

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council Annual Meeting held at Ferrydown House, North Petherton, on 9th May 2016, commencing at 7:15 pm

Present. Cllr A Bradford (Chairman)

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

In Attendance. Mr. R Latham (Town Clerk)

70/2016 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Hesketh

71/2016 **Election of Mayor.**

Cllr Spencer proposed that Cllr Bradford be re-elected as Town Mayor, and, in doing so, thanked him for all of his work during the year and praised him for the way that he had led the Council effectively and with good humour. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Ives. There were no other nominations, and it was:

Resolved that Cllr Bradford be elected as Mayor for the ensuing year

Cllr Bradford thanked Members for the honour of being re-elected and for their kind words. He also thanked them and the Clerk for supporting him over the past two years and said that he was genuinely surprised and humbled to be asked to act for another year..

72/2016 **Election of Deputy Mayor.**

Cllr Revans proposed that Cllr Taylor be re-elected as Deputy Mayor. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Denham. There were no other nominations and it was:

Resolved that Cllr Taylor be elected as Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

Cllr Taylor thanked Members for re-electing him and said how much he had enjoyed being Deputy Mayor over the past 12 months, whilst adding that he did not wish take on the role of Mayor at any time in the future.

73/2016 **Declarations of Interest.**

Cllr Jones declared an interest in item 15a and the Clerk declared an interest in item 22.

74/2016 **Appointments to Committees.**

The following appointments were made:

Allotments Advisory Committee: Cllr Barham (Chairman), Cllr Hesketh and Cllr Mrs Denham, plus the Mayor and Deputy, ex officio.

Cemetery Advisory Committee: Cllr Spencer (Chairman), Cllr Ives and Cllr Jones, plus the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, ex officio.

Personnel Committee: Deputy Mayor (Chairman), Cllr Revans and Cllr Spencer.

Finance and General Purposes Committee: Cllr Spencer(Chairman), Cllr Revans, Cllr Ives and Cllr Mrs Phillips, plus the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, ex officio.

75/2016 **Appointments to Outside Bodies.**

The following appointments were made:

SALC: Cllr Mrs Denham and Cllr Mrs Phillips

Moorland Village Hall Committee: Cllr Taylor and Cllr Ives

North Petherton Twinning Association: Cllr Mrs Phillips and Cllr Mrs Denham

North Petherton Community Centre Association: Cllr Hesketh and Cllr Mrs Hyde

North Newton Playing Fields Association: Cllr Bradford

North Petherton Youth Centre: Cllr Revans

Quantock Hills Joint Advisory Committee: Cllr Taylor, Cllr Jones (deputy)

Wroth Charity/Cheeke and Stodgell Educational Foundation: Cllr Revans and Cllr Spencer.

Parish Footpath Liaison Officer:

76/2016 **Resolved:** that former councillor David Edwards be asked to undertake this role for another year, but that Cllr Ives act as a deputy

Community Time

77/2016 The Chair of SaWRA thanked the Council for its support over the last year.

78/2016 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th April 2016 were considered.

Resolved: that, subject to it being noted that the reference to sweeping the cycle path was made by Cllr Denham, not Cllr Hesketh, they be approved as a correct record.

79/2016 **Matters Arising**

It was suggested that advice be sought from ex councillor Mrs Hodges regarding the covenant on the Memorial Playing Fields.

80/2016 **Mayor's Report**

The Mayor referred to the ongoing discussions about the need to provide a scout hut and said that Baymead Hall might be a solution as this was where the scouts currently met. There were problems with this option though.

81/2016 **Planning Decisions.**

The Clerk reported on recent decisions made by the Planning Authority

82/2016 **Neighbourhood Plan**

The Clerk reported that a formal request for designation had been submitted to Sedgemoor DC

83/2016 **Community Infrastructure Levy**

The Clerk reported that the first payment of "CIL" had been received in the sum of £441. After a discussion on current issues associated with section 106 agreements in the area, such as the Colley Lane link road and problems in Wilstock and Stockmoor, it was:

Resolved: that the Clerk write to the Chief Executives of Sedgemoor DC and Somerset CC expressing the Council's concerns that the deadline for sorting these out was only two years away and asking what actions were being taken to ensure that monies due under the various agreements would not be lost.

84/2016 **Annual Governance Statement**

The Council considered recommendations from the Finance and General Purposes Committee, at which nearly all Members had been present, and which had looked at each assertion in the statement with reference to the new guidance. After careful consideration it was agreed that a positive assertion to each of the statements could be made.

