

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held at Ferrydown House on 8th January 2018 at 7:15 pm.

Present. Cllr A Bradford Chairman.

Councillors. Cllr J Barham, Cllr B Sellick, Cllr P Spencer, Cllr Mrs M Denham, Cllr R Ives, Cllr J Taylor, Cllr W Revans, Cllr P MacLaurin and Cllr Mrs L Spelman-Ives.

In Attendance. Ms Sabine McEwan –FWAG, Mr R Latham Town Clerk and three members of the public

01/2018 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr J Hesketh, Cllr L Parchment, and Cllr Mrs A Fraser

02/2018 **Declarations of interest**

Cllr Bradford stated that, as a member of the Sedgemoor Development Committee, he would not take part in any discussions on planning applications.

03/2018 **The Late Harold Palmer**

A minute's silence was held in memory of the late Harold Palmer, a former Clerk to the Council.

04/2018 **Community time.**

Ms Sabine McEwan from the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group gave a presentation on the work being undertaken to reduce flood risk in the area by using a variety of measures to slow down the run off of water. She then answered a number of questions from Councillors and members of the public.

Resolved: that the work of the Group had the full support of the Council and that Ms McEwan be thanked for her attendance.

05/2018 **Minutes.**

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2017.

Resolved: that the minutes be approved.

06/2018 **Mayor's Report.**

Cllr Bradford informed Members about his visits to the Food bank and Stockmoor Lodge. He reported that 8 Crosswell Close had been judged the winner of the Christmas decorations competition. He suggested that it might be a good idea to also reinstate the best dressed window competition in future years.

07/2018 **Members' Reports**

Cllr Mrs Spelman Ives reported on a conference that she had attended on Crime Prevention. The main theme had been for the various agencies and interested parties to work closely together.

08/2018 **Planning**

The Clerk presented a report on decisions made by the District Council. Members also reconsidered its comments on application 37/1700069.

Resolved: that the report be received and that Council withdraw its objection to application 37/17/00069.

09/2018 **Cemetery**

Members considered a request to review the charges made regarding a recent burial.

Resolved: that a without prejudice payment of £750 be made.

- 10/2018 **Items for payment.**
Resolved: that the following payments be agreed:
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|------------------------------|-----------|
| A B Memorials | £385.00 |
| Canalside | £135.00 |
| SDS | £25.79 |
| N Petherton Community Centre | £1,417.29 |
| Somerset Rural Youth Project | £2,703.00 |
| Viking | £124.40 |
| Peter Parfitt | £760.00 |
| Sedgemoor DC | £6,475.77 |
- 11/2018 **Budget 2018/19**
Members considered a recommendation from the Finance and General Purposes Committee that the Council clarify the position with regard to the Neighbourhood Plan, before setting the precept for the next financial year.
Resolved: that Members meet informally to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan, so that a fully informed decision can be made at the next meeting on both the Plan and the budget for next year.
- 12/2018 **Options Study**
Members considered a recommendation from the Finance and General Purposes Committee that JLL (consultants) be appointed to report on options available to undertake developments at Parkersfield at a cost of £3,850.
Resolved: that standing orders be suspended and the recommendation be agreed.
- 13/2018 **Allotments**
Members considered a quote from J and J Miller to improve the access road at the allotments.
Resolved: that standing orders be suspended and the quote in the sum of £350 plus VAT be accepted.
- 14/2018 **Communications.**
Cllr Mrs Spelman Ives gave an update on the work of the Communications Group and the Clerk reported that an order had been placed to provide a new hardwood noticeboard at the Community Centre in North Petherton at a cost of £2,495.00 plus VAT
Resolved: that the Clerk's actions be endorsed.
- 15/2018 **Planning Applications**
The Clerk reported on a letter from the Planning Authority informing the Council that, from March, hard copies of applications would no longer be posted to local councils.
Resolved: that the Council considers this to be a retrograde step and that Cllr MacLaurin advise the Planning Officer of all of his concerns about the online system that councils will have to use in the future.
- 16/2018 **Grants**
Cllr Bradford reported that Sedgemoor DC provide a plaque when they award a grant which recipients display to acknowledge the support received.
Resolved: that the Clerk investigate the costs of brass plaques for this purpose.
- 17/2018 **Matters of Report**
It was reported that the gate at Kingscliffe was off its hinges. Cllr Revans agreed to investigate.

Cllr Sellick reported that trailers were still parking on Showground Road, and that the agreed yellow lines had yet to be provided.

There were still parking problems in North Newton. Cllr Bradford agreed to look into this.

Cllr Taylor reported that a performance by the Wassail Theatre Company was taking place at Moorland Village Hall on the following Friday.

Cllr Mrs Spelman Ives stated that she had heard that RLT monies were available for local projects. Cllr Mrs Denham agreed to contact Sedgemoor DC.

The meeting closed at 9:10 pm

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