

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 via Zoom commencing at 7:15 pm

Present. Cllr Alan Bradford Chairman  
Councillors. Cllr W Revans, Cllr J Barham, Cllr J Taylor, Cllr Mrs L Hyde, Cllr L Pickersgill, Cllr R Ives, Cllr L Parchment, Cllr P Spencer, Cllr Mrs L Spelman-Ives, Cllr Mrs D Bunce and Cllr B Sellick

In Attendance. Mrs Louise Dennis-Smith, Mr Jon Falkingham and Mr R T Latham, Town Clerk.

### **020/2021. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Ms C Woodford.

### **021/2021. Declarations of interests**

Cllr Bradford and Cllr Revans stated that they would leave the meeting when any planning matter was discussed. Cllr Taylor and Cllr Ives declared non prejudicial interests in item 14 as members of the village hall committee and left the meeting for this item.

### **022/2021. Minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

### **023/2021. Matters arising.**

Cllr Taylor expressed a number of concerns about the processes involved with the Bridgwater Town Fund project. He felt that some of the proposed schemes should have been funded from other sources.

### **024/2021. Committee vacancies**

**Resolved:** that Cllr Ms Woodford be appointed to the Personnel Committee and Cllr Mrs Hyde to the Finance and GP committee.

### **025/2021. Mayor's report.**

Cllr Bradford reported on his activities over the last month, which had been dominated by the covid crisis. He was pleased to see that Members remained well and that many, like him, had received their vaccinations.

### **026/2021. Members' reports.**

Cllr Pickersgill reported that there had been some fly tipping near the country park in Stockmoor. He had been in contact with Persimmon Homes and would be reporting

back. Cllr Taylor reported back from a recent JAC meeting for the Quantocks AONB. The main issue had been about future funding post Brexit.

Cllr Mrs Hyde said that there was a Community Centre meeting coming up. She felt that the Committee AGM should be deferred. Members agreed with this.

Cllr Bradford reported that Sedgemoor's Clean Surroundings section was coping well during the crisis, but that County Council services, especially highways, were not performing well. This could be because of staff redeployment to vaccine tasks and that the Town Council might have to "backfill" in some areas.

### **027/2021. Planning matters**

Members considered two applications, 37/20/00069 and 37/20/00073 on which they had been invited to submit further comments following significant changes.

**Resolved:** that the Council adhere to its previous comments.

### **028/2021. Licensing application**

Members had been invited by Sedgemoor DC to comment on a licensing application from Maunsel House.

**Resolved:** that no comment be made.

### **029/2021. Budget statement.**

The Clerk presented the monthly budget statement.

**Resolved:** that the report be received.

### **030/2021. Items for payment**

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

Peter Parfitt	£2,460.00	Grave digging
Viking	£263.74	Postage, cartridges and stationery
Young Somerset	£1,991.68	Youth club (7 sessions Sept/Oct)
Zurich Insurance	£99.31	Friends of Library insurance
Greenslades	£1,031.54	Cemetery maintenance
MMES 2012 Ltd	£3,532.09	Christmas lighting
Rialtas	£142.80	Planning software maintenance
N P Community Centre	£18.00	Room hire (OCT 20)
North Newton Primary		
School	£500.00	Laptop grant
Somerset Bridge Primary		
School	£500.00	Laptop grant
North Petherton Primary		
School	£500.00	Laptop grant
NPPFCT		
Abacus construction	£3,486.00	New gates Memorial Park (balance)

### **031/2021. Letter from Thurloxtton PC**

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from Thurloxtton PC offering to transfer its share of RLT2 funds. They also asked if the Council would consider providing two new benches in Thurloxtton for use by North Petherton residents amongst others.

**Resolved:** that the offer be accepted and that the Clerk in conjunction with the Mayor be authorised to organise the provision of the benches of the same type as the recent VE Day memorial benches.

### **032/2021. Wilstock Hub**

Members discussed how best the Council could help to take this important project forward as speedily as possible.

**Resolved:** that a group of councillors be set up to work with the trustees to support the delivery of the project, and that the membership should be: Cllr Bradford, Cllr Parchment, Cllr Revans, Cllr Pickersgill and Cllr Mrs Bunce.

### **033/2021. Lockdown.**

Cllr Barham had raised the possibility with the Mayor of the Council assisting the local primary schools with the provision of laptops for home learning during the lockdown. After discussing various options, it was

**Resolved:** that a grant of £500 be awarded to the three schools in the area to help provide laptops.

### **034/2021. Broadland Avenue footpath.**

The Clerk reported that before he could get quotes for resurfacing the path potential contractors were requiring technical drawings. This would add to the cost of what was, already, likely to be a costly scheme. Cllr Bradford said that he had discussed the issues with the local Highways Officer and he had agreed that a more cost effective approach would be to use scalplings that surface water would drain through.

**Resolved:** that Cllr Bradford pursue the alternative solution with a view to the cost falling in the new financial year.

### **035/2021 Speeding HGVs**

Members discussed problems associated with lorries speeding through North Petherton and past the M5 services and continuing issues with access along Watery Lane. It was understood that there might be a "pinch point" fund that could be applicable in these types of cases. Cllr Revans agreed to pursue this.

**Resolved:** that the Clerk ask County Highways to consider putting a "No HGVs" sign on Watery Lane.

### **036/2021 Matters of report.**

Cllr Taylor reported that there was a 5 year programme to install good broadband access across the rural areas. Cllr Ives reported speedy action by Persimmon Homes following damage caused by an Argos vehicle and Cllr Spencer said that Wessex Water had also reacted speedily to a leak on Bridgwater Road. Cllr Mrs Hyde updated Members on progress with the Memorial Park project.

### **037/2021 Grant application.**

Members considered a request from Moorland Village Hall Committee to assist with the cost of installing new windows.

**Resolved:** that a grant of £100 be approved.

### **038/2021 Carrots Farm Shop Planning appeal.**

Members considered a request to comment on an appeal against a planning decision to refuse an application relating to Carrots Farm in North Petherton.

**Resolved:** that the Clerk write to the Appeal Inspector making it clear that the Council remained firmly opposed to the development on the site.