

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held on Monday 7th January at 7:15 pm in the small hall of the North Petherton Community Centre.

Present. Cllr A Bradford Chairman.

Councillors. Cllr R Ives, Cllr W Revans, Cllr Mrs L Hyde, Cllr Mrs M Denham, Cllr P Spencer, Cllr J Taylor, Cllr Mrs A Fraser, Cllr J Barham, Cllr B Sellick and Cllr R Brown.

In Attendance. Mr R T Latham, Town Clerk and approximately 30 members of the public

1/2019 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs L Spelman-Ives and Cllr L Parchment

2/2019 **Community Time**

Members of the public expressed their concerns about plans by the North Petherton Community Centre Trustees to introduce a new management and charging system for the car park. A wide range of points were made about how the new proposals would cause problems, not only in operational terms, but also for the town and community in general. Although the trustees had published a paper explaining how the new system would work and why it was being introduced, it was felt that there should have been a proper consultation process. Cllr Bradford made it clear that the community centre and the car park did not fall within the purview of the Council, but he did recognise people's concerns and frustrations. Members were particularly concerned that the issue should not lead to friction with the local community, nor jeopardise the high regard in which the Centre and its Management Committee were held.

Resolved: to ask for a meeting between the Centre Committee and a group of councillors and residents, so that the various issues and opinions could be aired and a common understanding reached. The following residents agreed to be part of the group: J Pepper, Ms M Lang, Ms P Lerry and Ms B Sonmez, together with Cllr Bradford, Cllr Revans, Cllr Mrs Hyde, Cllr Mrs Denham, Cllr Ives and Cllr Taylor.

3/2019 **Minutes**

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2018. Cllr Mrs Fraser pointed out that she was a member of the Somerset Community Foundation, not the Sedgemoor Grants Panel (min.197/2018).

Resolved: that, subject to this, the minutes be approved as a correct record

4/2019 **Matters arising**

Cllr Taylor reported that the defibrillator in Moorland had been used in the Christmas holiday to help save someone's life

5/2019 **Mayor's report**

Cllr Bradford reported that he had had been busy attending a range of events and services over the Christmas period.

6/2019 **Members' Reports**

Cllr Mrs Denham reported that the coffee mornings held in the Community Centre continued to be well attended and much appreciated.

7/2019 **Christmas lights**

Cllr Bradford reported that the lights competition had been a great success again and the judging panel had been impressed by the quality of displays throughout the area.

The winner was Phillip West of 9 Romney Road, Stockmoor. Cllr Ives reported that the Christmas Tree provided by the Council in Wilstock had been vandalised shortly after it had been installed.

8/2019

Finance Report

The Clerk presented the periodic budget monitoring report

Resolved: that the report be received.

9/2019

Items for payment

Resolved: that the following items be paid:

Stooks Memorials	£282.00
A Sutton	£46.00
Greenslades	£1,889.18
N Petheron Comm Centre	£1,421.35
GWB Services	£1,326.00
Viking	£140.43
N Petheron Comm Centre	£18.00
Moorland Village Hall	£22.50

NPPFCT

GWB Services £50.00

10/2019

Budget 2019/20

Members considered the budget forecasts prepared by Cllr Spencer and the recommendations from the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Resolved: that the budget be approved and the precept for the year commencing 1st April 2019 be set at £150,000, equivalent to a band D council tax rate of £45.48 for the year, an increase of 4.38%.

11/2019

Street Lighting

Cllr Revans said that he had received requests for two street lights in Old Road North Petheron, one outside the cemetery and one outside number 10.

Resolved: that the Clerk seek quotations from the County Council, and that a request be made to install speed limit signs along the road.

12/2019

North Petheron Library. The Clerk reported that he would be attending a meeting with County officers to discuss the draft heads of terms for the agreement to take on the operation of the library in April. He would report back to the Library Sub Committee after the meeting.

13/2019

Correspondence

The Clerk reported that he had received a request for a contribution towards the costs of the Bridgwater Citizen's Advice Bureau. It was agreed to seek further information on usage.

14/2019

Matters of report

Cllr Ives reported that 7 Christmas trees had been planted in the Wilstock/Stockmoor area.

Cllr Sellick asked that the County Council be informed that the road by Spitgrow Farm in North Newton was constantly flooding.

Cllr Taylor that there were problems with the access over the ditch onto the former allotment land in Fordgate. It was agreed to refer this to the Allotments Committee.

Cllr Brown informed Members about the arrangements to take children to and from school across Petherton Park during the road closure associated with the railway bridge repairs.

The meeting closed at 9:25 pm

