

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held on Monday 5th November 2018 at 7:15 pm in the small hall of the North Petherton Community Centre.

Present. Cllr A Bradford Chairman.

Councillors. Cllr R Ives, Cllr Mrs L Spelman-Ives, Cllr L Parchment, Cllr W Revans, Cllr Mrs L Hyde, Cllr Mrs M Denham, Cllr B Sellick. Cllr P Spencer, Cllr J Taylor and Cllr R Brown.

In Attendance. Mr C Dadds (JLL), representatives of the North Petherton Community Centre Committee, and several members of the press and public. Mr R T Latham, Town Clerk.

169/2018 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received Cllr J Barham and Cllr Mrs A Fraser.

170/2018 **Declarations of interests**

Cllr Mrs Hyde declared that she was the council's representative on the Community Centre committee. Cllr Mrs Spelman Ives, Cllr Ives and Cllr Brown declared an interest in item 5 and left the room when it was being discussed.

171/2018 **Community Time**

Mr Dadds updated Members on progress on the proposed development of land to the East of the motorway as a service area and employment units. He expected a planning application to be submitted before the end of the year. He agreed to liaise with the Clerk to arrange a site visit.

172/2018 **Community Centre Car parking**

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter inviting the Council to comment on proposed new arrangements for the Community Centre car park. Members of the Centre's Management Committee were present and answered a number of questions from Councillors. Problems were being caused by cars being left in the car park for long periods making it difficult for centre users and shoppers to find spaces. A number plate recognition system was being considered with free parking limited to 2 hours. Councillors were appreciative of the Committees objectives, but pointed out a number of potential practical problems and advised that the public should be fully consulted.

173/2018 **Public Toilets**

The Community Centre Committee, which operates the public toilets in North Petherton on behalf of the Council, had requested authorisation to proceed to repair and replace the doors at a cost of £550.

Resolved: that the work be authorised.

174/2018 **Minutes**

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 1st October 2018

Resolved: that the minutes be approved.

175/2018 **Matters arising**

Members commented on the issue of social care, particularly with reference to the County Council's cut backs.

176/2018 **Wilstock Hub**

Cllrs Mrs Spelman Ives, as a trustee of the charity, together with fellow trustees Cllrs Ives and Brown, gave a presentation on the history, aims and objectives of the project to build a major new community facility in Wilstock. After much work from many people,

they were now at the stage of making formal applications for significant grants to fund the building. Many grant making bodies liked to see that other organisations had already provided funds and, in particular, that local councils were supportive. The trustees therefore asked the Council to consider agreeing to a significant contribution towards the project. Members asked a number of question, after which the three trustees left the room. After further discussion, including potential sources of funding available to the Council, it was

177/2018 **Resolved:** to agree, in principle, to a contribution of £150,000, subject to a due diligence report being prepared by the Town Clerk, taking professional advice, as appropriate.

Mayor's Report

Cllr Bradford reported that he had attended a number of events including a service at Wells Cathedral and a meeting of the Ladies' Fellowship Trust. He also thanked Councillors for their support at the recent Civic service.

178/2018 **Resolved:** that the Mayor and Mrs Bradford be thanked for all their hard work in organising another very successful service.

Members' Reports

Cllr Mrs Hyde reported on her attendance at a recent SALC discussion on health and well being issues and an ERDF road show at Cannington. Both events had proved to be relevant and informative. Cllr Mrs Spelman-Ives reported on her attendance at the Sedgemoor Conference on Affordable Housing which had covered a range of useful topics including new construction techniques. Cllr Revans had met with representatives of the Somerset Rural Youth Project to discuss the implications of the County Council's service cuts in that area and to explore replacement funding avenues. Cllr Taylor had attended a meeting about rural housing, which, whilst useful, had not offered any real solutions. He and Cllr Ives had met with Network Rail about the Huntworth rail bridge.

179/2018

North Petherton Library

Cllr Revans reported that the County Council's Cabinet had agreed to contribute £2,000 p.a. to support a Community partnership to retain the library in the town. Members were also updated on the work of the new Friends of the Library Group. The Clerk reported that he had now received a formal request for the Council to submit an Expression of Interest in forming a Community Partnership to operate the library from April 2019.

180/2018 **Resolved:** that the Council submit an Expression of Interest along the lines previously discussed.

Finance Report

The Clerk presented the periodic budget monitoring report

181/2018 **Resolved:** that the report be received.

Items for payment

Resolved: that the following items be paid:

Purnells Print and Design	£71.76
GWB Services	£1,343.00
Jane Haslam	£444.69
Janet Bradford	£45.00
A Sutton	£92.00
Moorland Village Hall	£36.00
Somerset County Council	£150.00

N Newton Village Hall	£10.00
Greenslades	£977.48

NPTC	
Pestforce	£200.00
GWB Services	£50.00

182/2018

Informal Budget Meeting

The Clerk presented a summary report of the matters discussed at the recent informal budget meeting. Cllr Spencer provide two revised budget option papers following on from the meeting. Members were happy for the Finance Committee to continue to develop the proposals, but bearing in mind that alternative suppliers of youth services could be available. Cllr Parchment raised issues about the need to review and revise the Council's Financial Regulations and to re-visit the Council's long term contracts.

183/2018

Resolved: that these matters be referred to the Finance Committee

Cycle Path

The Clerk reported that the project to construct a new cycle path linking Stockmoor to Bridgwater, which the Council was helping to finance, had reached the stage where work could commence, and that, consequently, the various agreements needed to signed.

184/2018

Resolved: that the Clerk be authorised to sign the agreements.

Christmas Lights

Members discussed arrangements for the Christmas trees and lights provided by the Council. It was agreed to follow the same format as the previous year, but that providing a large tree in the Churchyard should be explored and the locations of the other large trees be confirmed. The Mayor informed the meeting that the Christmas decoration competition would be taking place again.

185/2018

Correspondence

- a. **Cemetery.** The Clerk reported on a request for the Council to contribute towards the cost of moving a memorial stone that had become necessary as a result of the recent decision to re-designate part of the cemetery. **Resolved:** that a contribution of up to £150 be made.
- b. **Fore Street North Petherton.** The Clerk had received a request to allow scaffolding to be placed on part of the council owned triangle of land in Fore Street to enable repairs to be undertaken on the adjoining property. **Resolved:** that permission be granted.
- c. **SID's.** The Clerk reported that the County Council had decided not offer any sort of SID provision. The Council would therefore have to review its policy in this area.

186/2018

Planning application 37/18/00082

The Clerk reported that additional information about the parking impact of this application had been received and Members were being asked to reconsider their decision to object to it.

Resolved: that the objection be withdrawn

Matters of report

187/2018 Cllr Spencer suggested that the closed access to Stockmoor via the Hamp crossing could be opened for the Carnival night. It was agreed to pursue this.

The meeting closed at 10:00 pm

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