

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at the North Newton Village Hall commencing at 7:15 pm

Present. Cllr A Bradford Chairman.

Councillors. Cllr L Parchment, Cllr Mrs L Hyde, Cllr J Barham Cllr W Revans, Cllr P Spencer, Cllr B Sellick, Cllr L Pickersgill, Cllr R Ives, and Cllr J Taylor

In Attendance. Mrs H Barham, Ms C Woodford, Ms S Birch, Ms A Simmons and Mr R T Latham, Town Clerk

113/2019 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs L Spelman-Ives, Cllr Mrs H Warren, and Cllr Mrs D Bunce

114/2019 **Declarations of interests**

Cllr Bradford and Cllr Revans stated that they would not take part in any planning matters. Cllr Ives declared an interest in item 13 and left the room when that was discussed

115/2019 **Minutes**

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

**Resolved:** that the minutes be approved as a correct record

116/2019 **Matters arising.**

Cllr Taylor spoke about the Huntworth rail bridge. He pointed out that the local community had borne a heavy social and domestic cost during the long restructuring process. The new bridge, however, was not satisfactory, as it was not possible for low loader vehicles, especially the carnival lorry, to use it and the bridge had not been signed off by the County Council. Cllr Taylor had written to the Chief Executive of the County Council, who had visited the bridge and to Network Rail, who had not replied. It was likely that the matter would be raised at the next County Council Meeting.

117/2016 **Co-option**

Councillors considered applications for the vacant seat in the Hamp Bridge ward.

**Resolved:** that Claire Woodford be co-opted to the Council as the representative for the Hamp Bridge ward

118/2019 **Mayor's report**

Cllr Bradford reported that he was very pleased to have received the County Council Chairman's award at a recent event in Taunton. Members congratulated him on the honour. It was also noted that another local resident, Sue Pomeroy, had received an award, and Members recorded their best wishes to her.

119/2019 **Finance reports**

The Clerk presented the financial monitoring report for period to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019

**Resolved:** that the report be received

120/2019 **Items for payment**

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

Greenslades	£2013.67	Cemetery maintenance
N Petherton Community Centre	£510.00	Repair to toilet doors
N Petherton Community Centre	£1411.69	Public toilets
N Petherton Community Centre	£18.00	Hall hire

A Sutton £92.00 Grass cutting  
NPPFCT

Character Graphics Ltd. £108.00 Consultation event banners

121/2019 **Wilstock Hub funding agreement**

Members considered the recommendation from the Finance and General Purposes Committee that Council be recommended to enter into the agreement, subject to the latest accounts and constitution of Wilstock Hub being provided and any other matters that might be raised in the period before next Council meeting being satisfactorily resolved. The Clerk reported that the documents had been received and that no other matters had been raised. Cllr Revans remarked that he was not clear from the constitution about the different roles of Trustees and Members, but was happy for the Clerk to pursue this if he felt it necessary.

**Resolved:** that the Council enter into the agreement, that the Clerk be authorised to agree it with the Trustees of the Hub, and that the Mayor and Clerk be authorised to sign it as a deed on behalf of the Council

122/2019 **Capital projects and funding.**

Members considered recommendations from the Finance and General Purposes Committee in relation to taking forward the range of projects that were currently under discussion. These included:

1. Community Centre car park improvement – this involved working with the Community Centre Committee to increase the capacity of the car park, demolish the existing toilet block and provide a new facility by the side of the Community centre.
2. Memorial Field Improvement – the Trust was currently undertaking a consultation exercise to inform specific proposals for new facilities on the playing field. This had included an event at the Community Centre, a questionnaire and visits to local schools.
3. Cemetery Chapel – advice had been received from the Conservation Officer on the significance of the building and options for future use. It was suggested that a distinction be made between essential repair and redecoration work and optional developments to make alternative use of the building. It was agreed that work should also be undertaken to address the problem of unmaintained graves in the traditional section of the cemetery. Cllr Revans agreed to contact the United Reformed Church regarding artefacts of theirs currently stored in the chapel.
4. Bus shelters – new shelters had been requested for the stops serving Wilstock and Stockmoor.
5. County Council small improvement schemes – Cllr Revans reported that the chances of small highway schemes being undertaken in the area might be enhanced if local councils were willing to contribute towards them.
6. Library improvements – the Friends of the Library were looking at ways to undertake a refurbishment of the library to make it more effective both as a library and meeting space.

After detailed discussion it was **resolved:** that:

- a. Appropriate specialist support should be sought when necessary to take projects forward

- b. A full consultation and review process take place to identify and prioritise projects for inclusion in a Capital Programme
- c. In the meantime the Clerk look at ways of providing bus shelters cost effectively and, where practical, continue to develop other current projects
- d. To agree in principle to contribute half the cost of a feasibility study for the car park improvement.
- e. To concentrate initially on increasing the opening hours of the library.

123/2019 **Planning application 37/19/00053**

At the request of the Planning Authority, Members reconsidered application 37/19/00053.

**Resolved:** to adhere to the previous decision to object to the application.

124/2019 **Correspondence**

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from the Fire Authority asking for comments on proposals to alter the services provided by the local station. The Clerk was asked to respond stating that the Council strongly objected to the proposals and felt that they were particularly inappropriate given the impact of Hinkley Point.

A letter advising of a change to a footpath in Wilstock was also discussed. Members raised no objections'

125/2019 **Matters of report.**

Cllr Mrs Hyde reported that a recent quiz run by the Friends of the Library had raised over £400.

Cllr Barham indicated that he would be calling a meeting of the Allotment Committee.

Cllr Pickersgill reported on issues in Gillingham Drive; Persimmon were looking into these.

Cllr Revans reported that he had received some complaints about the condition of the cemetery. The Clerk agreed to raise this with the contractor.

Cllr Bradford asked that Sedgemoor DC be asked to move two bins from outside the old paper shop to outside McColls.

126/2019 **Press and public.**

**Resolved:** that the press and public be excluded for the following item due to its confidential nature.

127/2019 **Alfred Jewel Award.**

The Mayor confirmed that the Civic Service would be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 in North Petherton. It was agreed that the theme should be the environment.

**Resolved:** that the recipients of the award should be:

Mr P J, Mr P W, Mr K A, Mr R & Mrs J B, and Ms S S.

The meeting closed at 9:30 pm



