

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at Moorland Village Hall commencing at 7:15 pm

Present. Cllr A Bradford Chairman.

Councillors. Cllr Mrs L Hyde, Cllr J Barham, Cllr W Revans, Cllr P Spencer, Cllr B Sellick, Cllr J Taylor, Cllr Mrs H Warren, Cllr L Parchment, Cllr Mrs L Spelman Ives, Cllr R Ives and Cllr Mrs D Bunce

In Attendance. District Cllr G Wong and Mr R T Latham, Town Clerk ,

162/2019 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs C Woodford and Cllr L Pickersgill

163/2019 **Declarations of interests**

Cllr Mrs L Spelman Ives and Cllr R Ives declared an interest in item 11 and left the room whilst the matter was discussed

164/2019 **Community Time**

No matters were raised

165/2019 **Minutes**

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019 be approved as a correct record.

166/2019 **Matters arising**

With reference to minute 161/2019, Cllr Taylor reported back on the likely cost for installing railings on the pavement in North Petherton adjacent to the chip shop.

Members considered alternative options including asking County Highways to take action and the Council taking action itself to paint the pavement white.

With reference to minute 154/2019, Cllrs Warren and Revans reported that they had walked around North Petherton and identified potential sites for both benches and bus shelters and had produced a plan of their findings. It was agreed to put this matter on the agenda for the next meeting.

167/2019 **Mayor's Report**

Cllr Bradford thanked everyone for their support at the Civic Service. It was agreed that it had, again, been a great success and that the Mayor and, particularly the Mayoress, be thanked for their hard work in arranging it. He reported that he had been presented to HRH The Princess Royal at her recent visit to the area and had visited a glove factory in Yeovil, in addition to the usual range of meetings and discussions.

168/2019 **Members' reports**

Cllr Mrs Spelman-Ives reported back from the HInkley Point Forum, and updated Members on the recent Community Fun Day.

Cllr Revans reported on the progress of the Stockmoor cycle way; completion may not be until 2020. He also referred to a Development and Design document that Sedgemoor DC had prepared for the proposed development at junction 24. Approval of this by the District Council had been deferred and he asked Members to pass any comments they had on the document to him, so that he could feed them into the process.

Cllr Taylor reported that he had been appointed to the District Standards and Audit Committee and had attended a training session organised by SWAP

169/2019 **Finance report**

The Clerk presented the budget comparison and balances reports (copies with signed minutes).

**Resolved:** that the reports be received.

170/2019

**Items for payment.**

**Resolved:** that the following payments be approved:

Royal British Legion	£150.00	Donation for wreaths
North Newton Village Hall	£40.00	Room Hire
Lyndon Brett Partnership	£1,962.00	Community Centre car park
EDF	£73.92	Electricity Cemetery
Greenslades	£1,102.62	Cemetery maintenance
West Country Style Catering	£2,640.00	Civic service catering
Robert Acton Product Developments	£93.00	Litter picking tools (for volunteers)
North Petherton Community Centre	£3,157.79	Public Toilets
North Petherton Community Centre	£16.00	Room hire
Sedgemoor DC	£2,418.02	Litter & dog bins

171/2019

**Grant request Wilstock Hub**

The Clerk presented a grant request from Wilstock Hub CIC for £28,000 to enable detailed designs to be completed, a revised planning application to be submitted and the land transfer to be completed for the community project in Wilstock. A grant of £300,000 had been awarded by the Hinkley Point Community Impact Fund and £150,000 had been agreed by the Council as a grant payable when the project was ready to proceed. The Clerk pointed out that, unlike the previous grant, if this were agreed to, the money would be paid now and would not be recoverable if, for some reason, the project did not proceed. Members discussed three broad options: to turn down the request, to award a grant as an additional amount to the £150,000 and to award a grant but reduce the previously agreed sum by the amount of the new grant.

