

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held on Monday 13th July 2020 via Zoom commencing at 7:15 pm

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

In Attendance. Mr N Taylor, County Cllr D Fothergill and Mr R T Latham, Town Clerk.

078/2020 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr L Parchment

079/2020 **Declarations of interests**

There were no declarations of interests

080/2020 **Community Time**

Mr Taylor raised a number of issues relating to the Country Park. The Chairman agreed to move item 13 up the agenda

081/2020 **Wilstock and Stockmoor**

Cllr Revans stated that Persimmon had indicated that everything was ready to install the remaining bridge in the park, and so was disappointed that nothing had happened. Cllr Pickersgill reported that fences were being pulled down by people walking along unofficial paths. He was pleased that a large variety of wild life was now present in the park. He agreed to try and contact someone at Persimmon to deal with the broken styles and rotting fences. Cllr Pickersgill briefly described plans to install a nature hide in park. This would, however need planning permission. It was agreed that an item would be placed on the next agenda to progress this. It was understood that most of the issues relating to the cycle bridge had been resolved, but it was still not clear when the scheme would proceed. Cllr Mrs Spelman Ives reported that she was intending to organise some nature walks in the park.

082/2020 **Minutes**

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2020.

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

083/2020 **Matters arising**

The Clerk agreed to renew his efforts to persuade the developers to contribute to the council's extra costs of grounds maintenance incurred during the crisis.

084/2020 **Mayor's report**

Cllr Bradford reported that he was waiting for details about the location of the VE Day bench and tree in Moorland. Cllr Taylor pointed out that he was waiting for information from the local church. The Mayor said that the ongoing virus situation was continuing to generate a variety of issues that he and the Clerk were dealing with.

085/2020 **Members' reports**

It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Spelman Ives would attend the forthcoming SALC meeting about reorganising local government in the county

086/2020 **Local government reorganisation in Somerset**

Cllr David Fothergill, leader of Somerset County Council, presented a series of slides on the County Council's plans to ask the Government to replace the existing principal local authorities in Somerset with a new unitary council. The proposal was due for discussion by the County Council later in the month before being submitted to the

Secretary of State by 31st July. The plans included the possibility of an enhanced role for local councils. Members raised a number of questions, which Cllr Fothergill answered. The Chairman thanked him for taking the time to brief the Council on the plans.

Resolved: that the question of reorganisation be discussed in full at a future meeting.

087/2020

Items for payment

Resolved: that the following items be approved:

Greenslades	£3,581.10	Cemtery maintenance and tree work
H A Durbin	£138.00	Hedge trimming
Peter Parfitt	£2,420.00	Grave digging
A Sutton	£92.00	Grass cutting Community Centre
N Petherton Community Centre	£953.62	Toilets
Viridor	£4,782.70	3rd party payt for grant (Memorial park)
Sedgemoor DC	£3,415.16	Litter and dog bin emptying 1/2 year
NPPFCT	£10,000.00	Annual grant
L Hyde	£96.10	Pedal bins library

NPPFCT

Abacus construction	£2,526.00	New gates/entrance Mem Pk 25% deposit
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088/2020

Internal audit

The Clerk reported that the annual internal audit of the Council's financial affairs had been completed with no matters needing to be brought to Members' attention

089/2020

Capital funding

It was agreed that Cllr Bradford, Cllr Parchment, Cllr Spencer and the Clerk meet to discuss this issue further and report back to a future meeting

090/2020

Public Toilets

Members discussed whether or not to reopen the public toilets in North Petherton.

Resolved: to keep the toilets closed for the present, but to keep the matter under review.

091/2020

Maunsel lock car park

There were continuing problems associated with locking and unlocking the gate at the car park. Cllr Revans reported that he had investigated a remote system. This would cost around £5,000 and require the installation of an electricity supply.

Cllr Bradford agreed to do what he could to resolve the issue.

092/2020

North Petherton Library.

The clerk reported that there was an ongoing dialogue with the County Council about reopening the library. Work needed to be done to make the building safe, and a covid risk assessment had to be completed.

093/2020

North Newton Housing Project

Cllr Bradford provided an update on this project and on a meeting that had taken place between the working group and Sedgemoor DC. A new housing survey was planned for August, after which new plans would be drawn up. He made the point that he was upset about a recent press release from the district council which had been misleading.

094/2020

Trust matters

Cllr Mrs Hyde updated Members on progress in installing new gates at the Memorial

Field. Cllr Barham had agreed to manage this project. She also referred to the recent award of a grant to the Memorial park project from Viridor.

Resolved: that the terms of the grant be agreed.

095/2020

Matters of report

Cllr Pickersgill asked those members who had not submitted photographs to the Clerk for the ID cards if they could do so.

Cllr Revans reported that the no parking cones at Kingscliffe seemed to working effectively. He also agreed to look into the status of the community right to bid on The Globe and the possibility of registering a right on the Screeching Owl site.

Cllr Mrs Warren raised concerns about speeding on the A38

The meeting closed at 9:45 pm

