

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held at Ferrydown House on 3rd July 2017 at 7:15 pm

Present. Cllr A Bradford Chairman.

Councillors. Cllr J Barham, Cllr Mrs M Denham, Cllr B Sellick, Cllr J Hesketh, Cllr P Spencer, Cllr R Ives, Cllr P MacLaurin, Cllr Mrs H Phillips, Cllr J Taylor, Cllr Mrs L Spelman-Ives and Cllr Mrs L Hyde

In Attendance. Mr. R Latham (Town Clerk), and several members of the public

112/2017 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Revans

113/2017 **Declarations of interest**

Cllr Mrs Hyde and Cllr Hesketh declared an interest in item 17

114/2017 **Community Time**

Ms Liz Rixon drew Members' attention to the continuing problems being caused by HGV's accessing Haddon Farm via the narrow roads around Tappers Lane. It was agreed that Cllrs Bradford, Revans, Mrs Hyde and Mrs Phillips should pursue this matter and that the Clerk should write to County Cllr Woodman, the Cabinet Member for Highways, to try and progress the promised meeting between the Council and the Highways Authority.

Problems were also reported about parking in Stockmoor with people parking commercial vehicles contrary to conditions in the conveyance contracts. The Clerk was asked to ask the County Council for an update on the road adoption situation.

115/2017 **Minutes**

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 6th June 2017.

Resolved: that the minutes be approved.

116/2017 **Matters arising**

Cllr Mrs Hyde reported that the Great Get Together had cost £45. Cllr Taylor reported that contractors would on site at Moorland Village Hall on 4th July. Cllr Mrs Denham said that she had spoken to County Highways about problems with dropped kerbs in Quantock Place, North Petherton. The Clerk was asked to find out the latest position regarding the Country Park. Cllr Taylor reported that there were still problems with HGV's parking on Showground Road.

117/2017 **Mayor's Report**

Cllr Bradford reported that he attended the Stockmoor Summer fete, the local Church fete (with Cllr Spencer), and the North Newton Pre-School 40th Anniversary. He had also been to a Cluster Group meeting, where rural policing was discussed and, with Cllr Taylor, to a further meeting about flooding issues and attenuation measures. He particularly remarked on his visit to Wells Cathedral where 57 schools had taken part in a dance festival; however there were no participants from North Petherton. It was agreed that local schools should be contacted to see why this was and identify any ways that the Council could help in the future.

118/2017 **Cemetery**

Cllr Spencer reported on a recent meeting of the Cemetery Sub Committee and made the following recommendations:

- that the Clerk should report further on the Council providing the grave digging

service itself in order to eliminate some of the problems that had been experienced in the recent past;

- that the Council agree, on a without prejudice basis, to reimburse Wallace Stuart £230 being half of the additional costs incurred as a result of a recent iss at the cemetery;
- that the maintenance contractor be asked to prune the tree adjacent to the Chapel to prevent damage to the roof;
- that the Clerk proceed to arrange for a review of options for the future uses of the Chapel buildings;
- that the possibility of a local college being involved in replacing the leaded windows be pursued;
- that costs be sought to undertake repair works to the boundary wall.

Resolved: that the above recommendations be approved.

119/2017 **Defibrillator**

Cllr Mrs Denham reported on progress that had been made on providing defibrillators around the Council's area.

Resolved: that a payment of £3,000 be made to Heartstart towards costs incurred so far, and that the proposal to provide a wall and power in Wilstock to house a machine there be agreed.

120/2017 **Finance reports**

The Clerk presented finance reports for the period to the end of may 2017.

Resolved: that the report be received.

