signed

Dated