**Resolved:** that a grant of £28,000 to Wilstock Hub be approved and the previously agreed grant be reduced to £122,000, and that the new grant be funded from the CIL funds held in earmarked reserves.

172/2019

**Wilstock & Stockmoor Forum**

It was agreed to hold the next meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019

**Community Centre car park**

The Clerk updated the meeting on the car park project. The consultants were drawing up detailed plans so that accurate costings could be obtained. It was felt that, in addition to other funding sources, Sedgemoor DC should also contribute, as owners of the land.

173/2019

**Sedgemoor Scrutiny Committee's infrastructure study.**

District Cllr Wong explained that the study was being undertaken by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and was looking into the effectiveness, or otherwise, of the current policies for providing social infrastructure such as health, housing, transport and education. It was agreed that Cllr Taylor should give evidence to the Committee on the Council's behalf.

- 174/2019 **Maunsel Lock car park**  
The Clerk reported that attempts to recruit volunteers to lock and unlock the gates had not been successful. Cllr Revans agreed to investigate possible technological solutions.
- 175/2019 **Application 37/19/00089**  
The Clerk reported that he had received correspondence from the Planning Officer on the above application providing further clarification and asking the if the Council would reconsider its decision to object.  
**Resolved:** that, in the light of the clarification, the Council raised no objection to the application.
- 176/2019 **Matters of report**  
Cllr Mrs Warren reported that there were a number of signs attached to the fencing around the Memorial Park, and that the area around the bench next to Hairline in North Petherton was overgrown.  
Cllr Revans stated that Network Rail reportedly had identified both a long and short term solution to the problems with the Huntworth rail bridge, and that the Colley lane relief road was due to open on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019.  
Cllr Sellick reported that lorries were being wrongly directed up a private drive in the Shovel Lane area. Cllr Bradford agreed to look into this.  
Cllr Mrs Spelman Ives raised a question about a litter bin in Wilstock park.  
Cllr Taylor referred to the recent invitation to attend the Sedgemoor Conversation meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> November and his concern that safety issues at Hinkley Point were not on the agenda. He hoped to attend the meeting and report back to the next Council.  
Cllr Bradford reported that the Maunsel Lock car park needed re-stoning. He and Cllrs Barham and Sellick agreed to pursue this.
- 177/2019 **Exclusion of the press and public.**  
**Resolved:** that the press and public be excluded for the discussion on the next item due its confidential nature.
- 178/2019 **Staffing arrangements.**  
Cllr Parchment presented a report on staffing arrangements for the Council following a review by the Personnel Committee. He proposed a number of recommendations, the intention of which was to recognise the growing size of the Council and the increasing workload resulting from a number of factors and to take action before a “breaking point” was reached.
- 160/2019 **Resolved:** that the recommendations of the Personnel Committee be approved and that a new post be created to assist the Clerk with his duties with a start date no later than 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, and that provision be included in the budget for this.
- 161/2019 It was also provisionally agreed that:
- The employee will be on hours of between 10-16 per week with the upper limited important due to working tax credit eligibility.
  - The employee will operate below the existing clerk.
  - The employee will work remotely with the Council committing the necessary resources to enable this to happen.
  - A provisional title of “assistant clerk” although this will be determined later.

- Duties to be clearly defined and separate from the current clerk to avoid overlap and inefficiency.
- Specific duties are currently expected to be: dealing with all matters relating to the Trust and allotments, updating noticeboards, attending secondary meetings in place of the clerk e.g. friends of the library, projector duties for planning meetings, update noticeboards, update and improve the website.
- The individual will be hired on a salary of between approximately £10.16-11.45 per hour gross, local government pay scales (7-13), which works out at between £5,285 and £9,523 depending on hours and salary level.
- Duties and pay to be reviewed after a probationary period.
- Once hired the employee would be employed on a contract in line with the SALC standard and on the Sedgemoor payroll in line with standing orders.

The meeting closed at 9:45 pm







