

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held at North Newton Village Hall on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 7:15 pm

Present. Cllr J Taylor (Deputy Mayor) in the chair.

Councillors. Cllr J Barham, Cllr W Revans, Cllr P Spencer, Cllr P MacLaurin, Cllr Mrs L Spelman-Ives, Cllr Mrs H Phillips, Cllr Mrs M Denham, Cllr B Sellick, Cllr J Hesketh. Cllr R Ives, Cllr G Jones and Cllr Mrs L Hyde

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

34/2017 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr A Bradford.

35/2017 **Declarations of interest**

Item 7 Cllrs Revans and MacLaurin declared that they were members of SaWRA (they did not withdraw as no decisions relating the Association were proposed).

Item 12 Cllrs Taylor and Ives declared that they were Council appointees on the Moorland Village Hall Committee (they withdrew when a decision was taken on this item).

36/2017 **Community Time**

A number of people raised issues about outstanding matters and continuing problems at Stockmoor. County Councillor Brown reported that discussions were taking place regarding work that the developer needed to do before the roads in Stockmoor could be adopted. He also stated that adoption would not take place until at least a year after the work was completed. It was also stated that the hoardings in the village should now be removed.

37/2017 **Local Plan Presentation**

Mr Nick Tait from Sedgemoor DC gave a presentation on the final draft of the Local Plan. He explained how the plan, which covered the whole of the district and stretched until 2032, had to “deliver” a significant number of new houses, both market and affordable, and also opportunities for employment. He also outlined the other policy objectives that it sought to achieve. Responses to the Plan had to be sent by 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

Members raised a number of questions during an extensive discussion. Transport problems were discussed, together with parking issues across the area; the need for community infrastructure was stressed as was the importance of linking the proposals in the plan to other activities and to plans in neighbouring districts. Shortage of school places was identified as a serious issue, with a clear identified need for a new secondary school to be built locally.

Cllr Taylor thanked Mr Tait for a very useful presentation, and the Clerk agreed to prepare the Council’s formal response to the consultation document.

38/2017 **School Bus**

Cllr Revans reported that Mr Ed Hetherington had agreed to act on a pro bono basis on behalf of the parents affected by the proposed withdrawal of the school bus in North Petherton, at the forthcoming appeal. Mrs Helen Warren explained that parents were sending evidence to him by the 15<sup>th</sup> March, and that there was a meeting with him

arranged at Ferrydown House on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017.

**Resolved:** That the Council continue to provide its wholehearted support to the parents and that authority be delegated to the Finance and General Purposes Committee to deal with any urgent matters should they arise.

39/2017 **Minutes of previous meeting.**

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017 be approved as a correct record

40/2017 **Matters arising**

Cllr Revans reported that 20 young people from across the Council's area had attended the last youth club session.

41/2017 **Road Safety**

Cllr Jones updated the meeting on road safety problems that were being experienced in Stockmoor, particularly around the school at busy times, when there had been a number of incidents and, unfortunately, a child had been injured. Persimmon Homes had taken some action recently to address the issues and County Cllr Brown reported that discussions were now taking place between the developer and Somerset Highways regarding the completion of outstanding works prior to adoption.

**Resolved:** that the Clerk write again to Persimmon Homes expressing the Council's concerns.

42/2017 **Grant Feedback**

Mrs M Phillips presented a written report on behalf of SaWRA on how the Council's grants for the business case report and the time bank project had been spent and how effective they had been. She also answered a number of questions and agreed to report further to a future meeting on her work with the time bank. (During discussions on this item Mr Phillips, a member of the community, interjected to object to the non verbal language of some councillors. The Chairman stated that he understood that no offence was intended and the discussion on the matter in hand resumed.)

**Resolved:**

- a. that Mrs Phillips be thanked for her report and her kind offer to report further on progress be accepted;
- b. that a request be made that the Business Case report be made available to the Council; and
- c. that an item be included on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss how the Council could best discharge its responsibilities as the local democratically elected representative body all of the North Petherton civil parish including Wilstock and Stockmoor.

43/2017

**Planning**

The Clerk presented a report on planning applications that had been determined for the area and updated the meeting on progress with the Neighbourhood Plan. He also read out an email that he had received from the Planning Authority relating to the recent application on the Brainwave site.

**Resolved:**

- a. that the report be received;
- b. that the Council withdraw its objection to the application on the Brainwave site; and
- c. that the opportunity be taken to use the Annual Town Meeting as a means to

44/2017 promote awareness of the Neighbourhood Plan and the associated questionnaire.

**Items for payment**

The following payments were approved:

Lemon Gazelle	£720.00
N P Community Centre	£32.00
Devon ALC	£216.00
Wessex Water	£99.87
Mervyn Hillier	£26.00
Sedgemoor DC	£267.06
Crimson Hill Support	£195.00
Purnells Printers	£106.00
Greenslades	£769.88

**NPPFCT**

Sedgemoor DC £1,727.40

G O'Loughlin £30.00

45/2017 GWB Services £200.00

**Financial Report**

The Clerk presented financial reports for the period to January 2017.

46/2017 **Resolved;** that the reports be received

**Grant Request**

Members considered a request from Moorland Village Hall Committee for a grant towards improvement works. Cllr Taylor spoke to the item and then he and Cllr Ives withdrew. Cllr Spencer took the Chair for this item.

47/2017 **Resolved:** that a grant of £2,400.00 be approved.

**Training Session**

The Clerk reminded members that the inhouse training session would take place on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at Ferrydown House.

48/2017

**Contract for Services**

It was agreed that Cllrs Spencer, Revans and Mrs Hyde would meet prior to the training session to formulate the street cleaning specification for the North Petherton area.

49/2017

**Flooding attenuation measures**

Cllr Taylor reported that he and Cllr Bradford had attended a meeting with representatives from the Internal Drainage Board and the Somerset Rivers Authority. It had been agreed that the water courses, upstream of North Petherton, through Klingscliff and the stream flowing through Brook Farm, could be suitable for attenuation using simple environmentally sensitive methods. This was to be investigated by the SRA (Somerset Rivers Authority) and FWAG (Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group). A further report would be presented to Council in due course.

50/2017

**Communications**

This item was deferred.

51/2017

**Broadband**

It was reported that there had been some improvements to the broadband service in North Petherton, but that problems remained in the Northern part of Stockmoor. County Cllr Brown said that he was in contact with Openreach, and that they were looking to do

52/2017

something in April to address these. It was agreed that any issues should be referred to him.

**Correspondence**

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from Tamlyns relating to the tenders received for letting the former allotment land in North Newton. It was agreed that this be dealt with as an urgent item. Cllrs Spencer and Revans declared an interest in this item and withdrew.

**Resolved:** that the land be let to the highest bidder, B and B, and that the Clerk make the agents aware of the importance of cultivating the land in a way that reduced the risk of run- off and flooding.

**Matters of Report**

Cllr Mrs Phillips reported that she had contacted the Highways Authority concerning the condition of the carriageway on the motorway access and roundabout, and also that she and Cllr Mrs Denham were meeting on March 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss the provision of a defibrillator.

Cllr Hesketh reported that there were still problems with illegal parking by the library. Cllr Mrs Hyde reported that she had received a leaflet about a meeting to discuss the provision of secondary school in North Petherton.

Cllr MacLaurin reported on the increasing level of vandalism in Wilstock and Stockmoor. He also reported that a meeting room was now available in Stockmoor Lodge.

The meeting closed at 9:40 pm



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