

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council Annual Meeting held at Moorland Village Hall on 6th June 2016,, commencing at 7:15 pm

Present. Cllr A Bradford (Chairman)

Councillors. Cllr P Spencer, Cllr Mrs H Phillips, Cllr J Barham, Cllr J Hesketh, Cllr W Revans Cllr J Taylor and Cllr R Ives.

In Attendance. Mr. R Latham (Town Clerk), District Cllr Mrs A Fraser and one member of the public.

99/2016 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs M Denham and Cllr Mrs L Hyde

100/2016 **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

101/2016 **Community Time**

No matters were raised

102/2016 **Minutes of previous meeting**

Resolved: that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9th May 2016 be approved as a correct record, subject to it being noted that Cllr Barham, not Cllr Bradford was appointed as the Council's representative on the North Newton PFA

103/2016 **Matters arising**

Further to minute 94/2016, the Mayor asked the Clerk to brief Members on the latest developments with regard to the proposed new cycle track, linking Stockmoor to Bridgwater. The Clerk explained that the scheme was at a critical stage with Sedgemoor DC about to submit the application for CIM funding, which was to be the major element of the financing package. In order for the application to be a success, it was necessary for the project to have the demonstrable support of the local communities. The estimated cost of the element of the scheme in the Town Council's area was around £470,000, and it was district council officers' view that a contribution of £35,000 to the project by the Council, (in line with that committed by Bridgwater Town Council), would be needed to make the CIM fund application a realistic proposition. The timetable for the application was such that a decision on this issue was needed before the 20th June 2016. Members raised a number of questions, in particular about the cost of the project, around £900,000 in total, and the level of contributions from developers. The Clerk advised that, as the matter of making a contribution was not on the agenda, the best approach would be to hold a special meeting of the Council so that Members would have the opportunity to fully consider the matter and reach a decision before the deadline of 20th June.

Resolved: that a special meeting of the Council be held on 13th June 2016 to consider the matter.

104/2016 **Mayor's Report**

The Mayor said that he had visited Cllr Mrs Denham following her recent bereavement and had taken her a card and flowers on the Council's behalf.

He also reported that he had presented the best dressed window cup to "Sammi Lou's". This had been delayed due to the recipient being unwell.

105/2016 **Planning applications.**

The Clerk presented a report on applications determined.

Resolved: that the report be received.

- 106/2016 **Stockmoor Drive application.**
Following the Planning Authority's decision to grant permission in relation to application no 37/16/00002, contrary to the views of the Council, Members took the opportunity to voice their concerns that the proposed development would lead to significant problems in the future and expressed their disappointment that the system did not seem to allow local views to be adequately reflected in the planning process.
- 107/2016 **Allotments**
The Clerk reported on a meeting that the Cllr Bradford, Cllr Barham and he had with the adjoining land owner regarding the state of the stone wall at the allotment site. It was understood that part of the problem was the result of works undertaken by Wessex Water around 4 year ago, which had clearly caused the wall to subside and crack. It had been agreed that the Clerk would contact Wessex Water to look further into this, prior to deciding what action to take.
- 108/2016 **Litter Bins**
The provision of a new litter bin in North Newton had been discussed at the recent meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, which had recommended that one be purchased.
Resolved: that the Clerk contact Sedgemoor DC to arrange for a new litter bin to be provided in North Newton.
- 109/2016 **Items for Payment**
The following payments were approved:
- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| St Mary's PCC North Petherton. | £150.00 |
| Blake Joinery | £594.00 |
| Crimson Hill Support | £55.00 |
| Insignia Ltd. | £550.08 |
| Somerset PFA | £15.00 |
| Adam Barnett Community Mtnce | £50.00 |
- 110/2016 **Grants Policy**
Members considered a recommendation from the F & GP Committee to approve a new grants policy.
Resolved: that the new grants policy be approved.
- 111/2016 **Cluster arrangements**
The Council had been contacted by Sedgemoor DC for its views on new arrangements for Cluster Meetings
Resolved: that the matter be discussed at the special meeting.
- 112/2016 **Time bank project.**
The Clerk told the meeting that the progress report on this project would be made to the July meeting.
- 113/2016 **Alfred Jewel Award**
The Mayor reminded Members that nominations were needed for this year's awards. He remarked that it may be better to have fewer awards now, as many of the local volunteers that deserved to be honoured had already received the award in previous years.

114/2016

Correspondence

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter of thanks in respect of the grant recently made towards the Church rooms in North Newton. He also said that he had received notification of the annual contributions from the Council towards the Library to maintain its current opening times.

Resolved: that the sums involved be considered at the special meeting

115/2016

Matters of Report

Cllr Mrs Phillips reported that there was considerable concern locally about what appeared to be an undertaking business being run from one of the houses in Stockmoor. The Clerk was asked to bring this to the attention of the Planning Enforcement Officer at Sedgemoor DC

Cllr Hesketh reported that the bus shelter at Verriers was in need of a clean again.

Cllr Ives reported on a successful managing money course that had been run in Wilstock.

Cllr Taylor said how happy he was that the Council had met at the Village Hall and how welcome Members were. He also reminded Members of the fete that was taking place at the hall at 1:00 pm on Saturday 11th June, to which everyone was invited.

Cllr Bradford said that he hoped to attend all of the various events celebrating the Queen's birthday over the next weekend, and that he would presenting bookmarks to local primary school children on behalf of the Council to celebrate the occasion. He also raised the issue of car parking in North Newton and the lack of response by the County Council on the matter.

The meeting closed at 8:50 pm