

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018 at 7:15 pm in the small hall of the North Petherton Community Centre.

Present. Cllr A Bradford Chairman.

Councillors. Cllr R Ives, Cllr Mrs L Spelman-Ives, Cllr W Revans, Cllr Mrs L Hyde, Cllr Mrs M Denham, Cllr P Spencer, Cllr J Taylor, Cllr Mrs A Fraser, Cllr J Barham and Cllr R Brown.

In Attendance. Mr R T Latham, Town Clerk.

188/2018 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received Cllr B Sellick and Cllr L Parchment

189/2018 **Minutes**

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Cllr Mrs Hyde pointed out that the plan was to refurbish, rather than renew, the doors on the public toilets.

**Resolved:** that the minutes be approved as a correct record

190/2018 **Matters arising**

Cllr Mrs Hyde reported that the Community Centre Committee had decided not to hold a public meeting to discuss the plans to introduce a charging system for the car park. Members generally felt that this was unfortunate. They also expressed continuing concern about the proposals, but recognised that it was a matter for the Community Centre to decide upon.

191/2018 **Mayor's report**

Cllr Bradford reported that he had attended a number of Remembrance services and had been impressed by the contributions made by the school children. He had represented the Council at the service at Wells Cathedral, which had also been very moving. He had received a letter of thanks from Rev Haslam for the Council's contribution to the centenary events. He had also been involved in the distribution of bulbs around the district, including a significant number in Wilstock and Stockmoor where the "Muddy Boots" team had worked hard to plant them. He had also attended a number of meetings, including several relating to the retention of the local library.

192/2018 **Members' Reports**

Cllr Mrs Fraser had attended the recent meeting of the Transport and Community Forums. Nothing of particular relevance to the Council's area had emerged from them.

193/2018 **Somerset Community Foundation**

The Clerk reported on a meeting that had been held with Val Bishop from the Somerset Community Foundation regarding the availability of grants towards council projects, including recreation schemes and improvements to the library. The Foundation administered two grant schemes that could be relevant, one for smaller local projects and one linked to the Hinkley Point impact mitigation. She stressed that, particularly for the latter, it was important to show how projects related to the impact that Hinkley Point was, or could have, on the local community. Cllr Fraser reminded Members that there were other sources of grant funding, such as the District Council's grant scheme, of which she was a panel member. In relation to possible grants for the library, it was agreed that details of usage, particularly by people connected to Hinkley Point, should be collected.

- 194/2018 **Planning**  
The Clerk presented a report on applications determined by the District Council.  
**Resolved:** that the report be received.
- 195/2018 **Finance Report**  
The Clerk presented the periodic budget monitoring report  
**Resolved:** that the report be received.
- 196/2018 **Twinning Committee**  
The Clerk reported that he had received a request from the Twinning Committee for payment of the annual grant of £100.  
**Resolved:** that the grant be approved
- 197/2018 **Items for payment**  
**Resolved:** that the following items be paid:
- |                              |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Greenslades                  | £1,240.44 |
| A B Memorials                | £150.00   |
| N Petherton Twinning Assoc.  | £100.00   |
| Viking                       | £367.81   |
| N Petherton Community Centre | £8.00     |
| Peter Parfitt                | £1,170.00 |
| N Newton Village Hall        | £65.00    |
- It was also agreed to roll on the current contract with Peter Parfitt for grave digging so that it would form part of the general re-tendering of services planned for the next year.
- 198/2018 **Budget 2019/20**  
Members considered a number of provisional budget options that had been prepared by Cllr Spencer and discussed at the recent Finance & General Purposes Committee. The merits of reducing the provision in some area so that a nil or small increase in the precept could be set were discussed, compared to setting a higher precept that reflected, to some extent, the additional costs falling on the Council, from, for example, the library and youth services, which were no longer being provided by the County Council.  
**Resolved:** that the Finance & General Purposes Committee give further consideration to the issues raised and present a firm recommendation to the January Council, and that the Committee should now meet prior to the Planning Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018.
- 199/2018 **Maunsel Lock Car Park**  
The Clerk reported that the current owners of the café were due to sell the business in the near future, and that, consequently, revised arrangements would need to be made for locking the gate to the car park.  
**Resolved:** that the Clerk seek to arrange a date when Councillors could meet with current owners.
- 200/2018 **Wilstock and Stockmoor Forum**  
Members considered the notes of the meeting of the Forum held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Cllr Ives reported that he had obtained funds to purchase a number of living trees to be planted around the villages. Cllr Mrs Fraser stated that it was difficult to tackle the parking problems caused by HMO's because these were owned by private individuals, but the use of estate roads by buses as "a rat run" would be addressed.

**Resolved:** that Council members of the parking group, to be chaired by Cllr Mrs Fraser would be: Cllrs Revans, Ives and Mrs Spelman Ives, with the Mayor ex officio. It was also agreed that a similar group be set up in due course to look at parking issues in North Petherton

201/2018 **North Petherton Library.**

The Clerk reported that the Council's expression of interest in taking on the library as part of a community partnership had been accepted by the County Council, and the process of implementation would now begin. He recommended that a formal sub committee should be set up with powers to deal with any detailed issues, so that timely progress could be made. Cllr Brown stated that he was not in favour of this.

**Resolved:** that the current Library Group of Cllrs Bradford, Revans and Mrs Hyde be appointed to a Library sub committee with delegated powers to decide matters of detail with regard to the arrangements to be agreed with the Library Service for operating the Library from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019

202/2018 **Christmas Lights.**

Members agreed that similar arrangements to last year should be made for the provision of Christmas trees and lights. The Mayor stated that the Christmas Decorations competition would take place again and he invited other Members to join him and a representative of the Mercury newspaper in the judging process.

203/2018 **Get Set Services Consultation**

Cllr Mrs Hyde explained what was involved in this exercise which was being undertaken to inform decisions on cutbacks to the County Council's childcare services. It was agreed that this be discussed further at the Planning Meeting.

204/2018 **Parish Paths**

The County Council were also consulting on footpaths in the area.

**Resolved:** Cllr Revans respond on behalf of the Council, with support from Cllr Taylor.

205/2018 **Matters of report**

Cllr Taylor reported that the Moorland Village Hall Committee were seeking assistance with the ongoing costs of the defibrillator. He agreed to speak with Andy Newlands, who was closely involved with this issue, and report back.

Cllr Bradford said that it was his intention to provide a hamper to be raffled at the local Tesco store to help fund the Friends of North Petherton Library.

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm



