

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held at North Petherton Bowling Club on Tuesday 3rd November 2015 at 7:30 PM

Present. Cllr A Bradford Chairman

Councillors. Cllr J Taylor, 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, Cllr G Jones and Cllr R Ives.

In Attendance. Mr. R Latham (Town Clerk), County Councillor R Brown and one member of the public

154/2015 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr P Knight

155/2015 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Barham declared an interest in agenda item 8a and left the room whilst this was considered.

156/2015 **Community Time**

Mr M Howell raised the problem some people in North Petherton were having getting fibre broadband because their telephones were connected directly to an exchange and not to a "cabinet". The Chairman agreed to bring item 11 forward on the agenda to facilitate the discussion.

The current refugee crisis in Syria and elsewhere was discussed and the Clerk was asked to write to Sedgemoor DC to see what action they were taking and what advice they had for how the Town Council could help.

157/2015 **Broadband**

Members discussed problems that were being experienced by residents and businesses in certain parts of the town of North Petherton and rural areas throughout the district, and how this related to the current roll out of fibre broadband by BT.

Resolved: that the Clerk write to Connecting Somerset and Devon and Somerset County Council to clarify the current position and the plans in place to address the problems..

158/2015 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th October 2015 were considered.

Resolved: that they be approved as a correct record.

159/2015 **Matters Arising**

Cllr Revans reported on the relocation of the Youth Project to Ferrydown House and on progress that had been made to improve the situation in Watery Lane, and the Clerk reported that he expected the notice boards in Wilstock and Stockmoor to be repaired shortly.

160/2015 **Mayor's Report**

The Mayor reported on the progress that had been made with the facilities at Parkersfield Playing Fields, and thanked Cllr Mrs Denham and her team for their hard work, he also thanked all those councilors who had attended the Civic Service. He reported that he had recently attended the one hundredth anniversary meeting of the local Women's Institute.

161/2015 **Planning applications**

The Clerk reported on planning applicatipons that had been determined for the area since the last meeting.

162/2015 **Neighbourhood Plan**

The Clerk updated Members on progress and reminded them that the consultation on the local plan was taking place on the 17th November from 1:00 pm in the Community Centre.

163/2015 **Items for Payment**

Resolved: that following payments be approved:

Purnell's Print & Design	£83.40
J Wagstaff	£48.42
West Country Style Catering	£2,342.40
EDF	£33.81
T Barham	£500.00
A Sutton	£92.00
North Newton Village Hall Committee	£2,000.00
Bridgwater CAB	£250.00
GWB Services	£922.25
GWB Services	£50.00
Sedgemoor DC	£594.00
Public Sector Deposit Fund	£50,000.00

164/2015 **Audit Report**

The Clerk presented the Council's report from their auditors, Grant Thornton. He also reported that Mrs Monteith, the Council's internal auditor, had indicated that she may not wish to continue, and that he had contacted her to clarify the position.

Resolved:

That the report be received, and that, notwithstanding her decision about continuing in her role, the Clerk should write to Mrs Monteith expressing the Council's appreciation and gratitude for the generous support and wise advice that she has given as its internal auditor.

165/2015 **Footpath Order**

The Council had been asked to comment on the proposed diversion of footpath BW23/71. The Clerk had obtained the views of Mr D Edwards, the Council's footpath adviser.

Resolved:

That the change be supported.

166/2015 **Wilstock Hub**

Cllr Ives updated the meeting on matters relating to the proposed community building in Wilstock, the planning application for which had been discussed at the last meeting. He took the opportunity to provide further details relating to issues that had been raised by Members at that meeting.

167/2015 **County Council Consultation Exercise.**

Members had before them copies of Somerset County Council's budget consultation, on which the Council, as a body, had been asked to comment.

Resolved:

That Members forward any responses that they had to the Clerk, who would then convert them into a corporate view for further consideration.

168/2015 **Matters of Report.**

The Clerk reported that he had procured three wreaths from the Royal British Legion for

Remembrance Sunday, and it was **resolved** that a grant of £150 be paid to the Royal British Legion in respect of these.

He also raised the issue of Christmas trees and it was agreed that similar arrangements to last year be undertaken.

Cllr Hesketh reported on the condition of the Memorial in the Memorial Playing Fields, and the Clerk agreed to bring this to attention of the cleansing contractor/handyman.

Cllr Mrs Hyde raised the topic of the Great British Menu and agreed to pursue the possibility of a North Petherton Town Dish.

Cllr Taylor reported on the issue of Ring Banks, and stated that residents of Fordgate felt that an alternative approach to flood prevention should be considered. It was agreed that the Clerk write to the Somerset Rivers Authority on the matter.

It was agreed that the presentation to Mrs Anne Hodges be made after the Planning Meeting in December, which would now be held at Ferrydown House on Monday 14th December, commencing at 7:00 pm, with a view to it finishing by 7:30 pm to enable the presentation ceremony to begin then. Festive refreshments were being provided and all councillors, partners and guests were welcome to attend.

The meeting closed at 9:20 pm