

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held at Moorland Village Hall at 7:15 pm on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018

Present. Cllr A Bradford Chairman.

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

In Attendance. Rod Latham Clerk and one member of the public

152/2018 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received Cllr P Spencer, Cllr J Taylor and Cllr B Sellick

153/2018 **Declarations of interests**

Cllr Barham declared a non-prejudicial interest in item 12 and Cllr Parchment stated that he was an allotment holder.

154/2018 **Community Time**

Nothing was raised under this item

155/2018 **Minutes**

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018

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

156/2018 **Matters arising**

The Clerk updated the meeting with regard to neighbourhood watch schemes. It was agreed that the Police Beat Officer should be invited to attend a future meeting. Cllr Revans reported that, due to safety issues, the Armistice Day march would be along the pavement, not the road.

157/2018 **Mayor's Report**

Cllr Bradford reported that he continued to respond to a significant number of queries and issues from local residents.

158/2018 **Planning decisions**

The Clerk presented a report on planning decisions made by the District Council.

**Resolved:** that the report be received

159/2018 **Finance Report**

The Clerk presented the periodic budget monitoring report

**Resolved:** that the report be received and that the Mayor arrange to have a recent report on CIL arrangements circulated

160/2018 **Items for payment**

**Resolved:** that the following items be paid:

Greenslades £2,310.20

Royal British Legion £150.00

A Sutton £92.00

Somerset Rural Youth £5,406.00

NPPFCT

B Sellick £123.83

161/2018 **North Petherton Library**

Councillors gave further consideration to the County Council's proposed closure of the Town Library. Final decisions had not yet been taken at County Hall. Members enthusiastically supported the formation of the "Friends Group" that, it was hoped,

would play an increasingly important part in the future of this important service. The inaugural meeting of the Friends Group was being arranged for the 22<sup>nd</sup> October in the North Petherton Community Centre.

**Resolved:** that the Council agree, in principle, to actively support the retention of the library for an initial three year period and that the Finance and General Purpose Committee be asked to review the cost implications as part of the budget process.

162/2018 **Youth Club**

Cllr Revans reported that the County Council was withdrawing all of its support for the youth club. Members expressed their concern about this, as youth projects were an important and cost effective way of avoiding problems in the future. It was agreed that Cllr Revans and Cllr Mrs Hyde should pursue discussions with the Youth Service to identify how to ensure that the club continued.

163/2018 **Winter maintenance**

Cllr Revans also reported that the County Council were also stopping the provision of rock salt to local communities. Members discussed various ways in which the impact of this could be eliminated.

**Resolved:** that the Mayor and Clerk investigate this further with the local Highways Team

164/2018 **Defibrillators**

Cllr Barham explained that a local group in North Newton had raised funds to install a defibrillator in the village and that there were some funds left over which, it was felt could be put towards providing one at Maunsel Lock. The Council had an established policy of providing funds to ensure that defibrillators were strategically located throughout its area.

**Resolved:** that the Council contribute £600 towards the cost of installing a defibrillator at Maunsel Lock

165/2018 **Speed Indicator Devices**

Councillors gave further consideration to this topic, particularly with regard to HGV's speeding through North Petherton in the early hours of the morning. It was agreed that the police be requested to locate one of their devices near to the Memorial Fields.

166/2018 **Allotment Committee.** It was agreed that a meeting should be held on 9<sup>th</sup> October at 5:30 pm

167/2018 **Wilstock and Stockmoor Forum.** The latest meeting of the Wilstock and Stockmoor Forum had taken place on 24<sup>th</sup> September and Members considered a report on the issues arising from it. Cllr Bradford said that he felt the forum was proving to be a useful initiative, and that considerable progress had been made over recent months, but that it was important to try and persuade people from the organisations that had responsibilities to local residents to come to the meetings. It was noted that lifebuoys had now been installed around the ponds in the Country Park.

**Resolved:** that the report be received and that the Mayor and the Clerk look at ways of encouraging organisations to send representatives to the meetings.

168/2018 **Matters of report**

Cllr Mrs Denham reported on the success of the coffee mornings that she and Cllr Mrs Hyde held in the town.

Members discussed the impact that the Hinkley Point project was having on the local economy. Full employment locally was making it difficult to recruit to some of the lower paid positions such as care workers.

The meeting closed at 8:55 pm

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