

Minutes of the Meeting of North Petherton Town Council held on Monday 12th April 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 P Spencer, Cllr Mrs D Bunce and Cllr B Sellick

In Attendance. Mr E Ryan and Mr R T Latham, Town Clerk.

061/2021. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs L Spelman-Ives, Cllr L Parchment, Cllr Mrs L Dennis Smith and Cllr Ms C Woodford.

062/2021. HRH The Duke of Edinburgh

The Mayor expressed his and the Council's condolences to Her Majesty and the Royal Family on the sad death of the Duke of Edinburgh. Members held a minute's silence in his honour

063/2021. Declarations of interests

Cllr Ives and Cllr Barham declared interests in item 10

064/2021 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2021 were agreed as a correct record

065/2021. Matters arising

Cllr Mrs Hyde asked that Speed Indicating Devices should be included on the next agenda.

Cllr Taylor referred to the proposed development at Carrot's Farm shop, and expressed his concern that linking inward investment and development control in the same department at Sedgemoor DC represented a conflict of interest. Cllr Bradford reported that the new bus shelters had been completed and he hoped to arrange some publicity shortly. He also said that he would be contacting Ros Hodge about tree planting.

066/2021. Mayor's report

The Mayor commented on the great success of the Memorial Park improvements, but added that there were continuing concerns about parking. He and Mrs Bradford had been invited to Wells Cathedral for a memorial service for the Duke of Edinburgh. He expressed his opinion that many people were feeling the strain of the ongoing pandemic.

067/2021. Members' reports

Cllr Revans said that, although Covid support measures were coming to an end, there were still many local people needing help, particularly with the provision of food. He referred to the fair share scheme at the Community Pantry. Cllr Mrs Bunce said that she was involved with an organisation providing help to families with new born babies. Cllr Mrs Hyde said that food schemes were continuing in the community. Cllr Bradford thanked everyone involved. Cllr Pickersgill referred to the volunteers involved in litter picking along Wilstock Way, especially Mr and Mrs Nigel Taylor. It was clear that the developers were not taking any action to deal with the issue.

Cllr Spencer reported that The Educational Trust, on which he and Cllr Revans sat, had awarded £500 to North Newton school.

Cllr Taylor reported that he was a member of the patients' participation group at the local surgery, and that, given the link between poor health and poverty, it was now providing advice on benefits to patients.

Cllr Mrs Hyde reported that she had attended a local government reorganisation meeting where the plan to hold a local referendum had been discussed. She had also attended the Planning meeting where the Carrots Farm Shop application had been decided. The rear of the site was not now part of the development and she suggested that a meeting be arranged with the planning officer to discuss options for utilising this for community purposes. This was agreed.

068/2021 Meeting arrangements.

The Clerk reported on the strange situation whereby the ability of the Council to hold virtual meetings would end on 7th May, but that actual meetings would not be allowed until the end of June. This meant that it would not be possible to hold the Annual Meeting as planned on 10th May and that the scheme of delegation would have to operate during May and June.

Resolved: that the Annual Meeting be held via Zoom on 5th May 2021, but that appointments be revisited at an actual meeting to be held at the end of June, where the deferred new governance structure would be revisited with a view to it coming into operation in September.

069/2021 Items for payment

Resolved: that the following payments be approved:

N Petherton Playing Fields Trust	£10,000.00	Annual grant
Tom Barham	£250.00	Website assistance honorarium
Externiture	£83,492.62	Bus shelters phase 1
N Petherton Community Centre	£1,644.86	Public toilets
A Sutton	£92.00	Grass cutting community centre
StructureHaus Ltd	£1,200.00	Wilstock Hub
Somerset CC	£600.00	Licence agreement for bus shelters

Greenslades	£5,805.60	Cemetery mtnce (includes one off work to paths and beds
Sedgemoor DC	£114.40	Green bin fees Cemetery
Services Design Solutions	£5,772.00	Wilstock Hub

NPPFCT

K & M groundworks	£1,962.00	Gates Memorial Park
W G Barham	£250.05	Rolling Memorial Park
Abacus construction ltd	£558.00	Deposit - repairs to fence Memorial park
Linda Hyde	£183.88	Seeds and sanitiser etc Memorial Park

070/2021 Newton Road car parking

The Clerk had prepared a note from the special meeting held on 7th April to discuss car parking issues on Newton Road near the Memorial Park. Following discussion it was

Resolved

- a. That Mr Deakin from the County Council be encouraged to visit the site and formulate proposals as quickly as possible; Cllr Revans would pursue this;
- b. That signs be put up indicating where public parking is not allowed;
- c. That some form of self closing mechanism be put on the pedestrian gate;
- d. That the matter be closely monitored.

071/2021 Licence application

The Council had been asked to comment on a licence application from a restaurant in North Petherton.

Resolved: that the application be supported.

072/2021 Youth Club

Members reconsidered the Youth Club arrangements which had been set for a 6 month period.

Resolved: that the current agreement be renewed for a further 6 month period.

073/2021 Library matters

The town library was due to reopen for browsing on the following day. Work on setting up a charitable trust to take on the service was continuing.

074/2021 Dog and litter bins.

The Clerk presented a note of matters raised by Clean Surroundings at Sedgemoor DC, following the Council's requests for new bins at various locations.

Resolved: that

- a. It be confirmed that consultations with residents had taken place where appropriate.
- b. An additional new large bin be provided by the Doctors' Surgery;
- c. The matter of bins at Kingscliffe be pursued.

075/2021 Local Government Reorganisation

Cllr Revans gave a brief update.

076/2021 Broadlands Ave footpath

A quote had been received for resurfacing the footpath from Broadlands Ave to Parkersfield, which was felt to be too expensive. It was agreed that the use of scalping be looked at again.

077/2021 Pay phone consultations

The Council had been invited to comment on plans by BT to close the pay phone in North Petherton.

Resolved: that facility should be retained for safety reasons as the nearby bus stop was used late at night by long distance services.

078/2021 Climate crisis

Cllr Revans agreed to arrange a meeting of the Climate change group.

079/2021 Exclusion of the public

Resolved: that the following item be dealt with in private as it related to staffing.

080/2021 Asst Clerk

Members considered a recommendation from the Personnel Committee to appoint Mrs Sally Ferguson to the post of Asst. Clerk.

Resolved: that the recommendation be confirmed, and that the Clerk be authorised to make the necessary arrangements. The Mayor then welcomed Mrs Ferguson to the meeting, congratulated her on the appointment and wished her all the best for the future.

The meeting closed 9:10 pm