

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held at North Petherton Bowling Club on Tuesday 1st December 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 J Barham, Cllr Mrs M Denham, and Cllr R Ives.

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

169/2015 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs L Hyde and G Jones

170/2015 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

171/2015 **Community Time**

Cllr Mrs Fraser reported that nothing had been done yet regarding the road sign opposite the Memorial Playing Fields.

172/2015 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2015 were considered.

Resolved: that they be approved as a correct record.

173/2015 **Matters Arising**

Cllr Revans reported that the Youth Project's move to new premises was proving successful.

174/2015 **Mayor's Report**

The Mayor reported on his attendance at the Remembrance Day service, The County Council Chairman's Civic service, the North Petherton carnival, the MacMillan Fayre at Maunsel House and a presentation to Mr Colin Criddle at Somerset Museum . He also said that he would be giving a talk to pupils at North Petherton School on the roles of Mayors and Councillors.

175/2015 **Planning applications**

The Clerk reported on planning applications that had been determined for the area since the last meeting..He also advised that the draft local plan would be discussed at the next Council meeting on 5th January 2016.

176/2015 **Neighbourhood Plan**

The Clerk raised the issue of how to deal with personal interests that volunteers involved in the process might have, since they would not be bound by the same rules as councilors.

Resolved: that the Clerk contact the District Council Monitoring Officer for advice.

177/2015 **Items for Payment**

Resolved: that following payments be approved:

North Petherton Bowling Club	£460.00	
A B Memorials	£415.00	
Sedgemoor DC	£1,727.40	(NPPFCT)
Sedgemoor DC	£195.31	

178/2015 **Finance Reports**

The Clerk presented the monthly finance reports.

Resolved: that these be received.

- 170/2015 **Budget 2016/17**
Cllr Spencer presented the draft budget proposals for 2016/17 and financial forecasts for future years. Members discussed the proposals, including the costs of dog bins, the level of reserves and the potential expense of maintaining the Chapel building at the cemetery.
Resolved: that the draft figures be accepted for formal approval at the next meeting, together with the recommendation from Cllr Spencer that the band D equivalent rate of council tax for 2016/17 be maintained at broadly the same level as that for the current year, with a precept amount of £118,010, and that Cllr Spencer be thanked for his hard work.
- 171/2015 **Vacancies**
The Clerk reported that there had been no applications from anyone within the council's area for the current vacancy, but an expression of interest had been received from someone living in Bridgwater.
Resolved: that the vacancy be re-advertised, and that the Clerk contact Cllrs Goodland and Knight, who had not been attending council meetings to see if they were intending to remain on the Council. If not, then those seats should also be advertised as vacancies.
- 172/2015 **New Audit Arrangements**
The Clerk reported on the external audit arrangements that would be in place from 2017. Auditors would be appointed by a new sector led body, unless councils chose to opt out and appoint their own.
Resolved: that the Council was content for the new body to appoint its external auditor.
- 173/2015 **Window Dressing Competition**
It was agreed that Mrs Hodges be asked to judge the competition, together with Cllr Mrs Denham and the Mayor.
- 174/2015 **Correspondence**
The Clerk reported that he and the Mayor had received a request from Sedgemoor DC to attend a meeting to discuss a cycle link between Stockmoor and Wills Road Bridge.
Resolved:
That the Clerk and Cllr Taylor attend such a meeting and report back.
- 175/2015 **Matters of Report**
Cllr Phillips informed Members that there was carol service at Somerset Bridge School on 17th December. It was also reported that a street sign was needed at the junction of Queen Street and Old Road.
Cllr Hesketh reported that there were no road signs in Tappers Lane.
Cllr Revans reported on blocked drains in Watery lane/Old Road. He also agreed to look into the matter of the Rotary Stone, which was brought to the Council's attention by Cllr Mrs Fraser.
Cllr Barham reported that the Give Way markings had worn away at Maunsel Road/Brook Street in North Newton. He also raised the matter that a spate of burglaries had taken place in the village and agreed to arrange a meeting of residents to discuss this.
Cllr Ives gave advance notice of a meeting scheduled for 31st January 2016 at Junction 24 to explain the proposals for the Wilstock Hub.
Cllr Bradford reported that he had been told of a number of problems that had occurred

with the recent installation of the height barrier at the Community Centre. Cllr Hesketh explained the operating procedures.

The meeting closed at 9:15 pm

DRAFT