

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held at North Petherton Bowling Club on Tuesday 5th January 2016 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, Cllr Mrs L Hyde and Cllr R Ives.

In Attendance. Mr. R Latham (Town Clerk), County Councillor R Brown and District Councillor Mrs A Fraser and 4 members of the public

1/2016 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr G Jones

2/2016 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Ives declared an interest in item 15, Cllr Revans and Cllr Mrs Phillips declared an interest in item 14 and Cllr Bradford declared an interest in item 8c

3/2016 **Community Time**

The Chairman of SaWRA spoke about the organisation's grant request under item 14. The chairman agreed to bring the item forward. After discussion, it was:

Resolved: that a grant of £500 be made to assist with funding the preparation of a business case. *(Cllr Mrs Phillips left the room for this item).*

The Treasurer of SaWRA spoke about the organisations request for a £5,000 grant towards a "time banking" project. The Chairman agreed to bring this item forward. After discussion it was:

Resolved: that the matter be deferred until the next meeting, when further information would be available.

Cllr Ives spoke to the meeting, as a member of the public, regarding an application from Wilstock Hub for a grant towards its Consultation Day on 31st January 2016 at Junction 24. After discussion, it was:

Resolved: that a grant of £1,500 be made to help pay for this event on the understanding that, if alternative funds were obtained, any unused sum should be repaid to the Council. *(Cllr Ives left the room during the debate on this item).*

4/2016 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2015 were considered.

Resolved: that they be approved as a correct record.

5/2016 **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising

6/2016 **Mayor's Report**

The Mayor reported on his attendance at a number of Christmas gatherings and Church services, including one at Wells Cathedral

7/2016 **Allotments**

Members discussed current issues at the allotments, after which it was:

Resolved:

- a. that Cllrs Barham and Hesketh act as joint Chairmen of the Allotments Committee and that Cllr Mrs Denham be appointed to the committee.
- b. that the Clerk look at the title deeds to try to identify who has responsibility for the boundary wall to the right of the entrance, and seek quotes for the removal of

- the debris that had accumulated at the bottom of the site.
- c. that the Mayor pursue his idea of presenting a cup for the best kept plot.

8/2016

Cemetery

The Clerk reported on problems that had been experienced over the Christmas period with the green waste bin at the cemetery. Cllr Spencer reported that due to a change in his circumstances, he anticipated being able to resume chairmanship of the Cemetery Committee in the near future. It was agreed that the possibility of obtaining a bigger waste bin should be explored...

9/2016

Planning Applications

The Clerk presented a report on planning applications that had been determined. Members were concerned that several major applications had been approved, contrary to the Council's views. Cllr Hesketh had attended a recent Planning meeting of the District Council and expressed his dissatisfaction with the way that some decisions had been made, whilst others were particularly concerned about the approval given for a new hotel on a site that was, at least initially, intended for developments associated with agriculture and rural businesses. The Clerk also raised an issue relating to an application for a change in the detail of part of the new development in Wilstock.

Resolved: that the Clerk write to the Chief Executive of Sedgemoor DC requesting an update on the policy situation on the Rural Business Park and an explanation of any changes that had taken place, and also that he should establish what changes had been made to plans originally submitted in relation to the Wilstock application.

10/2016

Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk updated Members on current issues. Cllr Taylor took the chair for this and the next item.

11/2016

The Local Plan

Members considered notes submitted by the Clerk, Cllrs Revans and Mrs Phillips and Cllr Taylor in respect of the Planning Authority's consultation document on the new Local Plan, comments on which were due within the next two weeks.

Resolved: that a working group consisting of Cllr Taylor, Cllr Revans, Cllr Mrs Phillips, Cllr Spencer, Cllr Barham and Cllr Mrs Hyde be set up to prepare the Council's response.

12/2016

Items for payment.

The following payments were approved:

A Sutton	£92.00
Purnells Printing	£23.60
Viking	£194.60
S W Digital Systems	£37.80
Somerset Rural Y P	£4,750.00
N P Twinning Assoc.	£100.00

13/2016

Budget 2016/17

Members considered the detailed budget for the forthcoming financial year and the recommendation from the previous meeting regarding the level of precept.

Resolved: that the budget be approved and the precept for the 2016/17 financial year be set at £118,010 equating to a band D equivalent tax rate of £38.97 compared to £38.99 for the current year.

- 14/2016 **Resignations**
The Clerk reported that Cllrs Knight and Goodland had resigned.
Resolved: that the Clerk begin the process of filling the, now, three vacancies on the Council..
- 15/2016 **Internal Auditor**
The Clerk reported that Ms Geraldine O'Loughlin had agreed to act as the Council's internal auditor.
Resolved: That Ms O'Loughlin be appointed as the Council's internal auditor at an initial fee of £200
- 16/2016 **Window Decoration Competition**
The winner of the Christmas Window Decoration competition was Sammy lou's.
- 17/2016 **Future Meetings**
Following the meeting of the December Planning Committee at Ferrydown House, Members agreed that the venue had much to recommend it, and the Clerk was asked to pursue the option of using it as a venue for future meetings.
- 18/2016 **H M The Queen's Birthday Celebrations**
The Mayor raised the issue of how the Council should help the community to celebrate the Queen's forthcoming 90th birthday. Various options were mentioned, and it was agreed to consider the matter further at the next meeting
- 19/2016 **Correspondence**
The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Somerset County Council informing the Council that progress had been delayed on the SI D partnership and from Sedgemoor DC explaining what action it was taking in response to the refugee crisis. Information had also been received from a resident about the problems being caused by cars parked outside Ferrydown House in North Petherton. The Mayor stated that he had discussed the matter with the manager of Crimson Hill, the owners of the building, and she believed that it was not likely to be a long term issue.
Resolved: that the Clerk raise the matter of illegal parking with the local police and write to Crimson Hill.
- 20/2016 **Matters of Report**
Cllr Mrs Phillips raised the question of the notice board in Stockmoor, which had been vandalized again. The Clerk stated that he had been in touch with the manufacturers to try to identify a viable solution to the problem. Cllr Taylor agreed to contact the local village agent for her views and comments. He also referred to the continuing absence of directional sign in Moorland and Fordgate

The meeting closed at 9:35 pm