Resolved: that the Governance Statement be approved.

85/2016 **Items for payment.**

The following payments were approved:

Greensaldes	££1,149.73
Wessex Water	£81.00

SALC	£1,182.66
Crimson Hill Support	£60.00
Sedgemoor DC	£2,118.48
NPPFCT	£16,000.00
M Denham	£81.00

86/2016

Finance Reports

The Clerk presented financial reports for the year 2015/16.

Resolved: that the reports be received.

87/2016

Statement of Accounts

The Clerk, in his capacity as responsible finance officer, presented the council's statement of accounts for the year ended 31st March 2016 for approval. He took the opportunity to explain the new arrangements for publishing the statement.

Resolved: that the Statement of Accounts be approved.

88/2016

Grants.

Members considered grant requests from the Friends of Somerset Bridge Primary School towards the cost of an "outdoor classroom" and from North Newton PCC towards the cost of renovating the church rooms.

Resolved: that a grant of £1,000 be awarded to each

89/2016

Standardised grant procedures.

The Clerk presented proposals for a standard approach to considering applications for grants.

Resolved: that the matter be referred to the F & GP Committee, to be held after the next Planning Meeting.

90/2016

Chadmead.

Members considered a request to contribute towards the costs of materials involved in a project by local volunteers to provide an area of hard standing near the recently purchased bench.

Resolved: that a payment of up to £100 be agreed.

91/2016

H M the Queen's birthday celebrations.

The Clerk reported that, in consultation with the Mayor, and following consultations with local primary schools, it had been decided to provide commemorative bookmarks for pupils of schools in the area, which the Mayor had agreed to present.

Resolved: that the action be endorsed, and that information about the events taking place on or around the 11th and 12th of June to celebrate the Queen's birthday be included on the web site.

92/2016

SaWRA Accounts

Members considered a copy of accounts from SaWRA provided by the Association's treasurer,

Resolved: that the accounts be received.

93/2016

Property Adviser. The Clerk advised Members that he was negotiating with local professionals to act as adviser to the Council on property matters, and that he would report further in due course.

94/2016

Application to the Community Impact Mitigation Fund.

The Clerk reported that he had received a request from the Sedgemoor Major Project's Team for the Council to provide a letter of support for an application to the CIM fund for support towards the cycle way scheme connecting Stockmoor with Bridgwater.

Resolved: that the Clerk be authorised to send a letter of support.

95/2016

Matters of Report

Cllr Mrs Phillips informed Members that a record attempt involving scarecrows was taking place on 2nd may in Vivary Park Taunton in aid of dementia research.

Cllr Mrs Hyde referred to a promise made by the re-elected Crime Commissioner that police would attend local meetings, and it was agreed that the Clerk use this to encourage a representative of the police to attend one of the Council's meetings.

It was remarked that there was some confusion regarding the Membership of the District Council's "Cluster Groups", and the Clerk was asked to seek clarification.

Cllr Revans reported that, despite assurances, no action had been taken by County Highways to address the problem of the unsafe wall at Pilot's Helm. The Clerk agreed to pursue the matter.

Cllr Taylor informed Members that the road to Moorland would be closed for 4 weeks for dredging work at an estimated cost of £5m.

96/2016

Exclusion of the Public.

Resolved: that the public and press be excluded during discussion of the next two items due to their confidential nature.

97/2016

Involvement of the public in debates

The Clerk reported that Cllr Hesketh had asked that Members discuss how and to what extent members of the public should be allowed to take part in debates and discussions outside of the normal community time arrangements.

Resolved: that this was a matter for the Chairman, but that steps be taken to ensure that it be made clear when standing orders were being waived to allow this.

98/2015

Health and Safety Issue.

The Clerk reported that he had been contacted by the police on the Saturday evening of the bank holiday weekend concerning a dangerous object that had been reported in Parkersfield playing fields. In order to deal with the matter promptly he had asked a relative with the relevant skills to accompany him to the site and remove the object to ensure the public safety. Given the relationship he had not considered it appropriate to discuss any payment for the work.

Resolved: that a sum of £50 be paid to Adam Barnett Community Maintenance in respect of digging up and removing a sharp metal object from the playing field, and he and the Clerk be thanked for their prompt action.

The meeting closed at 9:20 pm