

NORTH PETHERTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held at North Petherton Bowling Club on Tuesday 1st September 2015 at 7:30 PM

Present. Cllr A Bradford (Chairman)

Councillors. Cllr. J Hesketh, Cllr P Spencer, Cllr W Revans, Cllr Mrs H Phillips,, Cllr Mrs L Hyde, Cllr J Taylor and Cllr P Knight

In Attendance. Mr. R Latham (Town Clerk), District Councillor Mrs A Fraser and one member of the public.

119/2015 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs M Denham and Cllr G Jones

120/2015 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Mrs Phillips declared an interest in item 11, and did not vote on that item.

121/2015 **Community Time**

Cllr Mrs Fraser raised the issue of the state of the playing area in front of the goals in the Memorial playing fields. It was agreed to refer this to the Playing Fields Trust..

122/2015 **Minutes**

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7th July 2015 were considered.

Resolved: that they be approved and signed as a true record.

123/2015 **Matters arising**

The Clerk reported that a full reimbursement had been received of the charges referred to in minute 111/2015.

124/2015 **Mayor's Report**

The Mayor reported that he continued to receive a significant number of queries on various matters and, in particular, a large number of complaints about the delays caused by the construction of the new cycle path in North Petherton. He had attended the opening of Ferrydown House and remarked that the former Church had been sympathetically renovated and now provided a number of rooms and facilities that the public could use.

125/2015 **Planning Determinations**

The Clerk reported on planning applications that had been determined for the area.

126/2015 **Cllr D Parry**

The Clerk reported that Cllr David Parry had resigned from the Council for health reasons.

Resolved: a) that the Clerk write to Mr Parry to thank him for his service to the Council and to wish him a speedy recovery;

b) that the appropriate steps be commenced to fill the vacancy.

127/2015 **Finance Reports**

The Clerk presented finance and budget reports as at the end of July 2015.

Resolved: that the reports be received.

128/2015 **Recommendations from the Finance and General Purposes Committee**

Members considered recommendations from the Finance and General Purposes Committees held on 21st July and 18th August 2015.

Resolved: a) that up to £100,000 be invested in a combination of the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund and a principal local authority in the region;

b) that £10,000 pa be earmarked in the Council's budget for the current and

following two years to support community development in Wilstock and Stockmoor, but that further detailed reports be presented to Council before spending is approved.

129/2015 **Honorary Freeman**

The Clerk reported further on the mechanism for creating honorary freemen.

Resolved: that work should continue with a view to finalising arrangements before Christmas.

130/2015 **Neighbourhood Plan**

Members discussed the practical implications of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan, including the area to be covered, the importance of community involvement and possible costs.

Resolved: that the matter be discussed in detail at the forthcoming Budget Strategy meeting.

131/2015 **Youth Matters**

Cllr Revans reported on a meeting that had taken place with Steve Baker, the Community Programme Manager relating to the Youth Project. It was planned to increase the sessions to 3 hours per week, split 1.5 hours each to the different age groups. Alternative venues were still being explored, and the newly renovated Ferrydown House was suggested.

132/2015 **Street Cleaning**

Members raised a number of issues about the cleaning standards in the town centre and discussed various ways that matters might be improved.

Resolved: that this and related matters be discussed in more detail at the Budget Strategy Meeting. The Clerk was also asked to contact Sedgemoor DC regarding the state of the water course in Watery Lane.

133/2015 **Transport Issues.**

The Mayor reported that a public meeting was scheduled for 24th September 2015 at which the County Council would explain their plans for improving the Huntworth Roundabout. *This meeting was subsequently re-arranged for 1st October.*

134/2015 **Sedgemoor DC Gambling Policy.**

The Clerk reported the receipt of Sedgemoor DC's draft Gambling Policy. It was agreed that, if any Members wished to comment, they would do so directly.

135/2015 **Correspondence**

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from the Corporate Director of Sedgemoor DC informing him that Sedgemoor would no longer be passing on the grant it received from the Government to compensate the Council for losses in precept income as a result of the change to the way council tax support was administered. The impact would be phased over 2 years but would equate to over £9,000 pa

136/2015 **Matters of Report**

Cllr Taylor informed Members that the Moorland Village Show was taking place on Saturday, and that Jim Baker had accepted the offer the Alfred Jewel Award for the Moorland area. Cllr Hesketh reported on a spate of tyre slashing that had occurred.

The meeting closed at 9:25 pm

DRAFT