121/2017 **Items for payment**

The following items were approved for payment:

Lemon Gazelle	£100.00
Zurich Insurance	£1,078.70
Abacus Construction	£111.00
Heartstart	£3,000.00

122/2017 **Wilstock and Stockmoor Committee**

The Mayor and Town Clerk presented a report on how best to resolve the outstanding issues relating to the new Wilstock and Stockmoor Committee. Cllr Bradford moved, and Cllr Mrs Phillips seconded, the following recommendations:

- a. The Committee is an Advisory Committee.
- b. The Chairman of Finance becomes an ex officio member
- c. Either the number of councillors is reduced to four or the number of representatives of local organisations is reduced to three.
- d. A representative of the local Timebank takes up the final co-option place
- e. The Committee meets usually on the fourth Monday of each month.
- f. The approved terms of reference should be amended accordingly and that the situation be reviewed at the next Annual Meeting as originally agreed.

Following discussion, Cllr Taylor moved, and Cllr Mrs Hyde seconded, an amendment that only town councillors should be voting members of the committee, but that all other interested local organisations should be invited to attend meetings and contribute to discussions. The amendment was carried.

It was then **Resolved:** that:

- a. The Committee is an Advisory Committee.
- b. The Chairman of Finance becomes an ex officio member
- c. Only Town Councillors shall be voting members, but that all other interested local organisations should be invited to attend meetings and contribute to discussions
- d. The Committee will meet usually on the fourth Monday of each month
- e. The terms of reference, as agreed at the meeting on 24th April 2017, be amended accordingly, and that the situation be reviewed at the next Annual Meeting.

123/2017

Service Contracts

The Clerk presented draft service specifications for the forthcoming tendering exercise'

Resolved: that the drafts be approved.

124/2017

Council Tour

Members discussed and agreed arrangements for the forthcoming tour of the area.

125/2017

Playing Fields Trust

The Clerk reported that a site meeting of the Trust had taken place at Parkersfield Playing fields, and that it had been agreed that Cllr Bradford should explore opportunities for acquiring additional land as an option for a site for the scout hut.

126/2017

Grant request

Members considered a grant request from North Petherton Community Centre towards the cost of replacing the lighting system.

Resolved: that a grant of £1,800 be agreed, and that the Finance Committee be asked to review the grants policy with regard to asking for a minimum of three quotes to accompany applications where appropriate.

127/2017

Communications

It was agreed that a full report from the Communications Group be presented to the next meeting.

128/2017

Dog Bins

Members discussed problems being experienced in Stockmoor as a result of dog bins provide by Persimmon Homes not being emptied on a regular basis. It was agreed that this issue be kept under review and , if necessary taken up by the Wilstock and Stockmoor Committee

129/2017

Public Space Protection Order

Members considered the final version of the District Council's Public Space Protection Order.

Resolved: that Cllr Mrs Denham and Cllr Mrs Hyde seek a meeting with the relevant officer to discuss the matter further.

130/2017

Correspondence

The Clerk reported that he had been contacted by the Chairman of Durston Parish Council regarding the replacement of finger posts in the area.

Resolved: that Cllr Bradford investigate the matter further.

The Clerk further reported that he had received a request from Western Power to have access to the Memorial Playing Fields to carry out repair works.

Resolved: that the request be granted subject to the ground conditions being suitable and full reinstatement of any damage.

131/2017 **Matters of Report**

Cllr Barham reported that Moon Lane was being used by HGV's causing serious traffic problems. The Clerk was asked to make the Highways aware of the situation and of similar issues elsewhere in the area.

Cllr MacLaurin reported that there were issues with road signs in Wilstock. The Clerk was asked to contact Persimmon Homes, as they, apparently, had the missing signs in their compound.

Cllr Bradford reported that he had represented the Council at the funeral of Derek Mead

132/2017 **Exclusion of the Press**

Resolved: that the press and public be excluded from consideration of the remaining two items, due to their confidential nature.

133/2017 **Alfred Jewel Award.**

The Mayor reported that he was having some difficulty finding a suitable date for the Civic Service and that it would probably have to be held later than normal. Members were nonetheless asked to give further consideration to nominees for the Alfred Jewel Award so that decisions could be made at the meeting in September.

The meeting closed at 9:45 pm

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