

NORTH PETHERTON TOWN COUNCIL

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

Present. Cllr J Taylor (in the Chair)

Councillors. Cllr. J Hesketh, Cllr P Spencer, Cllr Mrs M Denham, Cllr W Revans, Cllr D Parry, Cllr Mrs H Phillips, Cllr G Jones, Cllr Mrs L Hyde and Cllr J Barham

In Attendance. Mr. R Latham (Town Clerk) and four members of the public.

99/2015 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr R Ives, Cllr A Bradford, and Cllr P Knight

100/2015 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

101/2015 **Presentation by Somerset West Lodging Scheme**

Tracey Dare from the YMCA described the Somerset West Lodging Scheme which was funded from Hinkley Point monies and was designed to facilitate workers and other people renting rooms in the area. Landlords could earn up to £4,250 from the "rent a room" scheme. Members suggested ways in which the initiative could be publicised in the area and agreed to include something on the Council's website.

102/2015 **Grant Application**

The Chairman agreed to bring forward item 17 on the agenda so that members of the public could make their comments. Mr Goodland outlined the reasons for making the request for grant assistance, pointing out the small community of Chadmead had not sort help from public funds in the past, despite being seriously affected by the floods. The concept was to create a focal point where members of the community could gather. Members raised a number of issues, particularly around the ownership of the site, which was common land, and that proper procedures had been followed in obtaining prices and quotes, which was confirmed as being the case.

Resolved: that the Council would assume responsibility for delivering the scheme, including providing a small notice board.

103/2015 **Co-option**

Members considered applications from Mrs Linda Hyde and Malcolm Goodland to be co-opted onto the Council to fill the two remaining vacant seats.

Resolved: that Mrs Hyde be co-opted as a Member for Hamp Bridge ward and Mr Goodland be co-opted to the North Newton ward.

104/2015 **Community Time**

A resident of North Newton asked the Council's advice on how to deal with problems she was experiencing relating to a caravan that she had placed on land she owned to help her protect her interests. It was suggested that she might consider replacing the caravan with an animal shelter and that she should also approach her local district councillor.

105/2015 **Development Worker**

The Chairman agreed that item 14 be brought forward so that it could be discussed whilst interested members of the public were present. Cllr Mrs Phillips outlined the significant problems that residents of Wilstock and Stockmoor were facing in terms of the lack of community facilities and the failure of the developers to meet their responsibilities. The local Residents' Association had prepared a proposal to engage a development worker for a period of three years and to establish a "hub" where they would be based, with a view to addressing these problems and facilitating the development of the villages into properly resourced communities. They were looking for funding of £80,000 to £100,000 a year for this initiative and had approached a number of bodies for help with meeting this. A sum £10,000 pa from the Council was suggested.

Resolved: that the Council supports the proposal by the Wilstock and Stockmoor Residents' Association to provide a community development worker and hub and that the Council should provide financial support, the amount to be decided following consideration by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

106/2015 **Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd June 2015**

Resolved: that the minutes be approved

107/2015 **Matters Arising**

Cllr Hesketh referred to a letter that he had received from Sedgemoor DC regarding the recent approval given to a planning application at Haddon Farm. It was agreed that this matter be included on the next Planning agenda.

Cllr Taylor referred to minute 96/2010 and updated Members on the latest situation in relation to the operation of septic tanks in the Moorland area.

Cllr Mrs Denham informed the Council that the Playing Field's Trust's application for grant aid to the Hinkley Point Community Impact Fund had been successful. Members congratulated her and her team on a considerable achievement.

108/2015 **Mayor's Report**

The Deputy Mayor reported that he had attended the recent Civic service at Yeovil on the Mayor's behalf.

109/2015 **Planning applications**

The clerk submitted a report on application recently determined for the area.

Resolved; that the report be received.

110/2015 **Allotments**

Cllr Hesketh read out some action points prepared by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee following a recent meeting at the Pilot's Helm site. The Clerk reported on work to the plumbing arrangements that were required by Wessex Water following an inspection of the site.

Resolved: that the quote from Somerset Mechanical Ltd. Be accepted to carry out the necessary improvements to the taps and water supply and the Clerk be asked to

prepare a report based on the action points or future consideration.

111/2015 **Refund of Burial Charges**

Members considered a recommendation from the Planning Meeting to refund/remit burial fees following a request on behalf of a bereaved family.

Resolved: that the recommendation be agreed.

112/2015 **Items for Payment.**

Resolved: that the following payments be approved:

D Morris	£950.00	Burial charges
South West Digital systems	£57.19	Copier charges
T L S Security	£63.60	Repairs to safe
Tennyson Insurance	£395.00	Playing Fields Insurance
Zurich Municipal	£1,472.70	Council Insurance

113/2015 **Finance Reports**

The Clerk presented finance and budget reports as at the end of May.

Resolved; that the reports be received.

114/2015 **Honorary Freemen**

The Clerk presented a report outlining the powers and procedures relating to Honorary Freemen.

Resolved: that the report be received.

115/2015 **Neighbourhood Plans**

The Clerk submitted a report outlining the main elements and implications of the Neighbourhood Planning process. Members discussed the issues involved and the options available. Cllr Revans expressed the view that, although the possibility of developing a Neighbourhood Plan had been considered and rejected in the past, it was now time for the Council to undertake one.

Resolved: that the Council agree in principle to proceed with the development of a Neighbourhood Plan and the Clerk be asked to prepare a report on how this should be progressed.

116/2015 **Alfred Jewel Awards 2015**

Resolved: that potential nominations for this award be considered at the forthcoming Planning meeting and that Clerk seek to invite suggestions from the general public.

117/2015 **Correspondence.**

Letters had been received from the CAB and from SHAL Housing Association.

118/2015 **Matters of Report.**

The Clerk informed Members that there would be an informal meeting at the Bowling Club at 7:30 on August 4th to receive a presentation by Sedgemoor DC on Planning

Gain and the new arrangements, to which neighbouring Chairmen and Clerks would also be invited. It was thought that this might provide the opportunity to discuss strategic issues generally, and it was also suggested that light refreshments might, on this occasion, be provided.

Cllr Parry voiced his continuing concern about the state of highway verges, particularly on the main approaches to the town. Cllr Denham suggested that wild flowers could be grown in the areas left uncut and Cllr Jones mentioned examples of where this practice had been tried successfully.

Cllr Phillips reported that the public section of Notice Board at Wilstock was leaking. The Clerk agreed to look into this. Cllr Spencer indicated that he was finding it difficult to devote sufficient time to the role of Chairman of the Cemetery Advisory Committee, and gave advance notice of his intention to resign. Cllr Jones informed Members of structural problems being experienced at the new Somerset Bridge School, and Cllr Taylor reported that there was now room on the fence to install the new notice board at Moorlands Village Hall.

The meeting concluded at 9:20 pm

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