

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held on Monday 13th January 2020 in the small hall of North Petherton Community Centre commencing at 7:15 pm Present.

Councillors. Cllr A Bradford Chairman.
Cllr W Revans, Cllr P Spencer, Cllr B Sellick, Cllr J Barham, Cllr J Taylor, Cllr Mrs H Warren, Cllr L Parchment, Cllr Mrs L Hyde, Cllr Ms C Woodford, Cllr Mrs L Spelman-Ives and Cllr L Pickersgill

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

001/2020 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs D Bunce and Cllr R Ives

002/2020 **Declarations of interests**

Cllrs Bradford and Revans declared an interest in all planning applications and left the room when such matters were discussed.

003/2020 **Community Time**

The forthcoming consideration of the Taunton Road sites application by the Planning Authority was discussed. Cllr Spencer stated that he would be attending the meeting to speak against the application as it did not fit in with the strategic needs of the area. The occupier of a property on the unadopted road in Fordgate commented on the state of the road and the fact that the County Council would no longer be carrying out any repairs. The Chairman agreed to bring item 16 forward to discuss this.

004/2020 **Road in Fordgate**

Members expressed regret that the County Council cutbacks had meant that this road would no longer be maintained. The Clerk was asked to contact the Area Highways Officer to see if anything could be done. They also noted that there was an upcoming planning application for development along the road.

005/2020 **Minutes**

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 10th December 2019.

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th December 2019 be approved as a correct record.

006/2020 **Matters arising**

Cllr Mrs Hyde reported that the next meeting of the VE Day celebrations group would take place on 29th January 2020 in the library.

007/2020 **Mayor's Report**

The Mayor reported that he had attended a number of services over the Christmas period. The lights competition had been a great success with a very high standard of entrants and a worthy winner.

008/2020 **Members' reports**

Cllr Pickersgill reported on a wide range of issues in Wilstock and Stockmoor. He had met with the local manager of Persimmons and discussed problems associated with the use of Stockmoor as a "rat run", progress on the Country park, the play area in Stockmoor, cattle grazing, and parking, particular around the Quantock view development. He also stated that he would be holding a Wilstock and Stockmoor surgery in the Cafe de Paris in Stockmoor on 22nd January.

009/2020 **Budget 2020-21**

Members considered the detailed budget prepared by Cllr Spencer and agreed by the

Finance and General Purposes Committee at its meeting on 16th December 2019. The Committee had recommended a precept of £155,000 for the year ending 31st March 2021, which represented an increase in the Council Tax of 1.75% in line with inflation.

Resolved: that the budget be approved and a precept of £155,000 be set for the forthcoming financial year 2020-21.

010/2020

Items for payment.

Resolved: that the following payments be approved

Brian Jones Engineering	£1,740.00	Professional fees*
N Petherton Community Centre	£1,928.85	Toilets
N Petherton Community Centre	£64.00	Room hire
Greenslades	£1,037.03	Cemetery maintenance
JLL Ltd.	£ 2,520.00	Professional fees*
N Taylor	£17.00	Christmas decorations NP library
EDF	£79.80	Electricity Cemetery
Crimson Hill Support	£67.50	Room hire – Youth club
Blake Joinery	£272.47	Repairs to notice board

*To be funded from earmarked reserves

011/2020

Grant request

Members considered a grant request from Rusty Road 2 Recovery.

Resolved: that the matter be deferred and representatives of the applicant be invited to the next meeting to explain more about what the organisation does, how many clients live in the Council's area and why it isn't a registered charity

012/2020

Taunton Road Sites.

Members discussed planning application 37/18/00097, which was to be decided by the Development Committee at Sedgemoor the following day, in the context of the report that had been prepared on behalf of the Council on the strategic implications for traffic routes and relief roads in the area. Cllr Spencer was going to attend the meeting and speak against the application which would entail creating a second access from Taunton Road within 100 metres of an already agreed one and make the construction of a relief road much more difficult. (Cllrs Bradford and Revans were not present for this item)

013/2020

Benches and bus shelters

The Clerk reported that he had met with the local Highways Engineer to discuss the Task and Finish group's suggestions for sites for new benches and shelters in the area.

Resolved: that the group meet again to make its final recommendations, and that Cllr Mrs Spelman-Ives join the group.

014/2020

Memorial Park Project

Cllr Mrs Hyde updated Members on progress on this project. She stated that she had prepared a note to be circulated to the wider public so that the community was also kept fully informed.

015/2020

Matters of report

Cllr Revans reported that the County Council was no longer repairing street lights that were not on County land, unless they were paid to do so. There was such a light in Old

Road, North Petheton that needed repairing and he requested that the Council pay £50 to have this looked at. This was agreed.

Cllr Barham reported that there was an ongoing problem of lorries travelling through the area during the night at excessive speeds. It was agreed to write to the police about this.

Cllr Mrs Warren raised the issue of providing additional yellow lines on Newton Road by the Memorial Park.

Cllr Pickersgill suggested that Councillors should have ID and business cards. The Clerk agreed to pursue this.

Cllr Taylor reported that there were problems with the new railway bridge caused by cars parking by the adjacent canal bridge.

Cllr Spencer pointed out that Cllr Revans had recently got engaged. Members joined him in congratulating Cllr Revans.

The meeting closed at 9:10 pm

