

NORTH PETHERTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held at North Petherton Bowling Club on Tuesday 19th May 2015 at 7:30PM

Present. Cllr A Bradford Chairman
Councillors. Cllr. J Hesketh, Cllr Mrs M Denham, Cllr W Revans, Cllr D Parry,
Cllr Mrs H Phillips, Cllr R Ives, Cllr J Taylor, and Cllr J Barham
In Attendance. Mr. R Latham (Town Clerk), Mrs A Hodges and three members of
the public

61/2015 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr P Knight.

62/2015 **Quorum**

It was confirmed that the meeting was quorate

63/2015 **Election of Mayor**

Cllr A Bradford was re-elected as Mayor for the ensuing year, and duly signed the declaration of acceptance. He thanked the council for their continuing faith in him and for their support over the previous twelve months and congratulated those that had been re-elected at the recent poll and welcomed Cllrs Barham and Ives to their first meeting

64/2015 **Election of Deputy Mayor**

Cllr J Taylor was elected as Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

65/2015 **Mrs A Hodges**

Mrs Hodges said a few words to mark her retirement as Deputy Mayor and as a Member of the Council. She had served on the Council since the 1980's and had held all the various offices and appointments in that time, with the exception of Mayor, which she had had always refused to be nominated for.

The Mayor and other Members thanked her for all her hard work over the years and for the knowledge, skill and expertise that she had brought to the Council, which would be greatly missed.

Resolved; that Mrs Hodges be thanked for her service to the Council and Town of North Petherton and be wished all the best for the future.

66/2015 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

67/2015 **Co-option of New Members.**

Following the recent elections there were four vacancies on the Council, one each for the Hamp Bridge and North Newton wards and two for North Petherton.

Resolved: a) that Mr Phillip Spencer and Mr Gareth Jones be co-opted to the Council to represent the North Petherton ward, and

b) that a decision with regard to the other vacancies be deferred until the June meeting.

68/2015 **Appointments to Committees.**

Resolved: that the following appointments be made for the ensuing year:

Allotment Advisory Committee: Chairman Cllr P Knight, members Cllr J Barham and Cllr J Hesketh.

Cemetery Advisory Committee: Chairman Cllr P Spencer, members Cllr J Taylor, Cllr G Jones and Cllr R Ives

Personnel Committee: Chairman the Deputy Mayor, Cllr J Taylor, members Cllr W Revans and Cllr Mrs M Denham

Finance and General Purposes Committee: Chairman Cllr P Spencer, members Cllr W Revans, Cllr D Parry and Cllr Mrs H Phillips.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor were ex officio members of all committees with the exception of the Personnel Committee.

69/2015 **Appointments to Outside Bodies**

Resolved: that the following appointments to outside bodies be made:

SALC Cllr Mrs H Phillips and Cllr M Denham

Moorland Village Hall Cllr J Taylor

North Petherton Twinning Association Cllr D Parry and Cllr M Denham

Community Centre Cllr J Hesketh

North Newton Playing Fields Cllr A Bradford

North Petherton Youth Centre Cllr W Revans

Quantock Hills Joint Advisory Committee Cllr J Taylor (Cllr G Jones – deputy)

Wroth Charity/Cheeke and Stodgell Education Foundation Cllr W Revans and Cllr P Spencer

70/2015 **Parish Path Liaison Officer**

Resolved; that the Clerk write to former councillor D Edwards to see if he would continue to act for the Council in this capacity. Cllr R Ives agreed to shadow Mr Edwards for a few months to learn what was involved.

71/2015 **Community Time.** No matters were raised.

72/2015 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Resolved: that minutes of the meeting held on 14th April 2015 be approved and signed as a correct record.

73/2015 **Matters Arising**

Cllr Mrs Phillips informed the meeting that she had attended the District Council Development Committee to represent the Council's views in accordance with Minute 52/2015

The Clerk reported that he was awaiting a response with regard to the barriers on Champion Way, Min 60/2015.

There was further discussion about the ownership of, and responsibility for, the Kingscliffe amenity area, and Cllr Revans informed Members that he was pursuing his enquiries.

