

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held at Moorland Village Hall on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017 at 7:15 pm.

Present. Cllr A Bradford Chairman.

Councillors. Cllr J Barham, Cllr Mrs M Denham, Cllr B Sellick, Cllr J Hesketh, Cllr W Revans, Cllr P Spencer, Cllr J Taylor, Cllr L Parchment and Cllr Mrs L Hyde

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

152/2017 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs L Spelman Ives, Cllr R Ives and Cllr P Maclaurin

153/2017 **Declarations of interest**

Cllr Mrs Hyde and Cllr Hesketh declared a non pecuniary interest in item 13. Cllr Bradford stated that, as a member of the Sedgemoor Development Committee, he would not take part in any discussions on planning applications.

154/2017 **Community Time**

Mrs Turner spoke on behalf of the North Petherton Community Centre regarding planned improvement works to the kitchen. Sedgemoor DC had offered a grant towards the costs, but this was dependent on a significant contribution from the Town Council. Cllr Mrs Fraser reported that "SPARK" were holding an event in January where local organisations could pitch for funding towards community projects.

Mr Ryan Chorley gave a brief presentation about his proposals for a "Somerset Boat Centre" on the Bridgwater and Taunton canal. He stressed that the aim would be to provide a community benefit as well as operating on a commercial basis.

Mr Colin Gorton spoke on behalf of "SLAMS" (Somerset Levels and Moors Sheds) regarding their need to find new premises in the near future. It was agreed that the Council would like to help the organisation and that Mr Gorton should liaise with the Clerk with regard to possible sites, in particular land leased by the North Petherton Bowling Club, and that the Clerk, together with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor should deal with any urgent matters that might arise

155/2017 **Grant request**

The Chairman agreed to bring forward item 13 on the agenda, and Members discussed what action to take in response to the request from the Community Centre for a contribution towards the costs of the kitchen improvement works. The Clerk reminded Members of the Council's policy with regard to awarding grants.

**Resolved:** that agreement in principle be given to awarding a significant grant, subject to the submission of a formal application to the next meeting, and that the Clerk be authorised to make Sedgemoor DC aware of the situation.

156/2017 **Minutes.**

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

**Resolved:** that the minutes be approved.

157/2017 **Matters arising**

Cllr Revans agreed to meet with the Planning Enforcement Officer with regard to the problems in Bilberry Way. Cllr Taylor queried whether the grant to the Pentathlon Club was for revenue or capital purposes. It was noted that it was for the hiring of a

- grandstand, and thus revenue.
- 158/2017 **Mayor's Report**  
 Cllr Bradford reported on his attendance at the Wilstock harvest celebration and the rare breeds event at Junction 24. He also told Members about the art competition organised in relation to the carnival, where he had been asked to be a judge and to present the cup which he had provided.  
 Cllr Mrs Denham reported that she had represented the Mayor at the Axbridge festival.
- 159/2017 **Members' Reports**  
 Cllr Revans reported that he had met with the new Highways officer for the area, Kathryn Tyson and shown her the various problem sites. It was hoped that she might attend future meetings. He also confirmed that he hoped to put forward works to address the issues associated with Haddon Farm as part of the County's Small Improvement Scheme. Members agreed to support this approach.
- 160/2017 **New Councillor**  
 Cllr Bradford congratulated Luke Parchment on his recent election to the Council and welcomed him to his first Full Council meeting.  
**Resolved:** that Cllr Parchment join the Finance and Cemetery Committees (replacing Cllr Ives)
- 161/2017 **By Election**  
 The Clerk reported that a poll had been claimed for the current vacancy on the Council. If contested, a by election was scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> November.
- 162/2017 **Neighbourhood Plan**  
 It was agreed that further progress on this be put on hold until after the Government's Autumn Statement.
- 163/2017 **Cemetery Fees**  
 The Clerk submitted a report regarding the implementation of the decision for the Council to procure the grave digging service directly and incorporate the costs in the fees charged.  
**Resolved:**
  - a. To waive standing orders and engage Peter Parfitt to dig the graves at the cemetery for a trial period of 12 months at a cost of £365 for a grave and £65 for interment of ashes.
  - b. That the following charges, including gravedigging, apply with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017:
 

Interment in a grave	
i. Of the body of a child under 1 year of age	No charge
ii. Of the body of a child between 1 and 10	£400
iii. Of the body of a child between 11 and 15	£550
iv. Of the body of a person over 16 years of age	£590
Interment of cremated remains	£175

 That only the element of the fee excluding the cost of gravedigging is doubled for persons living outside the area.
- 164/2017 **Finance Reports**  
 The Clerk presented a monthly financial summary and a budget report.  
**Resolved:** that the reports be received.
- 165/2017 **Items for payment**

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

Viking	£185.78
N. Petherton Community Centre	£41.00
N. Newton Playing Fields Assoc.	£258.06

NPPFCT

GWB Services	£100.00
Pest Force	£200.00
Somerset Playing Fields Assoc.	£15.00

166/2017 **Conclusion of Audit**

The Clerk reported that the audit of the Council's Accounts had been completed and an unqualified report had been issued. He also brought Members' attention to a change that would be required to the Asset Register for future years.

167/2017 **Huntworth Railway Bridge**

Cllr Taylor reported on the proposed work to the Huntworth Railway Bridge which would involve a lengthy road closure with consequent inconvenience to local people, and, when completed might lead to the road being used as a "rat run" for commercial vehicles. He had spoken to Network Rail and County Highways and he was hopeful that both would attend a meeting. He was also concerned about the condition of the adjacent canal bridge, which might also be the responsibility of Network Rail.

**Resolved:** that Cllr Taylor be thanked for his work and that he should seek to arrange a public meeting in the village hall about this matter in the new year.

168/2017 **Wilstock and Stockmoor Forum**

**Resolved:** that this item be deferred.

169/2017 **Communications**

Cllr Mrs Hyde updated the meeting on the progress being made by the Group looking into this area. Further research had revealed that aluminium notice boards might be a more cost effective option than the current wooden ones.

**Resolved:** that the matter be discussed again at the next meeting.

170/2017 **Correspondence**

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter of thanks from the Pentathlon Club and that Revd Haslam had repaid the grant recently given towards installing electricity, as it had not been possible to proceed with the work.

171/2017 **Matters of Report**

The Clerk was asked to contact Sedgemoor DC regarding the supply of bulbs.

Cllr Bradford reported that he had contacted the County Council with regard to the problem of a parked car in North Newton.

Cllr Sellick expressed his concern about lorries speeding through North Petherton.

Cllr Mrs Denham reported that the local Tesco store had been pro-active in providing goods to local people in need. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the manager expressing the Council's appreciation.

172/2017 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

**Resolved:** that the public be excluded for the next item due its confidential nature.

173/2017 **Alfred Jewel Award**

Members gave further consideration to nominees for this year's award and agreed on a final list

The meeting closed at 10:10 pm

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