

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held on Monday 4th March 2019 at the North Petherton Community Centre

Present. Cllr A Bradford Chairman.

Councillors. Cllr Mrs L Hyde, Cllr J Taylor, Cllr J Barham, Cllr B Sellick, Cllr R Ives, Cllr Mrs H Warren, Cllr Mrs A Fraser, Cllr W Revans Cllr Mrs M Denham, Cllr P Spencer, Cllr R Brown and Cllr L Parchment.

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

31/2019 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs L Spelman-ives.

32/2019 **Declarations of interests**

There were no declarations of interests..

33/2019 **Community Time**

A question was raised about the development at Dawes Farm starting before the 106 agreement was in place. It was agreed to raise this with Sedgemoor DC. A number of points were made about the Huntworth Railway Bridge repair project. The Chairman agreed to bring forward item 12 at this point.

34/2019 **Huntworth Railway Bridge.**

Mr Mapstone described how traffic in the Huntworth and surrounding area had been reduced to chaos when the M5 had been closed. Residents had been unable to get in or out. The County Council had been notified, but their response was not felt to be adequate. It was suggested that signage should be improved and it be made clear that there was no through road to Bridgewater via Huntworth. Cllr Taylor expressed his concern about the state of repair of the roads in the area.

35/2019 **Minutes**

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 4th February 2019.

Resolved: that the minutes be approved as a correct record

36/2019 **Mayor's report**

Cllr Bradford reported that he had attended a number of meetings about the library and the car park among others. He had been to look at the railway bridge to see for himself what was happening and had visited the people at Stockmoor Lodge. He had also attended the Hinkley Point Community Forum where it was revealed that 378 people were working on the site. £878m had been spent so far and the project was expected to be completed by 2025.

37/2016 **Members' reports**

Cllr Mrs Hyde reported that she, Cllr Mrs Denham and Cllr Mrs Spelman Ives, had visited the new Holiday Express hotel and that they had agreed to take part in a customer assessment exercise.

38/2019 **Planning**

The Clerk reported on the District Council's decisions on applications in the area.

Resolved: that the report be received and that, where necessary, significant applications be discussed as late in the process as possible to allow Members time to complete their research before making decisions.

39/2019 **Cemetery.**

Members discussed the continuing issue of the Cemetery Chapel.

- 40/2019 **Resolved:** that this be discussed further by the Cemetery Committee.
- 40/2019 **Finance Report**
The Clerk presented the periodic budget monitoring report and reported further on the issue of the Council needing its own equipment to present, inter alia, planning applications
Resolved: that the report be received, and that the Clerk be authorised to acquire suitable projecting equipment. It was also agreed that the Community Centre be asked if it were interested in some sort of joint provision in the small hall.
- 41/2019 **Items for payment**
Resolved: that the following items be paid:
- | | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Water2Business | £29.86 |
| Mervyn Hillier | £95.00 |
| Moorland Village Hall | £36.00 |
| Peter Parfitt | £690.00 |
| Mike Morgan Electrics | £3,398.32 |
| NPPFCT | £2,133.50 |
| P MacLaurin | £200.00 |
| Somerset Bridge School | £150.00 |
- 42/2019 **North Petherton Library.**
The Clerk reported on a number of meetings that had taken place between members of the Library Sub Committee and the County Council and the Friends of the Library Group. It had been agreed, in principle, that the terms of the Service Level Agreement with the County Council were acceptable and that the Library Cleaner should transfer to the Council's employment under TUPE rules. Under the agreement the Council would hold a licence to occupy the library and would take over responsibility for the majority of premises costs and for any volunteer activity in the library other than lunch time cover during "staffed opening hours". He also recommended that the Council purchase a new laser printer/photocopier, and that the old machine, which had reached the end of its maintenance contract, be given to the Friends Group to be used in the library
Resolved: that
- the SLA be signed and the Library Cleaner be transferred to the Council's employment on 1st April 2019, and that the Clerk be authorised to implement this, and
 - The existing laser printer be given to the Friends Group to be located in the library, and the Council purchase a new machine.
- 43/2019 **Investment Strategy.**
Resolved: that the annual review of the strategy be delegated to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.
- 44/2019 **Community Centre Car Park**
Cllr Mrs Hyde reported that Centre's Committee AGM was going to take place at 7:30 pm on 22nd April 2019.
- 45/2019 **North Newton Affordable Housing Project**
Cllrs Bradford and Barham updated Members on the recent public consultation exercise that had taken place in the Village Hall on the plans to provide a number of affordable housing units as part of a mixed development in North Newton.
- 46/2019 **Correspondence.**

The Clerk had received a request to locate a virtual Easter egg hunt in the Memorial Playing Fields; this was agreed.

47/2019

Matters of report

Cllr Barham raised the issue of emptying the litter bin in the Maunsel Lock car park. It was agreed that Sedgemoor Clean Surroundings be asked to do this and also provide a dog bin. He also reported on problems with street lights in Brook Street.

Cllr Mrs Hyde reminded Members that someone from the police should attend occasional meetings of the Council.

Cllr Taylor referred to outstanding issues with the Council's land at Fordgate. The Clerk undertook to arrange a meeting with the Authority's Land Agent

The meeting closed at 9:10 pm