74/2015 **Mayor's Report**

The Mayor reported that he attended Somerset Day at Taunton Museum, the 10th anniversary of Connect and the North Newton May Fair. He also informed Members that he (and Cllr Revans) had been elected to serve on Sedgemoor DC, and that, as he would be a member of the Development Committee, he would not be taking part in discussions on planning applications at the Council's Planning Meetings.

Mrs Hodges reported that she had deputised for the Mayor at the Bridgwater Town Mayor Making ceremony.

75/2015 **Planning Applications.**

Resolved: that the Clerk's report on applications determined for the area be received and that Cllr Mrs M Denham be authorised to represent the Council's views at the forthcoming Development Committee.

The Clerk was also asked to write to the district council about problems being caused by lorries parking in Showground Road, and ask them to liaise with the Highways Authority and the Traffic Commissioners in order to resolve them.

76/2015 **Items for Payment**

Resolved: that the following payments be authorised

Sedgemoor D C	£195.00
Sedgemoor DC	£400.00
SALC	£1,110.54
A Sutton	£184.00
Parrett IDB	£7.52
Greenslades	£844.31
GWB Services	£50.00
GWB Services	£922.25
Viking	£260.75
Wessex Water	£122.66

77/2015 **Authorised Signatories**

Resolved: that Cllr A Bradford and Cllr J Hesketh be added to the list of authorised bank signatories to replace Mrs Hodges and Mr Goodland, who were no longer councillors. Cllr Revans reported that he was still trying to establish the County Council's plans for the Town Library and Cllr Spencer said that he hoped to hold a meeting of the F & GP Committee on 21st July 2015 to review the Council's longer term financial plans.

78/2015 **Accounts**

Resolved: that the Annual Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2015, as presented by the Council's Responsible Finance Officer in Section 1 of the Annual Return, be approved.

The Clerk informed members that the auditor's appointed day for the 2015 Accounts was 22nd June 2015'

79/2015 **Governance Statement**

Members carefully reviewed the Council's governance arrangements with specific reference to the questions posed in Section 2 of the Annual Return.

Resolved: that the Annual governance statement 2014/15 be approved.

80/2015 **Huntworth Rail Bridge**

Cllr Taylor updated Members on the latest developments following his meeting with the various players. It was hoped that it would be possible for local people to make use of a private road whilst the works were in progress, which was expected to last for 3 months. He undertook to keep the Council informed of developments.

81/2015 **Cemetery**

Members considered a request to place a memorial seat in the Cemetery.

Resolved: that permission be granted subject to the Clerk and Cllr Spencer, as Chairman of the Advisory Committee, being happy with the design.

Cllr Spencer agreed that he would contact the people involved.

82/2015 **World War One Commemoration.**

Cllr Revans informed the meeting that the schools would be holding an annual event for the next 3 years to commemorate the 1st World War.

83/2015 **Correspondence**

A letter had been received from the Corporate Director of Sedgemoor DC in response to the Council's letter raising its concerns at the lack of satisfactory performance and progress in Wilstock and Stockmoor regarding a range of issues.

Resolved: that a request be made for the Town Council, along with the Residents Association, to be invited to attend relevant meetings when planning obligations and other matters were being discussed, and that the Planning Authority be asked, specifically, what action it had taken with regard to the failure of the Developers to

comply with their obligations.

Cllr Phillips reported on the latest position with regard to the Residents Association, including plans to fund a community worker.

The Clerk also reported that The Rev Haslam had contacted him regarding a date for the civic Service. The Mayor agreed to deal with this directly.

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter thanking the Council for its recent donation to the Scouts

84/2015 **Matters of Report.**

Cllr Denham informed the meeting of the arrangements for a "Party in the Park" on September 12th. Cllr Parry raised concerns about the state of the houses by the Compass Inn. Cllr Ives reported on progress being made to secure a village hall for Wilstock and Stockmoor, and Cllr Hesketh re-iterated his concerns about the state of the bus shelter by Verriers. Concern was also expressed about the flooding issues by the bus stop opposite the BMW garage and Cllr Jones informed Members about some innovative ways of avoiding flooding problems

Cllr Barham raised an issue about the recent use of S I D's in North Newton, and Cllr Taylor updated the meeting on matters relating to Moorland Village Hall.

Concerns were expressed about continuing problems of dog fouling, particularly in the Kingscliffe area.

The meeting closed at 9:40 pm