

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held at Ferrydown House, North Petherton on 14th May 2018 at 7:15 pm.

Present. Cllr A Bradford Chairman.

Councillors. Cllr J Barham, Cllr Mrs A Fraser, Cllr B Sellick, Cllr Mrs M Denham, Cllr W Revans, Cllr R Ives, Cllr Mrs L Hyde, Cllr L Parchment and Cllr R Brown

In Attendance. Rod Latham Clerk and several members of the press and public.

73/2018 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Spencer and Cllr Taylor

74/2018 **Election of Mayor**

Cllr Bradford was proposed and seconded. There being no other nominations, it was:
Resolved: that Cllr Bradford be elected Mayor for the ensuing year.

75/2018 **Election of Deputy Mayor**

Cllr Parchment was proposed and seconded. There being no other nominations, it was:
Resolved: that Cllr Parchment be elected Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

76/2018 **Declarations of interest**

Cllr Bradford reported that, as a member of the Sedgemoor Development Committee, he would not comment on any planning matters. Cllr Ives and Cllr Mrs Spelman Ives declared an interest in item 20 and left the room for this item

77/2018 **Community Time**

No matters were raised by the public

78/2018 **Minutes**

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 9th April 2018.

Resolved: that the minutes be approved

79/2018 **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

80/2018 **Co-option**

As the two vacancies that had recently arisen were to be filled by co-option, Members considered a request that had been submitted from Richard Brown to join the Council.
Resolved: that Richard Brown be co-opted onto the Council and that the remaining vacancy be considered at the next meeting. Having signed the declaration of acceptance, Cllr Brown joined the meeting.

81/2018 **Appointments to Committees**

The following appointments were made:

Allotments Advisory Committee – Cllr Barham (Chairman), Cllr Sellick and Cllr Ives, plus Mayor and Deputy.

Cemetery Advisory Committee – Cllr Spencer (Chairman), Cllr Brown and Cllr Ives, plus Mayor and Deputy.

Finance & General Purposes Committee – Cllr Spencer (Chairman), Cllr Taylor, Cllr Mrs Spelman Ives and Cllr Revans plus Mayor and Deputy

Personnel Committee – Cllr Mrs Spelman Ives and Cllr Brown plus Deputy Mayor (Chairman).

82/2018 **Appointments to Outside Bodies**

The following appointments were made:

SALC – Cllr Mrs Hyde and Cllr Mrs Spelman Ives
Moorland Village Hall – Cllr Taylor and Cllr Ives
North Petherton Twinning Assoc. – Cllr Bradford and Cllr Mrs Fraser
North Petherton Community Assoc. – Cllr Mrs Hyde
North Newton Playing Fields Assoc. – Cllr Barham
North Petherton Youth Centre – Cllr Revans and Cllr Mrs Hyde
Quantock Hills Joint Advisory Committee – Cllr Taylor and Cllr Sellick (deputy)
Wroth Charity/Cheeke & Stodgell Educational Foundation – Cllr Revans and Cllr Spencer.

83/2018 **Parish Path Liaison Officer**
Cllr Revans was appointed to this post

84/2018 **Mayor's Report**
Cllr Bradford began by thanking Cllr Mrs Denham for her support as Deputy Mayor for the preceding year and to all other Councillors and the Clerk. He believed that, as principal councils struggled to cope with ever tightening budgets, more and more work would fall on parish councillors who gave their time and efforts voluntarily and often without thanks.

He reminded Members of the Council's achievements over the last twelve months including supporting Moorland and North Newton Village halls, the North Petherton Community Centre, the Youth Centre and the Town Library and the playing fields in North Petherton and North Newton. He commented on the Council's important role in the planning system and on the need to work hard to get the most from it to support the local community. He was particularly pleased about the progress made in establishing the Wilstock and Stockmoor Forum to help that new community address the many issues that faced it.

Finally he thanked former Councillor MacLaurin for his work for the Council and particularly his help in running the technological aspects of the Planning Meetings, which he had kindly agreed to continue with for the present.

85/2018 **Allotments**
Cllr Barham reported that a considerable amount of work had been undertaken at the allotment site to improve the facility and maintain the walls and tracks. It was hoped that it would be back to full occupation in the near future.

86/2018 **Cemetery**
In the absence of Cllr Spencer, the Clerk summarised the activities that had taken place at the cemetery, particularly the change to the grave digging arrangements which were working well. He reminded Members that there was a current task to cost works to improve the interior of the chapel.

87/2018 **Playing fields**
Cllr Mrs Denham updated Members on the work of the Playing Fields Trust, including improved policing of Parkersfield and planned developments at the Memorial Field. She also reported that efforts were continuing to secure a meeting with the North Petherton Football Club to discuss the way forward at Parkersfield, but these were proving difficult.

88/2018 **Annual Governance Statement**
The Statement had been considered in detail at the last meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee which had recommended that the Council could answer

in the affirmative to all of the statements. After further discussion, it was **Resolved:** that the Annual Governance Statement be approved as recommended and that the Chairman sign it.

89/2018

Finance Reports

The Clerk submitted finance and budget reports for the year ended 31st March 2018.

Resolved: that the reports be received, and that Cllr Spencer be thanked for his continuing work regarding the Council's finances.

90/2018

Items for payment.

Resolved: that the following items be paid:

Adam Kyte	£126.00
B Sellick	£2,180.00
GWB Services	£1,275.00
P Parfitt	£455.00
A Sutton	£92.00
Sedgemoor DC	£2,397.40
Somerset Rural Youth Project	£2,703.00
NPPFCT	£17,500.00
Crimson Hill Ltd	£129.37
GWB Services	£100.00 (Trust)

91/2018

Grant Request

Members considered a request from Wilstock Hub to help fund work on providing the information and detailed analysis required to apply for major grants to enable this project to proceed. The Clerk confirmed that he had received the required documents.

Resolved: that a grant of £5,000 be agreed.

92/2018

Dog bins

The Clerk reported that he had received a request for an additional dog bin in the Moorland area.

Resolved: that this be considered at a meeting when the ward member was present.

93/2018

Town Meeting

Members discussed the issues raised at the recent Town Meeting. It was noted that people's concerns were primarily about the significant issues of highways, parking, maintenance of public areas, education and planning. It was agreed that these were exactly the issues that the Council was looking at as part of its Infrastructure Strategy.

94/2018

Investment issues

Resolved: that this matter be referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for a recommendation.

95/2018

Matters of report

Cllr Mrs Fraser reported that she had attended a meeting of the EDF forum, and that the roundabout at Quantock Road had been the main topic.

Cllr Mrs Spelman-Ives reported on the need for a dog bin in the Country Park area of Wilstock. It was agreed that the matter be raised at a future meeting when an exact location was known.

Cllr Mrs Hyde sought clarification on who was supposed to be attending the various forum meetings. Cllr Bradford stated that numbers were not usually restricted, but, if there were any problems to raise them with either the Clerk or himself.

Cllr Sellick sought clarification about the site for a school in Wilstock. Cllr Bradford

clarified that a site had been approved.
Cllr Revans asked for an update on the Country Park. Cllr Bradford stated that he and the Clerk would be meeting representatives from Persimmon Homes in the next few weeks and would report further after that.

The meeting closed at 8:55 pm

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