

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

HELD ON 4th March 2019

AT 7.00 p.m. in St. Nicholas Church Parish Rooms, New Street, Newport.

PRESENT:

TOWN COUNCILLORS in Attendance:

Peter Scott -Town Mayor, Lyn Fowler, Phil Norton, Graham Foster, Tony Forrester, Tim Nelson, Tom King, Eric Carter, Thomas Janke.

And 52 Members of the Public

In Attendance: Sheila Atkinson – Town Clerk

Sophie Alford – Council Officer

Darcie McGinn – Council Officer

Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC) Representatives:

Dianne Dorrell-County Secretary, Gail Power-Deputy County Secretary/RFO

Executive Members: David Bentall and Eric Carter

1/18-19 TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

The Town Mayor, Cllr Peter Scott welcomed all attendees and advised of the format for the meeting. The Mayor then provided an overview of Town Council services and projects extract below:

“Newport Town Council is responsible for a range of services. We deal with footway lighting but not street lighting, the public toilets in the Stafford Street car park, the Allotments on Boughey Road and Meadow view road and the town centre CCTV. We are the first point of consultation for planning applications and we manage the cemetery where within the cemetery extension we now have a memorial wall and scattering area. We arrange for the Christmas Lighting display and their grand switch on event every year and we maintain and plant a number of areas throughout the town, including St Nicholas Churchyard.

In addition, the Council gives grants. These grants, among many other things, are helping to keep the library open in town, support Newport in Bloom’s wonderful floral decorations who won Gold in 2018 and will be competing the National Britain in Bloom Awards this year. We also support an outreach service for the Citizens Advice bureau.

Newport Town Council became Sole Trustees of the Hub Community Building (home to the Youth Café) in January this year. Our work to make the canal area more of a visitor attraction is moving forward and as such have allocated funding for ongoing enhancements. Newport Town Council secured a grant from TWC (Telford

@ 50) which also financially supported by this Town Council. Works to the Guildhall to include external painting, restoration of windows doors and flooring.

A new roof has been installed on the Scout Hut and extensive renovations are planned for the Hub. The Town Council have purchased and are utilising 2 x mobile SIDS in the Town, and the data collected has proven a reduction in speeding in the Town.

1663 Smart Water have been supplied to Newport Residents and if you have not received yours yet, then they are available to be collected tonight. The 630 footway lights in the Town have now been upgraded to LED resulting in future cost saving. I'd like to thank you again for attending this evening, it's very important to all of us on the council to hear from you.

I would like to thank you all for your support during my term as Mayor it has been a privilege to serve"

2/18-19 Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

PC Lee Thomas from West Mercia Constabulary provide a presentation and description on the history, value and changes of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and the current drive to enhance wider development of community involvement in the scheme, utilising modern technology, local vigilance and IT platforms. The Police & Crime Commissioner is providing funding to support the initiative. Information Sheets with IT links to register and get involved were available. PC Thomas also explained the **Community Speed Watch scheme** which provides volunteers with training and use of mobile speed indicator devices, in perceived local speeding problem locations.

3/18-19 Public Session

All residents stated their names and full address as electors of Newport.

