

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held on Monday 11th January 2021 via Zoom commencing at 7:15 pm

Present. Cllr Alan Bradford Chairman
Councillors. Cllr W Revans, Cllr J Barham, 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, Cllr Mrs D Bunce and Cllr B Sellick

In Attendance. Mr D Bamsey (Sedgemoor DC), Mr E Ryan and Mr R T Latham, Town Clerk.

001/2021. Apologies

There were no apologies

002/2021. Declarations of interests

There were no declarations of interests.

003/2021. Bridgwater Town Fund

Doug Bamsey, SDC Strategic Director, gave a brief presentation on the Bridgwater Town Fund, a project set up in response to a government initiative to supply capital funding to market towns. Following a consultation exercise a number of issues had been identified including improved inward investment, anti social behaviour, carnivals and the town centre redevelopment. A bid of £25m had been put together to address these matters and was due to be submitted imminently. Members asked a number of questions and expressed their concern that the Council had not been involved in the process and that, consequently, nothing had been included for North Petherton and in particular the Wilstock and Stockmoor communities where the Wilstock Hub project would seem to have been highly relevant.

Mr Bamsey hoped that people in North Petherton would, nevertheless, benefit should the bid be successful.

Cllr Bradford thanked him for giving up his time to attend the meeting.

004/2021. Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

005/2021. Matters arising.

Cllr Bradford stated that action in relation to the trees opposite the Ford Fuels Garage had been postponed because of the lockdown.

006/2021. Mayor's report.

Cllr Bradford reported that he believed that North Petherton had had an increased number of Covid cases in recent weeks and he urged everyone to take care of themselves. He also felt that the pandemic was taking its toll on people and their stress levels. He had received a number of comments complimenting the Council on the Christmas lights, the lights' competition and the VE benches and trees.

007/2021. Members' reports.

Cllr Revans updated Members on a briefing he had received on the vaccination arrangements in his role as a County Councillor.

008/2021. Budget monitoring report.

The Clerk presented the monthly budget report, which was accepted.

009/2021. Items for payment.

The following items were approved for payment:

HAGS	£69,472.98	VAT £49999.98 + NPTC grant £19473
Rialtas Business Solutions	£148.80	Accounting software maintenance
N Petherton Community Centre	£54.00	Room hire - Youth club
Viking	£216.53	Postage and stationery
Greenslades	£1,305.60	Cemetery maintenance
N Petherton Community Centre	£1,526.78	Toilets
Purnells	£45.36	Christmas lights' certificates
A Sutton	£92.00	Community centre grass cutting
J Bradford	£127.00	Reimbursement - thank you gift Peter Farnell
NPPFCT		
HAGS	£51,955.32	Final payment Memorial Park

010/2021. Budget 2021-22.

Cllr Spencer presented the latest draft of the budget for 2021-22 and financial forecast for future years. He proposed that the precept for the next financial year should be set at £161,300 an increase of 4%. This was seconded by Cllr Revans. **Resolved:** that the Council set a precept for the financial year ending 31st March 2022 of £161,300, equivalent to a band D rate of £48.12, and that the Clerk be authorised to submit the notification to the Billing Authority.

011/2021. Wilstock play area.

Cllr Bradford reported that he had received comments that the play area had been vandalised. Members had inspected the site and there did not appear to have been any significant damage. Sedgemoor DC were responsible for the area.

012/2021. Lockdown.

The Clerk reported that, following the latest lockdown, the library was now closed, as were the public toilets and the tennis courts at Parkersfield. Members discussed the BMX track and the Memorial Park, which had not been reopened since the completion of the redevelopment.

Resolved: that the actions be endorsed, the BMX track be closed and the Memorial park opening be postponed.

013/2021. Broadland Avenue footpath.

The Clerk referred to previous discussions regarding the poor condition of the path linking Broadlands Ave and Parkersfield. The path was the responsibility of Somerset CC, but they felt that the condition was acceptable. County Highways had stated that any improvement would have meet their requirements regarding draining onto the road.

Resolved: that quotes be obtained to repair the footpath and meet the highway requirements.

114/2021. Casual vacancy

The Clerk raised the matter of the council vacancy, which now needed to be filled by cooption.

Resolved: that the vacancy be advertised on the Council's website and facebook page as well as on the notice boards. Local Members agreed to assist with updating the notice boards in their areas to minimise travel during the lock down.

115/2021. Identity cards

Members discussed further the provision of identity cards/tags. Cllr Woodford offered to provide laminated cards. It was agreed that the Clerk investigate the costs of different options

116/2021. Climate Crisis.

Cllr Taylor raised the matter of the incinerator that was the subject of a County Council planning application. Cllr Revans said that his understanding was that the application was largely to do with consolidating existing approvals. The Clerk stated that he had informed the County Planning Officer that Cllr Taylor and Cllr Mrs Hyde would be attending the meeting when the application was considered and had asked that they be notified when that was.

117/2021. Matters of report.

Cllr Mrs Hyde said that she had met the new PCSO, Jeremy Pidgin and that he hoped to be out and about throughout the area.

Cllr Sellick reported that the condition of Brook Street in North Newton was now dangerous and needed action.

Cllr Bradford reported that lorries travelling to Haddon Farm were still causing problems. The roads in West Newton were also in a poor state due to agricultural vehicles.. He hoped that this was going to be addressed.

There was ongoing concern about the fence by the canal in North Newton, again it was hoped that this would be dealt with soon.

Cllr Pickersgill reported that progress on installing the bridge in the Country Park was being held up dealing with a gas main. He also noted that a number of less common birds had been spotted in the park.

118/2021. Exclusion of the press and public.

Resolved: that the public be excluded due to the confidential nature of the matter to be discussed.

119/2021. Complaint

The Clerk reported that a member of the public had complained about comments made by Cllr Woodford on social media about dogs being kept under control. Members reiterated their view that all dog owners should behave responsibly and keep their dogs under control at all times. It was also made clear that anyone using social media should take care not to cause unnecessary offence.

Resolved: that no formal action was appropriate.

The meeting closed at 9:25 pm