

North Petherton Town Council

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Minutes of Informal General-Purpose Committee Meeting 24th January 2022 at 7.00pm

Councillors present: Chairman J. Taylor, A. Bradford, D. Bunce, L.Dennys-Smith, L. Hyde, R. Ives. L. Parchment, B. Revans , P. Spencer and B. Sellick

Also present Assistant Town Clerk: Sally Ferguson, Town Clerk Rod Latham and Nik Harwood (Young Somerset).

GP21/26 No apologies received for Members of the Committee.

GP21/27 There were no declarations of Interest.

GP21/28 The Minutes of the last meeting on 22nd November were approved with no matters arising.

GP21/29 Nik Harwood gave a passionate insight into the work of the modern Youth Services Team and took the Members through the development of Young Somerset which has suffered from a lack of National Investment and has therefore relied on the Local Authorities at Town and Parish level to keep the Youth programme operating. He spoke about the need for young people to have a place they could go to not only to take part in activities, but, especially since the Pandemic, somewhere to meet new friends and be inspired by positive role models who could help them to develop their own sense of achievement and self-worth. He thanked the Members for the Town Councils recognition of this and the financial support to enable this work to continue. Chairman Taylor asked for details of the profile of the young people attending, and thanked Nik for his excellent presentation and his team for their hard work. A new Youth Leader for North Petherton would be appointed soon.

GP21/30– Website and General Administration. The Assistant Clerk reported that the Contact page was still actively being used by Members of the Public for various queries, and positive feedback on the website had been received.

GP21/31 SID- Cllr Hyde spoke briefly on this matter, there was little to report as PCSO Pidgeon had failed to attend the Full Council meeting as requested. The Clerk was asked to issue a further invitation. Cllr Hyde thanked the Assistant Clerk for the research carried out on the types of devices available.

GP21/32 Allotments - Wessex Water had repaired the broken water main and compensated the neighbouring resident who had had the winter grazing for her animals destroyed. Cllr Sellick reported a tap on the centre track was leaking and asked the Assistant Clerk to contact the Contractor and ask him to replace it. - **Actioned**. It was discussed whether lagging the pipes and tap would prevent them freezing and then leaking. Chairman Taylor asked that the Clerk be informed that the allotment site at Ford gate had been sub-let. - **Actioned**.

GP21/33 Cemetery- The report on the Chapels was discussed and it was agreed to go ahead with the topographical survey which would cost approximately £1000.00. Cllr Spencer informed the Committee that he had allowed an amount in the Budget forecasts (up to £50,000) for repairs over the next few years. It was again suggested that when any drainage works were carried out, a foul drain should also be installed so that a toilet could be installed for the future usage of the chapel rooms.

It was agreed that a good quality bench (the "Alan Bradford standard") could be put installed in memory of a resident. It was agreed to proceed with the next block of plots suggested in the Garden of Rest.

GP21/34-Library. The library has had to close temporarily due to Western Power making the decision to shut off the power for safety reasons. A generator had been installed, but the fuel had not arrived on time. It is hoped to reopen shortly. A Constitution for the proposed Library Trust has been written and is now with the solicitor at SDC.

GP21/35 Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleaning. Gulley cleaning had been taking place and was almost completed. There was less dog mess generally. Junction 24 of the M5 has become a dumping ground for litter as people leave the slip roads. There had been a near miss collision due to ice on the road on the railway bridge, thanks were given to the Clerk and Mayor for swiftly organising a delivery of grit to the area.

GP21/36 Climate Change. A meeting was suggested for Monday 31st January at 12.30.

GP21/37-Canal Boats in North Newton. The environmental health issues raised had been investigated and Councillors were now happy that waste was being disposed of correctly.

GP21/38 There were no matters to take forward to the next meeting.

The next meeting of the General Purposes Committee would be on 21st February 2022: