

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held at North Petherton Bowling Club on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 7:30 PM

Present. Cllr J Taylor (Deputy Mayor in the Chair))

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

In Attendance. Mr. R Latham (Town Clerk), District Councillor Mrs A Fraser,  
County Councillor R Brown, and Mr Derek Yeomans

136/2015 **Apologies for Absence**

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

137/2015 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

138/2015 **Community Time**

Mr Yeomans presented a print of a painting that he had commissioned to commemorate the resilience of local people during the flooding of the area in 2014. He also donated an electronic copy of the painting so that further reproductions could be produced for future fundraising initiatives.

The Deputy Mayor received the gift on the Council's behalf and it was

**Resolved:** To give a vote of thanks to Mr Yeomans for the generous gift and for the work that he done in his role as County Councillor to help villagers affected by the flooding.

The Clerk was asked to arrange for the print to be framed so that it could be hung in Moorland Village Hall.

Cllr Mrs Fraser raised the issue of the forthcoming consultation on the new local plan, and the Clerk was asked to look into how best to facilitate this.

139/2015 **Minutes**

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 were considered. Cllr Barham pointed out that he had attended the meeting.

**Resolved:** that, as amended, they be approved and signed as a true record.

140/2015 **Matters arising**

Cllr Revans reported that the debris had still not been removed from Watery Lane, and the Clerk agreed to chase this again with Sedgemoor Council.

Cllr Revans also reported that the Youth project was likely to relocate to Ferrydown House in November at a cost of £5 per hour. The Clerk, having spoken to its insurers confirmed that the Council's Public Liability and Third Party policies would apply to this project.

**Resolved:** that this action be approved and Cllr Revans be thanked for his work in this important area.

Cllr Phillips mentioned that the Notice Board in Wilstock had still not been repaired and the Clerk agreed to remind the manufacturers to look at the problem.

141/2015 **Mayor's Report**

In the Mayor's absence there was no report.

142/2015 **Planning Determinations**

The Clerk reported on planning applications that had been determined for the area.

143/2015 **Planning application No. 37/15/00068**

Members considered an application from Bloor Homes for a community centre and play area in Wilstock. After detailed discussion it was

**Resolved:** that in order to ensure that the application received full public scrutiny, the Council should object to the application, but that the following comments be made: The Council is supportive of the principle of having a community hub in Wilstock, and very much appreciates the work that has been done to bring the project to this stage and the clear commitment demonstrated to take it forward. However there were a number of concerns about the application itself.

- Based on practical experience at other community centres, it was felt that 13 car parking spaces would not be sufficient, particularly given the general parking problems in the area. A large event in the hub could cause significant uncontrolled parking issues for the adjacent residential properties. We did not see a transport plan showing how these issues could be overcome.
- A cycle store should be provided to help to address some of the transport issues and encourage people to cycle to the centre. The four bike storage places are clearly inadequate.
- Combining the play area and the community building in one application was problematical. More information and discussion about the equipment being provided and health and safety matters is needed; also comments from the police and other professionals would be helpful. It was not clear how effective any passive supervision would be in the planned location, particularly as the design of the community building did not incorporate many ground level windows. The staging of the play area works wasn't clear. Completion of the building will be dependent on funding, whereas the development of a play area needs to proceed quickly.
- The proximity to a slurry pit and the associated environmental detriments is an issue that must be addressed.

144/2015 **Finance Reports**

The Clerk presented finance and budget reports as at the end of July 2015.

**Resolved:** that the reports be received.

145/2015 **Items for Payment**

**Resolved:** that following payments be approved:

SW Digital Systems	£51.64
Blake Signs	£600.00
North Petherton Comm Centre	£1,837.07
Viking	£56.61
Sedgemoor DC	£2,118.48
Purnells	£8.90

*Cllr Mrs Phillips left the meeting after this item*

146/2015 **Honorary Freeman**

It was agreed to hold a Special Meeting on Council on the rising of the scheduled meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015 to consider this matter

- 147/2015 **Budget Strategy Meeting**  
It was agreed that a Budget Strategy Meeting take place on the rising of the Planning Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2015
- 148/2015 **Huntworth Overbridge**  
Cllr Taylor reported that work was scheduled to begin replacing the bridge in the Summer of 2016
- 149/2015 **Syrian Refugee Crisis**  
The Clerk was asked to try and arrange for someone involved with providing support to refugees, such as the Red Cross, to come to the next meeting to explain how Members might be able to help.
- 150/2015 **North Petherton Bowling Club**  
The Clerk reported that he had received a request from the Bowling Club to purchase the freehold of the land currently leased from the Council.  
**Resolved:** That the request be not adhered to.
- 151/2015 **Grants**  
Members received requests for grants from North Newton Village Hall for the cost of installing two new emergency exit doors and from the CAB (Bridgwater) for a general contribution.  
**Resolved:** that
- a. £2,000 be granted to North Newton Village Hall Committee, subject to receipt of a copy of their most recent accounts, and
  - b. £250 be granted to Bridgwater CAB
- 152/2015 **Correspondence**  
The Clerk report receipt of a communication from North Petherton Community Centre asking if the Council was happy for a height barrier to be erected at the entrance to the car park - to be paid for by the Centre.  
**Resolved:** that the North Petherton Community Centre be asked to erect a height barrier at the entrance to the car park.
- 153/2015 **Matters of Report**  
Cllr Barham reported that the path by Beggar's Brook, near the Rugby Club, was overgrown. The Clerk agreed to contact County Highways.  
Cllr Spencer raised a concern about the state of the land near Stockmoor Close. Cllr Mrs Fraser agreed to refer this to Sedgemoor Council.

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm