

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held at North Petherton Bowling Club on Tuesday 1st March 2016 at 7:30 PM

Present. Cllr J Taylor in the Chair

Councillors. Cllr. J Hesketh, Cllr P Spencer, Cllr Mrs H Phillips, Cllr J Barham, Cllr Mrs M Denham, Cllr Mrs L Hyde, Cllr W Revans and Cllr R Ives.

In Attendance. Mr. R Latham (Town Clerk), County Councillor R Brown, District Councillor Mrs A Fraser, Mr S Granger and Ms E Vickery

39/2016 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr A Bradford and Cllr G Jones

40/2016 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

41/2016 **Presentation**

Stewart Granger from the Somerset Rivers Authority gave a short presentation to the meeting on flood prevention arrangements in the area. He referred to the creation of ring banks, as being one of 78 suggestions that had been considered to address flooding issues, but stressed that limited funds were available to implement any of them. He reported, however, that the measures that been put in place following the floods of 2014 had proved to be effective against the recent high rainfall. He answered a number of questions, after which the Deputy Mayor formally thanked him for coming to the meeting and giving such an informative and re-assuring talk.

42/2016 **Community Time**

Emma Vickery from the Wassail Theatre Group provided the meeting with additional information in support of their grant request. Members agreed to consider this item next on the agenda.

District Councillor Mrs Fraser raised the issue of cars for sale being stored on the Community Centre car park. Members also had before them a letter from the Mayor setting out the issues involved and the Council's limited influence on the matter, but, nevertheless, urging Members to do what they could to address the problem.

42/2016 **Grant Application.**

Members consider item 13a, a request for grant aid from the Wassail Theatre Group towards the costs of a production taking place in Moorland Village Hall which addressed, in particular, the emotional and personal impact of being flooded. The Clerk confirmed that he had received copies of the group's constitution etc.

Resolved: that a grant of £500 be approved.

43/2016 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February 2016 were considered.

Resolved: that they be approved as a correct record.

44/2016 **Matters Arising**

The Clerk agreed to contact the occupier of the property adjoining the allotment site, with a view to progressing repair works to the wall. Cllr Revans agreed to monitor progress on the Time Bank project and report back to future meetings. It was agreed to accept the quote from Abacus Construction Ltd to replace the fencing at North Newton playing fields, subject to the receipt of satisfactory references. (*Note, these were subsequently received*). Further to the matter of cars being stored on the Community Centre car park, it was reported that the matter would actually be fully resolved by the

6th March. If this were not the case the Clerk agreed to write again to the Community Centre Committee and to Cllr Hesketh. (*Note – the matter was resolved by the 6th March*).

45/2016 **Mayor's Report**

The Deputy Mayor reported that he understood that the Mayor was enjoying a well-earned holiday.

46/2016 **Planning Processes**

Members discussed the importance, given the impact that the Council's views had on the way in which applications were considered, of ensuring that any objections were based on valid planning grounds. It was also stressed that the Council was often the only, or certainly most effective, conduit for information about developments in the area between local residents and the Planning Authority. The Clerk was asked to see again if a meeting could be arranged with senior Members and officials of the Planning Authority so that there could be a productive exchange of information.

47/2016 **Planning Decisions.**

The Clerk reported on recent decisions made by the Planning Authority, which included approval of the Gateway developments.

48/2016 **Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllrs Taylor and Revans reported on a meeting that they and the Clerk had attended at UWE in Bristol and that, as a result, it was likely that some final year students would be involved in the initial stages of the plan as part of their placements. (*Note – it has now been agreed that two students will be working on the project, beginning in the third week of April*).

49/2016 **Items for payment.**

The following payments were approved:

Mervyn Hillier Computing	£566.00
Sedgemoor DC	£195.31
A Bradford (Re Trophy)	£71.99
Somerset Rural Youth Project	£4,750.00
Crimson Hill	£60.00

50/2016 **Finance Matters**

The Clerk reported on the need to provide funds to the North Petherton Playing Fields Charitable Trust pending the re-imbursment of VAT payments incurred as part of the play equipment project.

Resolved: that a short term loan be made to the Trust of up to £20,000 to be repaid when the VAT was reclaimed.

51/2016 **Risk assessment.**

It was agreed that this should be dealt with by the Finance and General Purposes Committee, at a meeting to be held on 15th March 2016 after the Planning Meeting.

52/2016 **Dog Bins.**

The Clerk reported that there were currently two bins provided in Stockmoor at the Council's expense. It was understood that the intention had always been that three should be provided.

Resolved: that the Clerk arrange for a third bin to be provided at a suitable location near to the open area adjacent to the school

- 53/2016 **Grant Application Mendip Community Transport**
It was agreed that this matter be left in abeyance.
- 54/2016 **Notice Board Chadmead.**
The Clerk reported that a request had been made to provide a notice board in Chadmead.
Resolved: that this be agreed. *(Note – this request was subsequently withdrawn).*
- 55/2016 **Next Meeting.**
The Clerk informed Members that he would be on holiday on the date of the next meeting.
Resolved: that Mr Richard Young be asked to clerk the April meeting
- 56/2016 **Matters of Report**
The Clerk was asked to contact Persimmon Homes and Sedgemoor DC with regard to the risk to health and safety being caused by the construction traffic in the vicinity of the school in Stockmoor. *(Note – the Health and Safety Executive are now monitoring the situation and will report on any developments)*
The Clerk reported on proposals to hold a meeting with officials regarding the future of the library in North Petherton. It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Hyde and Cllr Revans attend this.
Cllr Mrs Phillips thanked County Councillor Brown for his efforts in providing a foot path to the bus stop in Stockmoor.
Cllr Mrs Hyde reported that a meeting about the Bridgwater barrier was to be held on 10th March.
Cllr Revans reported that he felt that the cemetery was in need of attention and that it was likely that a grant of £3,500 would be forthcoming for the Youth Project in the next financial year. He also reported that the wall along the footpath between Pilots Helm and Mill Street looked to be unsafe.
Cllr Barham reported that no action had so far be taken in relation to the white lines in North Newton.
Cllr Hesketh asked if there could be some clarity as to the position of the current planning line around the Junction 24 site.
Cllr Taylor informed the meeting about the FloodRe scheme for houses where flooding had made obtaining affordable insurance difficult.

The meeting closed at 9:20
pm