

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held at North Newton Village Hall at 7:15 pm on 4th September 2018

Present. Cllr A Bradford Chairman.

Councillors. Cllr Mrs A Fraser, Cllr B Sellick, Cllr P Spencer, Cllr J Taylor, Cllr R Ives, Cllr J Barham, Cllr Mrs L Spelman-Ives, Cllr L Parchment, Cllr W Revans and Cllr R Brown.

In Attendance. Rod Latham Clerk and two members of the public

131/2018 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received Cllr Mrs Hyde and Cllr Mrs Denham.

132/2018 **Community Time**

There was a general discussion about Neighbourhood Watch schemes and it was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Police to see if there was any role that the Council could play.

133/2018 **Letter from Police Area Commander.**

Members considered a letter sent to all local councils from the local commander setting out her proposals to re-organise how local resources were deployed.

Resolved: that the Clerk reply to the effect that, whilst efforts to improve the service provided by the police were appreciated, the fundamental problem was a lack of resources as a result of several years of significant cut backs.

134/2018 **Minutes**

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July 2018

Resolved: that the minutes be approved.

135/2018 **Matters arising**

It was noted that it had still not been possible to arrange a meeting with County Highways. It was agreed that the Clerk write again and copy Cllr Revans in so that he could chase the matter up. Cllr Taylor reported that he was still having no success in getting Network Rail to attend a meeting with local residents about the forthcoming road closures.

136/2018 **Co-option**

The Clerk reported that no one had come forward to fill the current vacancy.

Resolved: that efforts continue to find someone who is interested, but recognising the fact that elections will be taking place in May 2019.

137/2018 **Mayor's Report**

Cllr Bradford that it had been a quiet period for visits, but that he continued to be kept very busy dealing with local problems and issues.

138/2018 **Members' Reports**

Cllr Mrs Fraser reported on the recent EDF Forum, and urged Members to report any issues involving HPC transport to either EDF or Sedgemoor DC, as prompt action was usually taken. Cllr Bradford updated the meeting on matters arising from the Transport Forum.

Cllr Revans spoke about the planned cuts to County Council services. Of local concern were the ending of the Youth Support Grants and not providing rock salt anymore.

139/2018 **Finance Report**

The Clerk presented the periodic budget monitoring report and answered a number of

questions.

Resolved: that the report be received and that the Clerk look to see if budgets could be profiled in some way to make the report more helpful.

140/2018 **Items for payment**

Resolved: that the following item be paid
N. Petherton Community Centre £40.50

141/2018 **North Petherton Library**

Members had a wide ranging discussion on the future on the local library, which was under threat of closure as a result of the County Council cutbacks. Cllr Revans outlined the likely timetable for the decision process, Cllr Mrs Hyde reported on progress being made on forming a "Friends" group. Cllr Bradford and the Clerk briefed councillors on the meeting that had taken place between County Council Officers and the Library sub group. It was clear that, if decisions went as predicted, keeping the library open after January 2019 was likely to involve the Council in costs in excess of £20,000 pa.

Resolved: that the matter be discussed again at the next meeting, when the County Council's position was clearer.

142/2018 **Quantocks AONB**

Cllr Taylor reported that proposals were being considered to link the Quantocks AONB with the Exmoor National Park. This would have implications for how the AONB was funded. It was also possible that the area covered by the AONB might increase.

143/2018 **Armistice Centenary**

Members discussed how the £1918 earmarked to support activities commemorating the centenary of the Armistice might be allocated. Cllr Revans informed the meeting that 68 people were recorded on memorials in the Council's area, and that it was planned to have a march to the church in North Petherton. It was estimated that £374 would be needed for poppies, with possible further sums for materials, transport, silhouettes and a booklet.

144/2018 **Speed Indicator Devices.**

Members gave further consideration as to how to react to the withdrawal of the Speed Indicator Device programme by the County Council. The devices provided vital information, not only about the speed of traffic, but also about the number of vehicles using local roads. Cllr Spencer pointed out that reliable information about vehicle numbers was important when making the case for improvements to the road network to address the major problems in this area. Cllr Mrs Fraser reminded the meeting that, in the past, Members themselves had stood by the roadside and manually recorded traffic numbers.

Resolved: that the Council should opt for paying the County Council to install devices at eight locations throughout the area at different times over a six months period.

145/2018 **Meeting Schedule**

The Clerk presented the draft schedule of meetings for the period up to May 2019.

Resolved: that additional Finance & General Purposes meetings be added and a revised schedule be presented to the next Planning Meeting.

146/2018 **Correspondence**

A letter had been received from Crimson Hill Support Ltd. regarding room hire at Ferrydown House for the Youth Club.

- Resolved:** that the hire agreement be renewed.
- 147/2018 **Cemetery Chapel**
 The future of the grade 2 listed chapel building at the cemetery was debated, following advice that the premises appeared to be structurally sound, but were in a poor state of repair, as they had not been used for many years. Members were concerned about spending money on something that wouldn't be widely used, but recognised that it would be a shame to let the building fall further into disrepair.
Resolved: to arrange a meeting with local funeral directors to discuss ways of bringing the building back into use.
- 148/2018 **Change of designation**
 Further to a site meeting at the cemetery it was
Resolved: that the area of the cemetery relating to plots 490 to 497 be re-designated as "traditional".
- 149/2018 **Matters of report**
 Cllr Revans reported that, as a county councilor, he had received a request for double yellow lines to be placed in Queen Street in North Petherton by the junction with Fore Street, and he would welcome the Council's views. It was generally agreed that such lines would not be appropriate.
 Cllr Mrs Spelman-Ives reported that a grant of £10,000 had been awarded to the Wilstock Hub project by the Big Lottery.
 Cllr Brown drew the Council's attention to its Standing Orders with respect to the conduct of meetings.
 Cllr Sellick raised the matter of double yellow lines near the Langdon's entrance. Cllr Revans stated that this would be consulted on shortly. Cllr Taylor noted that trucks were still parking illegally in the area where restrictions had been imposed.
 Cllr Bradford reported that he had received complaints about litter in Kingscliffe. He also requested that a meeting of the Allotments Committee be arranged.
- 150/2018 **Exclusion of the press and public.**
Resolved: that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the next item, due to its confidential nature.
- 151/2018 **Alfred Jewel Awards**
 Members gave further consideration to who should receive the Alfred Jewel Award at the forthcoming Civic Service.
Resolved: that award be given to: J and T E, J S, AG and R and L S, and that a small working party, comprising of Cllrs Bradford, Ives and Mrs Fraser, be set up to review the terms of the award so as not to, effectively, exclude residents of Wilstock and Stockmoor.

The meeting closed at 10:00 pm

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