

Minutes of the informal meeting of North Petherton Town Council held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021 via Zoom commencing at 7:00 pm

Present. Cllr Alan Bradford Chairman  
Councillors. Cllr J Taylor, Cllr Mrs L Hyde, Cllr P Spencer, Cllr Mrs D Bunce, Cllr L Parchment, Cllr Mrs L Dennis Smith, Cllr B Sellick, Cllr Ives and Cllr W Revans.

In Attendance. Mr R T Latham, Town Clerk and Mrs S Ferguson Asst. Clerk

### **151/2021. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Spelman Ives,

### **152/2021 Declarations of interests.**

There were no declarations of interests

### **153/2021 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 were agreed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

### **154/2021 Asst Clerk**

The Mayor formally reported that Mrs Ferguson had given notice of her intention to leave her employment with effect from the end of January due to her family commitments. Members expressed their gratitude for all that she had done for the Council and for making the introduction of the Assistant Clerk post such a success.

### **155/2021 Local Government Reorganisation**

The Clerk gave a brief update of the current situation regarding the government's decision to reorganise the structure of local government in Somerset with effect from April 2023. At this stage it was not clear whether or not elections to the new unitary council would take place in May 2022 or 2023.

He went to outline what he thought the impact the reorganization could have on the Town Council and the local community. In particular it was highly likely that funding to local services such as street cleaning, open spaces, toilets etc. would be cut back and that town and parish councils would be asked to step in to provide and finance these locally. Members then discussed the issues in some depth and considered what steps, if any, the Council should take to prepare for the changes and challenges ahead. Cllr Revans, as County Councillor, expressed his concerns about the future of adult social care and Cllr Taylor felt that there was a danger of funds being diverted to private companies. Cllr Bradford felt that

it was important to ensure that the Council had sufficient funds in its budget to deal effectively with whatever lay ahead.

### **156/2021 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan**

The meeting of the last Finance and Development Committee had been cancelled due the reintroduction of covid restrictions. Cllr Spencer therefore presented his latest detailed workings and proposals to this meeting. Following discussions, it was agreed that the Finance and Development Committee should meet to agree a recommendation for the precept for next year.

### **157/2021 Town Clerk**

The Town Clerk gave advance notice that he intended to resign from his position at the end of March 2022. The Mayor and other Councillors said that they would be sorry to see him go.

**Resolved:** that the meeting of the Personnel Committee arranged for the next evening to discuss the forthcoming vacancy for the Asst. Clerk post, should now also include the Clerk post in their deliberations.

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm