

Minutes of the Special Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held at Ferrydown House, North Petherton on 13th June 2016,, commencing at 7:15 pm

Present. Cllr A Bradford (Chairman)

Councillors. Cllr P Spencer, Cllr Mrs H Phillips, Cllr J Barham, Cllr W Revans
Cllr J Taylor, Cllr G Jones and Cllr

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

116/2016 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs M Denham, Cllr J Hesketh and Cllr Mrs L Hyde

117/2016 **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

118/2016 **Community Time**

The meeting reflected upon the success of the various parties and events that had taken place during the previous weekend. It was reported that over £700 had been raised at Moorland and £776 at Wilstock and that all of the occasions had been very enjoyable and had brought communities together. The Council was thanked again for its initiative in providing seed funding.

119/2016 **Minutes of previous meeting**

Resolved: that the minutes of the Meeting held on 6th June 2016 be approved as a correct record.

120/2016 **Matters arising**

The Clerk reported that a meeting had been held with the adjoining landowner regarding the condition of the stone wall at the allotment site, and that Wessex Water were being contacted as they had carried out works alongside the wall, which may have caused part the problem. The Mayor referred to the flood defence works that had been completed at Chadmead and said that local residents were pleased with them and grateful to the Council for its input.

121/2016 **.Cycling and Walking Project South Bridgwater and North Petherton**

Further to minute 106/2016, Members considered the request from the Special Project's team at Sedgemoor DC for a contribution towards the proposed new cycle path and walkway linking North Petherton to Bridgwater town centre. The Clerk updated the meeting on the latest costings and timings. Cllr Taylor drew attention to the information contained in the Expression of Interest form for the Community Impact Mitigation grant which showed a council contribution of £20,000. Concern was also expressed about the timescale for the project and about the need to acquire land. After a full discussion, Cllr Taylor proposed that a contribution of £20,000 be made. This was seconded by Cllr Ives. Cllr Revans proposed an amended amount of £25,000. This was seconded by Cllr Spencer. The amendment was carried. Cllr Bradford proposed a second amendment of £35,000. This was not seconded.

Resolved: that a contribution of £25,000 be made to the project and that the Clerk seek clarification on the timings.

122/2016 **New Cluster Arrangements**

Members considered proposals to introduce new arrangements for the operation of the Cluster meetings following a review by Sedgemoor DC. Members' view was that the green, south west, cluster was too big and did not incorporate many, if any, common interests. It was agreed that a fifth cluster should be established incorporating: North Petherton, Bridgwater, Bridgwater without, Lyng, Thurloxtan and Durleigh. These areas have many common issues, particularly relating to transport. It was also felt that the meetings would be most effective and worthwhile if representatives of the Highways Authority, Police and other emergency services, Education and environmental agencies were present.

Resolved: that the Clerk respond to the District Council setting out these views..

123/2016 **North Petherton Library**

Following on from a meeting with County Council officers regarding the Council providing funds towards the cost of the library attended by Cllr Revans, Cllr Mrs Hyde and the Clerk, the County Council had put forward suggested figures of £3,515 for the current year and £4,335 for 2017/18. These would enable, amongst other things, the current opening hours to be maintained.

Resolved: that the Council agree to these figures.

124/2016 **Correspondence**

The Clerk reported that he had received a communication from Somerset Highways seeking the Council's views on a request received by agents acting for Network Rail to close the Huntworth rail bridge to enable investigation work to be undertaken. It was suggested that this closure took place at the same time as the road was closed for dredging works.

Resolved: that this approach be supported as a matter of common sense.

125/2016 **Matters of Report**

Cllr Bradford asked Members to give thought to potential recipients of the Alfred Jewel Award.

Cllr Jones raised issues relating to the Bridgwater Transport Forum, and asked that the Council support a call for a county wide forum. This was agreed and the Clerk was asked to write to the County Council to this effect.

District Cllr Mrs Fraser raised the procedural issue of having to have standing orders suspended on every occasion when she wanted to speak to the meeting, particularly as, in most cases, this was to provide information relevant to the matters being discussed.

Resolved: that the Clerk look into changes to the Council's standing orders to overcome this difficulty.

The meeting closed at 8:55 pm

