

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021  
at North Newton Village Hall commencing at 7:15 pm

Present. Cllr Alan Bradford Chairman  
Councillors. Cllr J Taylor, Cllr Mrs L Hyde, Cllr R Ives, Cllr P Spencer, Cllr Mrs D Bunce, Cllr L Parchment, and Cllr B Sellick. Cllr W Revans joined the meeting after the panning matters had been dealt with.

In Attendance. Mrs S Ferguson, Asst. Clerk, Mr R T Latham, Town Clerk, Mr Martin Cooper, Ms Emma Hill and Mr Dave Read (Somerset CC) and several members of the public

**101/2021. The late Cllr Claire Woodford**

Members and others present stood in silence in memory of Cllr Claire Woodford who had sadly died. The Mayor paid tribute to her service to the Council and the community and expressed his condolences to her loved ones.

**102/2021. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Spelman Ives and Cllr Mrs L Dennis Smith. The Mayor welcomed everyone back to in person meetings and expressed his sympathy to everyone who had suffered during the pandemic.

**103/2021 Community Time.**

The continuing problem with parking on Newton Road was raised. Concern was expressed about the length of time it was taking to put alleviating measures in place. Cllr Bradford said that he believed that something would be done shortly.

A number of people spoke about the possibility of an event taking place in Fordgate involving attendance by over 500 people, which had not been discussed with local people. Cllr Taylor outlined the steps that he had taken to establish the facts and talk to the organiser. The owner of the relevant field then explained that the event was now not taking place in Fordate and that there were no plans for anything to happen in the future.

**104/2021 Minutes**

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were agreed as a correct record. Cllr Mrs Hyde reminded Members of the situation regarding the incinerator in Showground Road.

**105/2021 Planning matters.**

Cllr Parchment took the chair for the planning section of the meeting.

The minutes for this section are separately recorded.

Cllr Bradford resumed the chair

### **106/2021 Rights of Way.**

Martin Cooper from SCC introduced Emma Hill and Dave Read, who were volunteer footpath wardens for the North Petherton area. He outlined his responsibilities and the work being done by the volunteers to maintain and improve the footpath network. In answer to questions, he explained that issues could be raised on the online mapping system, from where they would be actioned by the volunteers or referred to the Rights of Way team. The possibility of creating more circular walks in the area was also discussed. It was agreed that the topic should be put on a future agenda to discuss further. Cllr Bradford thanked Mr Cooper and his colleagues for their attendance.

### **107/2021 Flooding**

Members discussed the flooding that had occurred in North Petherton in July. Cllr Bradford and Cllr Revans had met with Emma Gifford and a report would be prepared for the SRA with a view to obtaining fundings for remedial works to be undertaken to reduce the risk of further occurrences. It was suggested that something could be done in the Community Centre car park to reduce the local flooding risk. The importance of regular clearing of the gullies was essential.

### **108/2021 Local Government Reorganisation**

Cllr Revans outlined what he understood the latest situation to be, following the government's decision to proceed with a new Somerset Unitary Authority. The new authority would come into existence in April 2023, with elections to it taking place in May 2022. However, there were a number of matters that remained unclear, including the number of councillors and electoral divisions; there would not be time for a full boundary review before next May. It was likely that local elections, scheduled for 2023, would be brought forward to coincide with the elections to the new council. The Clerk mentioned some of the practical implications that there would be for local councils and the limited timeframe they would have to influence events.

**Resolved:** that it was too early to take any action at this stage, but that the Clerk should take appropriate steps to monitor the situation.

### **109/2021 Budget monitoring report**

The Clerk presented the regular budget monitoring report.

**Resolved:** that the report be received.

### **110/2021 Items for payment**

**Resolved:** that the following items be approved:

Mervyn Hillier	£70.00	IT support
Viking	£389.67	Postage and stationery
GWB Services	£3,844.30	Litter and grounds maintenance
Greenslades	£1,225.92	Cemetery maintenance
Blake signs	£150.00	Signs Maunsel Lock car park
Baker Ruff Hannon	£2,880.00	Wilstock Hub fees
A Sutton	£92.00	Lawn mowing
R Duddridge	£100.00	Notice board repair
SALC	£50.00	Training courses

NPPFCT

GWB Services	£100.00	Play equipment inspection
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### **111/2021 Mayor's report**

The Mayor highlighted that a number of local people had received medals as part of the County Council's awards scheme. He also reported that former councillor Mrs Anne Fraser was unwell and currently in hospital. Members wished her a speedy recovery.

### **112/2021 Closure of meeting**

Given the time, it was agreed to close the meeting and consider the remaining items at a future meeting, with any urgent matters being dealt with under existing delegated powers.

The meeting closed at 9:50 pm