

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at the North Newton Village Hall commencing at 7:15 pm

Present. Cllr A Bradford Chairman.

Councillors. Cllr Mrs L Hyde, Cllr J Barham Cllr W Revans, Cllr P Spencer, Cllr B Sellick, Cllr L Pickersgill, Cllr J Taylor, Cllr Mrs H Warren and Cllr Mrs D Bunce

In Attendance. Mr R T Latham, Town Clerk ,Mr S Salter, The Mercury, and 8 members of the public including representatives of the North Petherton Community Centre and the users of the canal side car park at Maunsel Lock

### **Informal meeting**

Prior to the meeting there was an informal discussion between Members and representatives of Redrow Homes about changes to the boundary lines for the proposed development off Taunton Road. It was agreed that there should be a further meeting on site.

149/2019 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs C Woodford, Cllr R Ives, and Cllr Mrs L Spelman-Ives, District Cllr Wong also sent his apologies.

150/2019 **Declarations of interests**

There were no declarations of interests

151/2019 **Community Time**

Mr Bryan Turner of the North Petherton Community Centre Committee presented plans to increase the capacity of the Centre's car park to 65 spaces and relocate the toilet provision, which had been prepared by Lyndon Brett. He provided answers to a number of questions from Members and explained in more detail what works would need to be carried out to provide the spaces. Cllr Bradford pointed out that some reserved spaces would be available to rent by local residents in the area and that this income would help to finance the project. It was generally agreed that those working on the project had done well to develop a plan that seemed to address the various issues.

**Resolved:** that the plans be supported and the Committee be asked to proceed with obtaining costs for the project.

A number of members of the public spoke about the difficulties being experienced with the car park at Maunsel Lock. The opening and closing arrangements had not been operating satisfactorily since the cafe had been under new ownership.

Mr Downey spoke regarding item 16a and his proposals provide two "glamping pods".

152/2019 **Maunsel Lock car park.**

Members gave further consideration to this matter at the request of Mr and Mrs Whitcombe, the former owners of the nearby cafe who had previously opened and locked the gate to the car park on a daily basis. Mr Chorley from the Boat Centre had agreed to take on the role, but he could not guarantee being able to cover every day. Cllr Bradford asked if Mr & Mrs Whitcombe could resume responsibility if they were compensated by the Council for their time. After some discussion, it was

**Resolved:** that efforts be made to involve a team of volunteers who would manage the gates and that the Clerk prepare a letter that could be circulated to people who lived

- nearby to see how many might help; he should also contact the Canal and River Trust.
- 153/2019 **Liftnoker Cottage**  
The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from Sedgemoor DC asking for the Council's comments on proposals to create an exempted camp site at Liftnoker Cottage in Coxhill, North Newton.  
**Resolved:** that the Council supports the proposals.
- 154/2019 **Minutes**  
Members considered the minutes of the meetings held on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2019.  
**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2019 and the Special meeting held on the same date be approved as a correct record
- 155/2019 **Matters arising**  
Cllr Pickersgill stated that, following his contact with Persimmon, workers' vehicles were no longer parking on Willstock Way. He also said that there was initial support for his suggestion of local surgeries to complement the Wilstock and Stockmoor Forum  
Cllr Mrs Hyde reported that Mr Peter Farnell was now helping the Memorial Field team with their grant applications.  
Cllr Revans reported that Somerset CC had checked that the traffic lights were working effectively on the Huntworth roundabout.
- 156/2019 **Mayor's Report**  
Cllr Bradford reported on the various meetings and services that he had attended in the month and the issues that he had dealt with. He drew attention to the various funding activities taking place to support the Church tower in North Petherton.
- 157/2019 **Members' reports**  
Cllr Pickersgill reported that he was now in discussion with Persimmon SW regarding the problems in Gillingham Drive; that there was some progress being made on the Country park; and that he would be talking to Scott mason at Sedgemoor DC regarding the MUGA at Stockmoor, which Persimmon want to close for safety reasons.  
Persimmon were going to prepare a plan of the footpaths across the Country Park so that residents would avoid the unofficial paths and, in particular, would not cut down fences that had been erected across them. Priority white lines had been introduced on Stockmoor Drive; it remained to be seen how effective they would be.
- 158/2019 **Items for payment**  
The following payments were approved:
- |                         |           |                         |
|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| GWB Services            | £1,321.25 | Street Cleaning         |
| B Sellick               | £320.00   | Allotment improvements  |
| P Parfitt               | £1,070.00 | Grave digging           |
| N Petherton Comm Centre | £18.00    | Room hire               |
| Water2business          | £397.80   | Allotment water charges |
| A Sutton                | £92.00    | Grass cutting           |
| Young Somerset          | £2,703.00 | Youth Club              |
| NPPFCT                  |           |                         |
| GWB Services            | £50.00    | Equipment inspection    |
- 159/2019 **Provision of benches**  
Cllr Revans reported that he had been approached about the Council providing more public benches in the area.  
**Resolved:** that a task and finish group be set up to look into this comprising of: Cllr

Revans, Cllr Mrs Warren, Cllr Mrs Hyde and Cllr Spencer.

160/2019 **Wilstock & Stockmoor Forum**

**Resolved:** that the next meeting be postponed and the Clerk arrange another date for later in the year.

161/2019 **Matters of Report**

Cllr Revans reported that a memorial bench at Kingscliffe had been destroyed and that he was discussing its replacement with the family concerned.

Cllr Mrs Hyde updated Members on recent meetings of the Friends of the Library Group. There was quiz scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> October and they were looking at proposals to improve the lighting in the building.

Cllr Bunce reported that the closure of Old Road was proceeding without any serious problems.

Cllr Taylor spoke about the Huntworth rail bridge and asked if an item could be placed on a future agenda to discuss progress following the Council's adoption of the resolution on climate change.

Cllr Sellick reported that there had been a number of complaints about the standard of workmanship on the recent road improvements at Bankland

Cllr Barham referred to safety issues on the pavement by the chip shop in North Petherton. It was agreed that the Council look at taking some sort of action and that Cllr Taylor would contact a local blacksmith to see what could be done to install some safety features.

Cllr Bradford reported that he had been in touch with the Rugby Club to ask them to look at improving the approach to the club. He also stated that he had attended flower shows at Moorland and North Petherton and commended those involved.

.

The meeting closed at 9;15 pm



