

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held on Monday 12th October 2020 via Zoom commencing at 7:15 pm

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

In Attendance. Mrs Helen Phillips, Ms Andrea White and Peter Giles (Young Somerset) and Mr R T Latham, Town Clerk.

132/2020 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs D Bunce

133/2020 **Declarations of interests**

There were no declarations of interests

134/2020 **Community Time**

Mrs Phillips thanked the Council for the work that it had done in Wilstock and Stockmoor during the crisis. She said how much it had been appreciated by residents in what were very stressful times. She asked if Members would consider restarting the Wilstock and Stockmoor Forum on a Zoom platform. Cllr Bradford agreed to consider this. She also raised questions about progress on the Country Park. Cllr Revans reported that Persimmon had told him that the missing bridge was due to be installed shortly and the County Council cycleway bridge was awaiting approval from the Environment Agency.

135/2020 **Youth Club**

Andrea White from Young Somerset explained the arrangements that had been made to reopen the Youth Club in the small hall at the Community Centre and the procedures that would be followed to ensure that it was covid safe. A new SLA had been drafted in consultation with Cllr Revans whereby the Council would pay Young Somerset £10,812 to run the Club for 12 months. Members raised a number of points and clarified that the Council would not be responsible for ensuring compliance with covid and other safety measures. Cllr Parchment asked whether any other providers had been approached to run the Club.

Resolved: that the SLA be agreed, but for a period of 6 months, with arrangements being made to put the service out to tender after that.

136/2020 **Minutes**

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2020

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

137/2020 **Matters arising**

Cllr Bradford expressed his concern about the poor standard of communication relating to the affordable housing project in North Newton.

Cllr Taylor stated that he was very disappointed with the outcome of the District Council's scrutiny review on infrastructure delivery. He was doubtful that anything had been learned from past mistakes and felt residents were due an apology.

Cllr Revans reported that he had spoken to Berry's Coaches about covid procedures on school buses. They appeared to be doing what they could but the County Council had, as yet, not

made the wearing of masks compulsory.

It was noted that there was now a full time doctor working at the surgery in North Petherton.

138/2020 **Mayor's report**

Cllr Bradford reported that he continued to deal with local issues, particularly at Maunsel Lock and respond to residents' concerns. He had opened the new community building at Huntworth and had cut the turf at the start of the Memorial Park project. He remarked that many people were finding life stressful at present and urged everyone to be as understanding as possible.

139/2020 **Members' reports**

Cllr Pickersgill reported that the installation of fibre optic cable had now been completed in Stockmoor, however it was still proving impossible, after 7 months, to replace the bulbs in the lights in Angus Way.

140/2020 **Budget statement.**

The Clerk presented the monthly budget report.

Resolved: that this be received.

141/2020 **Items for payment**

Resolved: that the following items be approved:

St Peter's Church, North Newton	£3,000.00	Grant Church rooms
The Church Rooms N Petherton	£3,000.00	Grant
N Petherton Community Centre	£1,397.20	Toilets
A Sutton	£92.00	Grass cutting community centre
A Bradford	£224.68	Trees for VE Day
EDF	£76.44	Electricity cemetery
 NPPFCT		
Sedgemoor DC	£90.00	Clearing Memorial Field (Travellers)
Trailcraft	£420.00	Maintenance of BMX track
HAGS	£59,469.58	Memorial Park project

142/2020 **Budget making process**

The Clerk reminded Members about the various meetings that were scheduled to work on next year's budget. Cllr Parchment said that he thought provision should be made to fully maintain the cemetery chapel. Cllr Spencer reminded Members that the Council could have reserves of the order of £450,000 if CIL receipts were maintained.

143/2020 **Remembrance Day**

The Clerk reported that normal services would not be possible due to covid, but that arrangements were being made for wreaths to be laid whilst abiding by the "rule of 6". The Mayor also reminded the meeting of the plans to commemorate VE Day on 11th November.

Resolved: that the Clerk be asked to order 7 poppy wreaths to be delivered to the Mayor.

144/2020 **Chadmead drainage**

The Clerk reported on a letter received from the Somerset Rivers Authority regarding drainage ditches in Chadmead.

Resolved: that the Clerk write to the SRA supporting their proposals and asking them to ensure that the County Council fulfil its obligations for future maintenance.

145/2020 **Christmas decorations**

Members discussed the arrangements for Christmas decorations, and the Mayor outlined his plans for the best Christmas lights competition.

Resolved: that the Clerk look into having a large tree somewhere in the centre of North Petherton and that separate cups be presented to the winners of the lights competition in each of the villages, with the Mayor presenting one to the overall winner. It was also agreed that local councillors would donate the individual cups, which would be retained by the winners.

146/2020 **Meeting Schedule**

Members agreed the latest schedule of meetings presented by the Clerk

147/2020 **Climate Crisis**

Cllr Revans reported that the group of councillors looking into this had met and had brainstormed a number of ideas that could form the basis of a bid for up to £70,000 to the County Council for climate change initiatives. These had been circulated to Members.

Resolved: that the group be given delegated powers to agree the best suggestion and submit a bid

148/2020 **Playing Fields Trust**

Cllr Mrs Hyde reminded members that there was a Trust meeting on the following Monday, when a number of important matters would be discussed.

149/2020 **Library**

The Clerk reported that he would be organising a Zoom meeting with Jack Stafford the County Library Liaison Officer to discuss current issues prior to his taking up a new appointment.

150/2020 **Asst. Clerk post.**

Cllr Parchment reported that he was keeping this matter under review and would look to restart the recruitment process as and when circumstances permitted.

151/2020 **Matters of report**

Cllr Revans reported that after a period of limited progress due to covid, a meeting of the consultative committee of the Bridgwater Market Town Initiative was due to take place soon. It was agreed that Cllr Bradford would attend.

Cllr Spencer requested that the build up of leaves along Bridgwater Road in North Petherton be cleared.

Cllr Woodford referred to the untimely death of Cathy Hooper, a longstanding employee at the pharmacy in North Petherton. It was agreed that the Clerk should

write to her relatives.

Cllr Mrs Warren asked about progress with the provision of bus shelters. The Clerk stated that he was arranging a further meeting to take this forward.

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm

