

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held at Ferrydown House, North Petherton on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016,, commencing at 7:15 pm

Present. Cllr A Bradford (Chairman)

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

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

126/2016 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr R Ives

127/2016 **Declarations of interest**

Cllr Bradford said that, as a Member of the Sedgemoor DC Planning Committee he would not chair or comment on the item on the Country Park.

128/2016 **Standing Orders**

It was agreed that agenda item 11 be brought forward. Members considered a recommendation from the Clerk that a new Standing Order “gg” in Section 3 be agreed as follows: *“Ward members of the District and County Council may speak during a meeting, with the permission of the Chairman, to provide information relevant to items on the agenda”*

**Resolved:** that the new standing order be approved.

129/2016 **Community Time**

District Cllr Mrs Fraser reported that there was a problem with over-hanging tree branches by the Harvest Moon public house in North Newton.

130/2016 **Minutes of previous meeting**

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the Special Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016 be approved as a correct record.

131/2016 **Matters arising**

Cllr Revans reported on a meeting that he and the Clerk had attended relating to the Council’s decision to support the local library.

132/2016 **Mayor’s Report**

Cllr Bradford reported that he had had a busy month dealing with a variety of issues. He and the Clerk had met an official from Wessex Water regarding the condition of the wall at the allotments site and had also been to the Memorial Playing Fields to review the damage that had been done by Western Power whilst undertaking works to the neighbouring sub station. He had also visited local schools to present bookmarks commemorating the Queen’s birthday.

133/2016 **Timebank Project.**

Mrs Michelle Phillips, the Project Manager, reported on the Wilstock and Stockmoor Timebank initiative, which had been promoted by the Residents’ Association and which the Council had grant aided. Members had also received a comprehensive written report. Mrs Phillips outlined the considerable amount of preparation work that had taken place and explained how the scheme was being promoted via “pop up” events in the villages and awareness training. She also listed the various organisations that were supporting the project, financially and otherwise. Members then raised a number of questions and discussed plans for pilot testing the scheme during the Summer.

**Resolved:** that Mrs Phillips be thanked for her presentation and the details of her written report be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee at a time that was convenient

133/2016 **Planning Application 37/16/00040**

This application for the Country Park at Wilstock and Stockmoor had been deferred from the meeting of the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016 to enable representatives of the development companies to work with the planning officers on revisions to the plans to reflect concerns expressed at the meeting. Although a revised application had not been finalised, changes had been agreed that seemed to address the problem areas satisfactorily, particularly route of the cycle path connecting the two villages.

**Resolved:** to inform the Planning Authority that the Council was very appreciative of the steps that had been taken to address the issues raised at the last meeting and were in support of the plans as shown on the revised drawings. However ,concerns remained about:

long term responsibility for drainage;

safety issues around the rhynes;

supporting infrastructure, e.g. dog and litter bins: and

future maintenance arrangements and the resources to undertake these.

134/2016 **Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Revans and the Clerk updated the meeting on progress on the plan. The Clerk was in the process of preparing briefing documents for support with the community engagement and evidence gathering stages. Cllr Taylor reported on research that he had undertaken on help provided by the RTPi.

135/2016 **Meeting with the Planning Authority.**

The Clerk referred to a letter from Sedgemoor DC indicating that they would be happy for appropriate Members and officers to meet with the Council to discuss current and future planning issues. They had asked that adequate notice of the questions that were to be discussed should be given, so that any research could be undertaken in advance.

**Resolved:** that the Clerk thank the Planning Authority for agreeing to a meeting and indicate that the Council would be happy to set a time and date that was convenient to its representatives. It was also agreed that it would be very useful if the Highways Authority could be present.

136/2016 **Allotments**

Cllr Barham reported on current issues at the allotments. He stated that additional funds were needed to repair part of the boundary wall and remove a considerable amount of rubbish that had accumulated, in addition to ongoing maintenance work. A quote of £1200 had been obtained for the work on the wall, and it was proving difficult to find anyone else to undertake this specialized work.

**Resolved:** that a) an additional budget of £3,000 be approved, £1,000 vired from the Hanging Basket budget and £2,000 from the General Reserve, and

b) approval be given to proceed with the wall repairs.

137/2016 **Finance Reports**

The Clerk presented the regular financial statement and budget reports.

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

138/2016 **Items for Payment**

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

G O'Loughlin	£200.00
Blake Signs	£324.00
Greenslades	£914.45
A Sutton	£92.00
Viking	£172.87

139/2016

#### **Co-options**

The Clerk reminded Members that there were three vacancies on the Council, two for the North Petherton ward and one for North Newton. He then reported that he had received three applications from people for the North Petherton Ward, which had been forwarded to Members prior to the meeting. He explained that it was not necessary for a councillor to live in the ward that they represented, only that they had to be eligible for election to the Council. He stated that he had been told that an application from someone living in the North Newton Ward was forthcoming.

**Resolved:** that the two vacancies in the North Petherton ward be filled by co-option at the meeting and that the vacancy at North Newton be deferred to the next meeting.

After a secret ballot process it was then **resolved** that the following persons be co-opted onto the Council to represent the North Petherton ward:

Peter MacLaurin – 1 Barberry Drive, Wilstock, North Petherton, and  
Mrs Lucinda Spelman-Ives – 10 Rosa Way, Wilstock, North Petherton.

140/2016

#### **Correspondence**

Cllr Taylor reported that he had received an enquiry about the possibility of the Council providing funding of £10,000 pa to facilitate the engagement of a Village Agent to work primarily in Wilstock and Stockmoor.

**Resolved:** that an item be included on the agenda for the next meeting to consider this issue and ways of ensuring that there was a coordinated approach to promoting the well being of the new villages of Wilstock and Stockmoor.

141/2016

#### **Matters of Report**

Cllr Hesketh asked about progress on reviewing working arrangements for the provision of services in the area. The Clerk stated that this was ongoing. He also commented on the fact that work on the Huntworth roundabout was now taking place overnight.

Cllr Phillips also stated that it was difficult to navigate the roundabout whilst this work was taking place. She reported on a Health and Well Being conference, (“bridging the gap”) that she had attended on behalf of the Council. She had been particularly impressed by a presentation by Martock and Frome councils on how local councils can respond to challenges facing them and their communities. She agreed to provide the Clerk with the relevant information.

Cllr Revans referred to the latest developments in the Local Plan, including possible implications for Parkersfield Playing Fields. He asked the Clerk to look into the terms and conditions that applied to the land.

Cllr Jones reported on a recent fete held at Somerset Bridge School, which had raised in excess of £800.

142/2016

#### **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

**Resolved:** that the following item be discussed in private session due to its confidential nature.

143/2016

**Alfred Jewel Award**

Members gave further consideration to the nominations for the Alfred Jewel Award.

**Resolved:** that the matter be included on the next planning agenda.

The meeting closed at 9:45 pm

Approved as correct record

.....Chairman Date.....

DRAFT