

NORTH PETHERTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of North Petherton Town Council held at North Petherton Bowling Club on Tuesday 14th April 2015 at 7:30PM

Present. Cllr A Bradford Chairman
Councillors. Cllr. J Hesketh, Cllr Mrs M Denham, Cllr W Revans, Cllr D Parry,
Cllr P Knight, Cllr Mrs H Phillips and Cllr P Spencer
In Attendance. Mr. R Latham (Town Clerk), District Councillor Mrs A Fraser and
one member of the public

46/2015 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mrs A Hodges, Cllr Mrs A Wassell, Cllr D Edwards, Cllr M Goodland, Cllr Mrs W Darch, and Cllr J Taylor
The meeting commenced at 7:30pm.

47/2015 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

48/2015 **Community Time**

The Councillors were thanked for all their hard work over the past four years.
The lack of suitable lane markings to safely direct motorists to the Wilstock/Stockmoor exit off the Huntworth roundabout was raised by the public. The Chairman agreed to bring forward item 14a, as this was relevant to the discussion. Members were generally not happy with the letter that the Clerk had received from Somerset County Council in response to a letter that he had sent to them and Sedgemoor DC regarding issues facing residents of Wilstock and Stockmoor. They were also unhappy about the lack of any reply from the District Council. District Councillor Mrs Fraser suggested that the Cluster Group, the next meeting of which was scheduled for 18th June, would be a suitable forum to raise issues with County and District representatives, and pointed out that Sedgemoor had appointed a member of staff to deal with section 106 obligations. Members remained concerned that responsibility for chasing developers, such as Persimmon who were not fulfilling their obligations, was being passed back and to between the two authorities.

Resolved: that the Clerk write again to the appropriate portfolio holder and director at Somerset and the 106 officer at Sedgemoor stressing the need for action to be taken to resolve the various issues as soon as possible before there was a serious incident.

49/2015 **Minutes of previous meeting.**

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March 2015 be approved and signed as a correct record.

50/2015 **Matters Arising**

Further to minute 45/2015, it was pointed out that the sign had still not been replaced and the abandoned bicycle was still chained to the new racks in Fore Street

51/2015 **Mayor's Report**

The Mayor reported that he had attended the inaugurations of the Lord Lieutenant and High Sheriff at Wells Cathedral and the Chairman's Evening at Yeovil, as well as dealing with numerous queries and issues.

52/2015 **Planning.**

Members noted the report on planning determinations in the area. Cllr Mrs Phillips said that she hoped to attend the next Development Committee Meeting.

53/2015 **Items for Payment.**

Resolved: that the following payments be approved:

EDF	£12.86
Callaghan Fencing	£60.00
G Bickers	£100.00
G Bickers	£1,946.60
NP Community Centre	£1,918.97
Sedgemoor DC	£594.00
SDS Ltd	£40.06
Sedgemoor DC	£2,118.40
Sedgemoor DC	£900.00
Sedgemoor DC	£48.00
J Wagstaff	£30.00

Finance Reports

The Clerk presented the summary finance reports. Cllr Revans said that he would investigate what was happening with regard to the County Council's proposals for the North Petherton Library

Resolved: a) that the reports be received, and
b) that Cllr Revans inform the Clerk if an item needed to be included on the next agenda regarding the library.

54/2015 **Kingscliffe**

The Clerk reported that he had spoken to officers from the various organisations with an interest in the amenity area. No one knew who owned the land, but there was interest in looking at ways to ensure that it remained as a valuable public asset. Sedgemoor DC was sending a lorry to the site on a regular basis to remove litter.

Resolved: that Cllr Revans liaise with the Clerk to arrange a meeting of interested parties.

55/2015 **Review of Internal Control Procedures**

The Clerk presented reports on revisions to the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and on its risk assessment, identifying a number of changes that were considered necessary. He also reported that he would look at producing the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations in a more user friendly format, provided that this was not too costly.

Resolved: that the revised Standing Orders and Financial Regulations be approved and the recommendations in the risk assessment be agreed.

56/2015 **Investment Strategy**

The Clerk presented an Investment Strategy that had been discussed by members of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and which would form the basis of future decisions on how to invest surplus funds.

Resolved: that the Strategy be adopted.

58/2015 **Grant Request**

A request for a grant towards the costs of sending local scouts to the forthcoming International Jamboree had been submitted by County Councillor Brown.

Resolved: that a grant of £1,000 be made.

59/2015 **Correspondence**

A letter had been received from Bootye's Ladies Running seeking the Council's support, and also from Bridgwater Town Council agreeing to the Council's suggestion that they should work together to address highways and other problems currently affecting both areas.

Resolved: **a)** that it would not be appropriate to accede to the request from Bootye's Ladies Running, but that it be suggested that they should contact Cllr R Brown, as the local County Councillor, and

b) that the Clerk let Members know when Bridgwater Town Council would next be considering relevant highway issues.

60/2015 **Urgent Items of Report.**

Cllr Denham reported that a bonfire had been lit on Parkersfield to which the emergency services had been called. The Clerk agreed to contact the police to see how the matter had been taken forward.

Cllr Parry reported that red and white kerb barriers were still in place on the Campion Way approach to the Huntworth roundabout, and it was not clear what purpose they were now serving. The Clerk agreed to refer the matter to County Highways.

Cllr Spencer informed the meeting that the 2nd North Petherton Brownie troop was closing down, and Cllr Hesketh expressed concern that some litter collected by the Council's local contractor appeared to be being put in the public litter bins. The Clerk agreed to discuss this with the contractor.

Cllr Knight queried why the Bridgwater Gateway signs were still in place, given that the project was not proceeding. The Clerk agreed to refer the matter to Sedgemoor Council. It was also reported that the wall in the Memorial Playing Fields needed cleaning and the Clerk agreed to raise this with the Council's contractor.

The meeting closed at 9:45 pm