

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held at Moorland Village Hall on 5th February 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 J Taylor, Cllr W Revans, Cllr P MacLaurin, Cllr Mrs L Hyde and Cllr Mrs L Spelman-Ives.

In Attendance. Steve Salter (Mercury) and R T Latham Clerk

18/2018 **Apologies for absence.**

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

19/2018 **Declarations of interest**

Cllr Bradford, Cllr Barham and Cllr Sellick declared an interest in item 14 and left the room whilst it was discussed.

20/2018 **Minutes.**

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2018.

Resolved: that the minutes be approved.

21/2018 **Matters arising**

Cllr Taylor reported that the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group were now in talks with the Somerset Rivers Authority. Cllr Mrs Hyde reported that the Community Centre Committee would be meeting shortly to agree their contribution to the new joint noticeboard. Cllr Bradford pointed out that safety rails were needed on the stone steps leading to the footpath by the centre. Cllr Mrs Hyde agreed to raise this with the Committee. Cllr Revans stated that the gate at Kingscliffe was now back in position and that the yellow lines had now been installed on Showground Road.

22/2018 **Mayor's Report.**

Cllr Bradford referred to the recent Wilstock and Stockmoor Forum meeting, which he felt had been very useful. He had attended the funeral of the late Harold Palmer and had, as usual, been involved in a number of issues affecting residents in the area..

23/2018 **Members' Reports**

Cllr Mrs Hyde reported back on her recent attendance at the Transport Forum. Over 2,800 people were now employed at Hinkley Point, including 140 apprentices. The jetty was expected to be finished by the end of the year and work at Junction 23 was nearing completion. She also told Members that she had attended the Highways England public consultation event about the A358 proposals.

24/2018 **Data Protection**

The Clerk reported on the emerging new regulations covering data protection.

Resolved: that the Town Clerk, Rod Latham, be appointed as the Council's Data Protection Officer.

25/2018 **Neighbourhood Plan**

Members had held an informal meeting to discuss whether or not to continue with the preparation of a neighbourhood plan for the area. Following further discussion it was

Resolved: that the Council suspend, for the foreseeable future, work on the Neighbourhood Plan, and, instead, concentrate on addressing infrastructure issues, beginning with highways and education.

- 26/2018 **Budget 2018/19**
 Members considered a report from Cllr Spencer about the budget for 2018/19 and forecasts for future years and recommendations from the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the informal meeting of Council. It was noted that the Council's finances had been affected by having to pay for two bye elections in the current year and prudently provide for similar costs in future years. It was anticipated that reserves would reduce year on year reaching 70% of the precept amount by 2021/22. Cllr Bradford remarked that the Council had been supplementing local services for 9 years and this had proved an effective and well appreciated policy.
Resolved: that the budget be approved and that the Town Council precept for the financial year 2018/19 be set at £138,871 a band D equivalent of £43.57.
- 27/2018 **Finance Reports**
 The Clerk presented a financial summary for the year to 31st December 2017 and a budget comparison report.
Resolved: that the reports be received.
- 28/2018 **Items for payment**
 The following payments were approved:
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|--------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| Purnells Print & Design | £12.00 | Name cards |
| Rialtas Business Systems | £849.60 | Accounting software |
| Rialtas Business Systems | £139.20 | Planning system support |
| The Canalside | £135.00 | Forum room hire |
| Crimson Hill Support | £75.00 | Room hire |
| M M E S 2012 ltd | £2,998.32 | Christmas lighting |
| N Stevens | £1,080.00 | Christmas Trees |
| Adam Kyte | £66.00 | Tap repair Allotments |
| Adam Kyte | £552.00 | New tap and pipework Cemetery |
| | | Tree surgery etc, Maunsel Lock |
| Taunton Tree Services | £1,100.00 | Car park |
| NPPFCT | | |
| G Ouloughlin | £30.00 | Indendent Examiner's report |
| Noticeboards online | £900.00 | Two noticeboards for playingfields |
- 28/2018 **Wilstock and Stockmoor Forum**
 The Clerk presented notes from the Forum held on 29th January 2018.
Resolved: that the notes be agreed and that the Clerk should encourage representatives from Bloor Homes and County Highways to attend the next meeting
- 29/2018 **Grant request**
 Members considered a request from North Newton Cricket Club for a grant towards equipment.
Resolved: that a grant of £575 be made to the club, subject to receiving a copy of the latest accounts.
- 30/2018 **Speed indication devices.**
 The Clerk reported further on the options available to the Council, following the decision of the County Council to discontinue this service.

Resolved: that the Clerk obtain quotes for equipment so that the Council could operate the function itself, possibly in partnership with neighbouring parishes.

31/2018

Library

Members discussed the recent announcement from the County Council that it was conducting a major review of the library service with a view to reducing costs substantially. It was noted that the Council already subsidised the current service in North Petherton, and had previously agreed to include funds in the budget to ensure that the library in North Petherton remained open.

Resolved: that Cllrs Bradford, Hyde and Revans, together with the Clerk, be authorised to discuss arrangements with the County Council.

32/2018

Street Lighting

The Clerk reported on a quote from County Highways to install a new street light in North Petherton.

Resolved: that the quote be accepted and, subject to agreeing the exact location, authority be given to proceed.

33/2018

Development Committee. It was agreed that Cllr Taylor and Cllr Mrs Hyde should present the Council's views at the forthcoming meeting of the Development Committee.

34/2018

Finger posts. It was agreed that Cllr MacLaurin liaise with the "Men's Sheds" charity to take forward the renewal and repair of finger posts in the area.

35/2018

Matters of report.

It was reported that a heavy goods vehicle had become stuck in Brook Street in North Newton.

Cllr Ives reported that a bid for substantial funding for Wilstock Hub had reached the second round of the process.

Cllr Sellick reported that scalplings for repairing the car park at Parkersfield would cost £60 per load.

Cllr Bradford raised the issue of the poor condition of the footpath from Broadlands Avenue to Parkersfield. It was agreed that the Council would undertake the necessary repair works, and that the Clerk should communicate with the County Council on the matter.

Cllr Taylor reported that problems with roads flooding in his area had been caused by the County Council's refusal to pay for the jetting of the drains and gully pots.

Cllr MacLaurin reported on his concerns about the maintenance of District Council play equipment in Wilstock.

The meeting closed at 9:40 pm

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