

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held at Ferrydown House on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 at 7:15 pm

Present. Cllr A Bradford Chairman.

Councillors. Cllr J Barham, Cllr P Spencer, Cllr P MacLaurin, Cllr Mrs L Spelman-Ives, Cllr Mrs M Denham, Cllr B Sellick, Cllr R Ives, Cllr J Taylor and Cllr Mrs L Hyde

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

53/2017 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr W Revans, Cllr G Jones, Cllr J Hesketh and Cllr Mrs H Phillips

54/2017 **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest

55/2017 **School Bus**

Cllr Bradford reported that the Appeals Panel, which had met on the previous Friday, had decided that the County Council must continue to provide transport for children from North Petherton to Robert Blake School. He congratulated the parents on their successful campaign and thanked Mr Ed Hetherington, who had represented the parents at the hearing. He referred particularly to the work done by Mrs Helen Warren and to the support provided by fellow Town Councillors, County Cllr Brown and the Clerk.

Mrs Warren, who was present at the meeting together with a number of other parents, thanked Cllr Bradford for his invaluable guidance and support during the process and also expressed the parents' gratitude to the Council as a whole. Everyone agreed that it was a victory for common sense.

56/2017 **Community Time**

Mr Andy Newlands explained the work that he had been doing to promote the provision of defibrillators in North Petherton. He felt that at least 3 were needed, but that it might be possible to persuade organisations that already had one to house it in a publicly accessible cabinet. Cllr Taylor agreed to find out if funding was available from Somerset Community Foundation. Cllrs Mrs Denham, who was already working with Cllr Mrs Phillips on this issue for the Council, said that she was grateful for Mr Newlands' input and for his offer of help.

57/2017 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

58/2017 **Matters arising**

Cllr Bradford thanked Cllr Taylor for chairing the meeting in his absence. There was a general discussion about the Council's grant making procedures and Cllr Taylor agreed to provide the Clerk with a copy of letter that accompanied grants made by the Somerset Community Foundation. The Clerk and Cllr MacLaurin reported back on action that had been taken by the police in respect of the vandalism in Wilstock and Stockmoor. Cllr Mrs Hyde said that she had attended a meeting arranged by parents about the provision of a secondary school in North Petherton

59/2017 **Mayor's Report**

The Mayor reported that he had kept in touch with the Clerk whilst he was away on holiday and had been busy attending meetings and dealing with a number of issues since his return.

60/2017

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

The Clerk reported that it was the intention for Lemon Gazelle to be present at the Annual Town Meeting to spread awareness of the plan and to encourage people to complete the questionnaire.

61/2017

### **Items for payment**

The following payments were approved:

Water2business	£82.00
Somerset CC	£23,000.00
N Petherton Comm Centre	£1,680.03
A Sutton	£92.00
Crimson Hill Support	£52.50
Greenslades	£1,259.74
N Newton Village Hall	£20.00
Lemon Gazelle	£720.00
Sedgemoor DC	£1,041.60 (NPPFCT)

62/2017

### **Housing Needs Survey**

Cllr Bradford introduced a briefing note prepared by the District Council's Housing Development Project Officer about providing affordable housing in North Newton. A pre-requisite of taking any project forward was that a housing needs survey needed to be undertaken. The cost of this was £2,037.65, and the Council was being asked to fund this work. After some discussion it was

**Resolved:** that the Clerk ascertain if the project was eligible for a community grant from Sedgemoor Council and that authority be delegated to the Clerk, in consultation with the Mayor and the Chairman of the Finance and GP Committee, to approve a contribution of up to 100% of the cost, depending upon the outcome of his enquiries

63/2017

### **Contract for Services**

The Clerk reminded the Council that the tendering exercise was being undertaken by Sedgemoor Council's procurement team and that it was their intention to complete the process by the beginning of May. This meant that decisions on service levels needed to be made as soon as possible. Cllr Spencer agreed to expedite the work of his group and Cllr Barham reported that levels had been agreed for North Newton. He also agreed to arrange a meeting to agree the content of the allotment contract.

64/2017

### **Annual Town Meeting**

The Clerk outlined the arrangements for the forthcoming Annual Town meeting with the emphasis being on current issues facing the area and promoting interest in the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllrs Denham, Hyde and MacLaurin agreed to do what they could to publicise the meeting.

65/2017

### **Committee Structure**

The Clerk presented a report on possible changes to the Council's committee structure for the 2017/18 civic year. These included establishing a smaller and more defined steering group to drive the neighbourhood plan forward and setting up a Wilstock and Stockmoor Committee along similar lines to the Playing Fields Trust's Management Committee. Members were in general agreement with the report and agreed to consult

with residents and potential stakeholders and to discuss it again at the Planning Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> April. The Clerk was asked to raise the question again with the District Council of a Governance Review.

66/2016

**Meeting Schedule**

The Clerk presented the draft meeting schedule for 2017/18.

**Resolved:** That the schedule be approved and that the Council meetings for June and September be held in North Newton Village Hall and those for October and February take place in Moorland Village Hall.

67/2015

**Governance Statement**

It was agreed that the Annual Governance Statement be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 24<sup>th</sup> April after the Planning meeting.

68/2017

**Communication**

Members discussed how best to communicate with the community so that there was more interest in, and knowledge of, the Council's activities.

**Resolved:** That a Task and Finish Group, consisting of Cllr Mrs Hyde, Cllr Mrs Spelman -Ives and Cllr MacLaurin be set up to take this forward and bring back recommendations to a future meeting

69/2017

**Public Space Protection Order**

Members considered a consultation document from Sedgemoor DC on their proposed Public Space Protection Order. The Clerk was asked to query the absence of the Wilstock play areas in the document.

70/2017

**Matters of Report**

Cllr Mrs Spelman-Ives reported that she had seen dog pooh bag dispensers sponsored by local vets in another authority. She agreed to look further into this.

Cllr Mrs Hyde reported on the "Wobbly Walkers" group which met at the Communkity Centre in North Petherton Thursday mornings and which was in need of support.

Cllr MacLaurin informed members of the increased risk of lymes disease.

Cllr Taylor reported that Moorland Village Hall had been awarded £3,800 from the Somerset Community Foundation, and that the theft of batteries had seriously delayed improvement works to the railway line through his ward costing many hundreds of thousands of pounds.

County Councillor Brown reported that super fast broadband had been installed in Stockmoor. He also raised the question of installing more CCTV in the area. It was agreed that this be looked at at a future meeting.

Cllr Bradford reported that there had been vandal damage at the cemetery, and that there was a need to undertake further repairs to the stone wall at the allotments.

The meeting closed at 9:25 pm

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