

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held at Ferrydown House, North Petherton on 7th November 2016,, commencing at 7:15 pm

Present. Cllr A Bradford (Chairman)

Councillors. Cllr J Barham, Cllr W Revans Cllr J Taylor, Cllr Mrs Denham, Cllr J Hesketh, Cllr P Spencer, Cllr P MacLaurin, Cllr G Jones, Cllr R Ives, Cllr B Sellick and Cllr Mrs L Hyde

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

185/2016 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Spelman Ives and Cllr Mrs H Phillips

186/2016 **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

187/2016 **Community Time**

There was a brief discussion about the provision of finger post signs.

188/2016 **Minutes of previous meeting.** The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October were approved as a true record.

189/2016 **Matters arising.**

The Clerk reported that he had received a response from Persimmon Homes regarding the cars being parked in Champion Way. Contacting the police to deal with dangerously parked cars and placing notices on windscreens were among their suggestions. Cllr Revans reported that he had also been in contact with Persimmon. The Clerk agreed to forward his correspondence to him.

190/2016 **Mayor's Report**

The Mayor reported that he had attended the Chairman of the County Council's Civic Service in Dunster, and the County Council event in Taunton where Rev Haslam had received the County Council's Chairman's Award.

Resolved: that Rev Haslam be congratulated.

191/2016 **Planning decisions**

The Clerk presented a report on applications that had been determined by the District Council.

Resolved: that the report be received.

192/2016 **Neighbourhood Plan**

The Clerk reported that the Steering Group had appointed Lemon Gazelle CIC to assist with the first two stages of the Neighbourhood Plan at a cost of £5,600. It had also been agreed that ongoing advice on planning applications would be provided for £100 per month, based on an hourly charge of £60 per hour with unused time being carried forward where appropriate. Amanda Goddard had also agreed to provide additional help and advice whenever needed on a time spent basis. He also reported that the first meeting with the advisers had been arranged for 16th November in the Community Centre.

193/2016 **Somerset Rural Youth Project**

The Clerk and Cllr Revans reported on the meeting that had taken place with SYRP to explore options on how to continue providing a Youth Club in the town. The meeting

had recommended that the current arrangements continue until the end of the financial year at an extra cost of £600, and that alternative means of provision be investigated in the intervening period. Cllr Taylor queried whether the end of the financial year was, in this instance, March or June 2017.

Resolved: that the current arrangements be continued until the end of the financial year at a cost of £600 and that the Clerk clarify whether that was the Council's or SRYP's year end; (*subsequently determined that both organisations had a year end of 31st March*).

194/2016 **Items for payment**

The following payments were agreed:

Somerset Rural Youth Project	£2,000.00
A Sutton	£92.00
SDS	£41.83
Moorland Village Hall	£30.00
A Bradford	£2,736.00
N P Community Centre	£45.00
M Denham	£144.00

195/2016 **Finance Reports**

The Clerk presented the financial summary and budget report for the year to 30th September. He also reported receipt of the tax base figures from the District Council.

Resolved: that the reports be received and that the Finance and General Purposes Committee meet on the rising of Planning on 21st November 2016 to consider recommendations for the forthcoming year's budget and precept.

196/2016 **Wilstock Play Area**

The Clerk reported that Officers of Sedgemoor DC had agreed to a meeting on site to discuss current problems.

Resolved: that the Clerk arrange a site meeting with Sedgemoor DC, preferably early in the day, to discuss current issues. (*Subsequently arranged for 9:00 am on 6th December*)

197/2016 **Former allotment land North Newton.**

Members considered a letter from the Council's land agents recommending that, following the termination of the current arrangements, the land be advertised for letting on a three year Farm Business Tenancy.

Resolved: that a decision be deferred for the time being.

198/2016 **North Newton Playing fields Association**

The Clerk presented a request from the North Newton Playing Fields Assoc. for reimbursement of its insurance costs in the sum of £657.00. This was considerably higher than in previous years, but was the result of a last minute withdrawal of the previous group policy arrangements.

Resolved: that the request be granted and that the Clerk explore ways of obtaining a reduced quote for next year.

199/2016 **Meeting Schedule**

The Clerk presented an updated meeting schedule.

Resolved: that the schedule be agreed and that the Clerk contact the County Council with regard to holding a future meeting in the school in Stockmoor.

200/2016 **Informal Budget Meeting**

It was agreed that the informal budget meeting be held on 14th November at Ferrydown House.

201/2016 **Telephone Kiosks**

The Clerk reported on proposals from BT to close pay phones around the district. Cllr Revans suggested that the phone in Fore Street North Petherton should be retained.

Resolved: that the Clerk respond to the District Council stating the view that the pay phone in Fore Street should be retained and that, where others were removed, signs be placed advising where the nearest payphone was located.

202/2016 **Correspondence**

The Clerk reported a letter received from local residents thanking Cllr Bradford for arranging to have the verges cut.

203/2016 **Matters of Report**

Cllr Mrs Denham asked that the County Council be informed of problems being caused by farm vehicles bumping over the culvert in Baymeads Lane.

Cllr Barham reported that North Newton Village Hall Committee had requested a letter of support for an application to Sedgemoor DC for grant aid towards the costs of improvements to the hall. The Clerk was authorised to send a letter and to invite the Committee to submit an application to the Town Council.

Cllr Sellick raised the issue of parking problems in Showground Road. It was reported that Cllr Taylor was arranging a meeting on site with County officials and Cllr Sellick agreed to also attend.

Cllr Mrs Hyde referred to dog fouling problems in Mill Street and Cllr Ives informed Members that the new litter picking tools had been received; one was to be kept at his house and one at Cllr MacLaurins.

Cllr Taylor informed the meeting that it had been reported at a recent meeting of the Drainage Board that it was part of the flooding prevention strategy to use the Levels as a storage area.

Cllr Bradford reported that he had distributed a number of sacks of bulbs, but that some had not yet been collected. He also expressed sympathy and good wishes to Cllr Revans and to Cllr Spencer, both of whose wives were unwell.

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm

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