

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in the Moorland and District Village Hall commencing at 7:15 pm

Present. Cllr Luke Parchment Deputy Mayor in the Chair.

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

In Attendance. Mr R T Latham, Town Clerk, representatives from Rusty Road 2 Recovery, Mrs K Symonds, Mrs P Wheelhouse and several members of the public

016/2020 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr A Bradford, Cllr B Sellick, Cllr Ms C Woodford and Cllr Mrs L Spelman Ives

017/2020 **Declarations of interests**

Cllrs Revans declared an interest in all planning applications and left the room when such matters were discussed. Cllr Taylor declared an interest in items 11 and 19. Cllr Revans and Mrs Warren declared an interest in item 11 and Cllr Ives declared an interest in item 9

018/2020 **Community Time**

Mr Vince Davis gave a brief presentation on the work of Rusty Road 2 Recovery and answered Members' questions. Mrs Wheelhouse spoke to the grant application from the Moorland Village Hall. A number of residents expressed their views on the planning application relating to land south of Littlemoor Drove. Mrs Kate Symonds spoke on the issue of Climate Change

019/2020 **Grant applications**

- a. **Rusty Road to Recovery.** It was **resolved** that a grant of £2,500 be made, subject to the latest financial figures being received by the Clerk.
- b. **Moorland & District Village Hall.** It was **resolved** that a grant of £1,053 be made towards legal costs.
- c. **North Petherton Cricket Club.** It was **resolved** that a grant of £1,344 be made towards the cost of youth coaching.

020/2020 **Planning Application 37/19/00114**

Members reconsidered their views on this application following additional information provided by the Planning Officer.

**Resolved:** that the Council has no objection to the application, but is concerned about the future maintenance of the access road, which is no longer being maintained by the County Council.

021/2020 **Climate Crisis**

Members discussed this issue, following the Special Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. A number of Members had attended the Sedgemoor DC drop in session on the preceding Saturday.

**Resolved:** that a working group be set up to advise the Council on ways that it could practically help to avert the crisis, and that the membership should be: Cllrs Revans, Hyde, Bunce, Warren and Taylor.

022/2020 **Minutes**

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 be approved as a correct record.

023/2020 **Matters arising**

Minute 004/2020: Members felt that the County Council should write to residents affected by the change in road maintenance policy in Fordgate advising them how they should now proceed to ensure the safety of the roads. Cllr Taylor expressed his strong objection to the action taken by the County Council.

Minute 015/2020: Cllr Pickersgill offered to take photographs of Members for the ID cards at the next meeting.

024/2020 **Mayor's Report**

The Mayor had provided a written report to the Council,(copy filed with signed minutes).

**Resolved:** that the report be received and the Mayor be thanked for his hard work.

025/2020 **Members' reports**

Cllr Pickersgill reported that he had arranged for another surgery in Stockmoor for the the following Wednesday. Cllr Taylor reported that he had attended a meeting relating to the closure of the mental hospital in Wells. He felt that the consultation process had been flawed and that the closure of the facility would be a major loss to those in need.

026/2020 **Finance reports**

The Clerk presented the finance and budget reports (copies filed with signed minutes).

**Resolved:** that the reports be received and that the Clerk explore why the spending on the library was not in the budget report.

027/2020 **Items for payment.**

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

Newsquest media group	£522.16	Advert for Asst. Clerk
Coomber Security Systems	£421.70	New CCTV for library
Somerset County Council	£4,608.43	Library quarterly charge
N Petherton Community Centre	£36.00	Room hire
Lyndon Brett Partnership	£240.00	Chapel survey
Young Somerset	£5,406.00	Youth club half year
Nick Stevens	£1,260.00	Christmas trees
Rialtas Business Solutions	£142.80	Planning IT system licence

028/2020 **North Petherton Library**

**a. Quarterly review.** Cllr Mrs Hyde and Cllr Revans reported on the quarterly review meeting that they had attended, which had shown a marked increase in some elements of usage.

**b. Use of photocopier.** The Clerk reported on a request from the Friends of the Library that they should have fee use of the photocopier for library related activities.

**Resolved:** that the Clerk explore ways of allowing up to £100's worth of free usage.

029/2020 **Wilstock and Stockmoor Forum**

The Clerk presented the notes of the Forum meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020.

Members noted the content and agreed that the Forum should meet on an as and when

required basis in future. The possibility of having regular meetings with developers whilst they retained responsibility for the roads, lighting etc., should be explored.

030/2020 **Community Centre Car Park**

The Clerk reported on the requirement to commission additional work to support the planning application. This was agreed.

031/2020 **Benches and bus shelters**

The Clerk reported on progress and that the next stage was to formally agree sites with the Highways Department

032/2020 **Memorial Park Project**

Cllr Mrs Hyde updated Members on progress. Tenders were due back later in the month.

033/2020 **Correspondence**

a. **The Walnut Tree.** The Manager of the Walnut Tree in North Petherton had written to the Council expressing his disappointment that a grandstand had not been provided at the 2019 carnival. **Resolved:** that the Clerk reply pointing out that the Council had supported the provision of a grandstand in the past and would consider doing so again.

b. **Computer equipment.** Mr MacLaurin, who organised the projection of applications at the Planning meetings, had offered to sell his IT and projecting equipment to the Council so that it could be used by the new Asst. Town Clerk when they were appointed. The cost represented a significant saving on new items. **Resolved:** that the offer be accepted and the Clerk proceed to agree the detailed arrangements.

034/2020 **Governance arrangements**

The Clerk presented a report on alternative committee arrangements, following comments made at the informal Council meeting. Members decided to defer detailed consideration until the next meeting.

035/2020 **Matters of report**

Cllr Revans reported that he had decided to use his County Council grant budget to support a signposting booklet.

Cllr Mrs Hyde reported on progress with the VE Day celebrations.

Cllr Taylor gave advance notice of the Moorland Village Fete to be held in July.

The meeting closed at 9:50 pm