NAME <i>Address provided</i>	Comments
<i>Mrs Ann Rhodes submitted questions prior to the meeting extending her apologies as unable to attend meeting. NTC will provide a written response.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canal Tow Path, in certain parts is in need of maintenance and upgrade to allow for easier access of pushchairs and wheelchairs.• Concerns on the adequacy of the sewage treatment works, and the ability to cope with the vast number of new housing developments in the Town.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What provision is in place for the long-term protection of the Veteran Oak tree situated on the Beechfields Estate? The Tree is iconic and a very valuable amenity to the land scape and the vista to the Canal.
Mr Lawrence Bennett	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Bennett expressed that the Council had for many years implied that the High Street, was of vital importance and was to be protected. What mitigation is there to allay his concerns that new retail park, on Audley Avenue, (even though it is in the wards of Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote parish). Will not detract custom from Newport Town centre to the detriment of the High Street businesses.
Mrs Carol Scott	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Scott welcomed the new development, and believed it was necessary to keep Newport in the 21st century, the High Street was changing to include more take-away outlets and becoming somewhat of a café culture. Also bucking the trend by having a high occupancy of business, which is attracting nationwide business such as Specsavers.
Mrs Eva Allan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Allan commented that if residents cared about Newport Town Centre and the High Street, they should use it or risk losing it.
Ms Wendy Hesbrook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Hesbrook asked the councils corporate position on an inactive councillor. A ward member that was elected at the cost of £4000 to serve the electorate. Ms Hesbrook expressed her disappointment that as her Cllr he has failed to attend a majority of council meeting, and failed to response to any of her communications.
Mrs Daphne Rogers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On behalf Newport in Bloom, she would like thank Newport's residents for the countless support to help win Gold in Britain in Bloom 2018. Newport being in the top 70 towns across the 3000 in the UK that were judged.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They would like ideas, and need the help of how to encourage the community to get behind their entry in this year's competition – it is a "Big Task" and the judges will need to be "wowed" This year's higher national level competition not only looks at the floral displays, but how the Town celebrates its Heritage and attracts Tourism. Beautiful photos past and present of Newport would be gratefully received. • A plea was made for the Town Cllrs, local businesses, residents, schools and community groups to get more involved and support in preparations for this year Heart of England in Bloom competition. There is a facebook page and fund-raising events are held at various times throughout the year, volunteers are always required and most welcomed.
Graham Foster – Chairmen of Newport Carnival Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This year's Carnival Theme is Past, Present and Future. Mr Foster offered an opportunity for the Carnival Committee to join forces with Newport in Bloom and to invite local business to design window displays with the theme in mind.
Mrs Eva Allan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a former volunteer on the Newport in Bloom team she was aware of the hard work which goes into the competition and suggested that the Road and Street name signs across Newport to be washed and/or painted.
Mr Ken Jones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questioned who had paid for the substantial publication 50 Years of Telford. He was reassured that the publication had been created by the Shropshire Star with funding from advertising.
Ms Alex Asha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Asha would like to see more provision for older teenagers, younger residents and Harper Adam students. A community hub which could accommodate diversity and would enhance the town and help the town economy.

Mrs Irene Evans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed with Ms Asha, the youth club in Newport is vital and should be invested in and very important that it is maintained.
Mr Bill Deason	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questioned the frequency of emptying the litter bins and who was responsible. He would like to see extra litter bins in various location including outside Adams Grammar School and at the junction Forton Road. A formal request will be forwarded to the Town Council.

4/18-19 Special Recognition Award 2019

The Town Mayor provided a précis of the nominated person, outlining her achievements, long-term commitment, dedication and involvement with local young people to the Town, being a great supporter and participant of the Town Council providing attendance with children of our community at official proceeding, civic events and parades each year.

Lesley Green - Received the Newport Town Council Special Recognition Award:


Girl Guiding Commissioner
Newport Junior School Secretary
Leader, NJS Choir
Lay preacher at St Andrews Church, Church Aston

The Town Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting
The proceeding ended at approximately 8.35 pm.



QUICK GUIDE

Setting up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

1. Register as a member on www.WestMerciaNW.org.uk or www.ourwatch.org.uk choose which organisations you are happy to receive messages from via email.
2. Register your scheme on the website, drawing the outline of your scheme on the map.
3. Register with the West Mercia Police CMS (community messaging system) to receive email messages on your selected area and topic, on the police website <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/cms>
4. Speak to your neighbours or leave a letter asking them to join the scheme. (*details overleaf*)
5. Contact West Mercia Neighbourhood Watch to:
 - a. Get your scheme flagged as recognised by NHW.
 - b. Request window stickers. (*availability permitting*)
 - c. Request street signs. (*availability permitting*)
6. Follow your local Official Neighbourhood Watch Facebook Page.
7. *Optionally* setup a local  group, or similar messaging system to keep in touch with your scheme members.

If you need any help email: enquiries@westmercianw.org.uk