

Northam Town Council – Minutes of the Climate Emergency Committee Meeting held 13th January 2022 at 6.30pm

Present: Cllrs Hames (Chairman), Laws and Hodson
Mr T Wiersma (co-opted members)

In attendance: Guy Langton - Deputy Town Clerk

2201/974 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Newman-McKie.

2201/975 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman reported that he and volunteers had planted daffodils in Anchor Park as part of a project approved by Town Projects Committee.

Cllr Hames further reported that the Torrridge District Council Climate Emergency Working Group had reviewed and commented on the Devon Climate Assembly recommendations regarding the Devon Carbon Plan.

2201/976 Declarations of interest:

Members were reminded that all interests should be declared prior to the item being discussed.

2201/977 To agree the agenda as published

It was **resolved** to agree the agenda as published.

Proposed: Cllr Laws, Seconded: Cllr Hames (all in favour)

2201/978 To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2022

It was **resolved** to agree the minutes as recorded.

Proposed: Cllr Hodson, Seconded: Cllr Laws (all in favour)

2111/979 To consider Action Points

The Committee heard updates on the action points, including:

Working with Bideford College on climate-related matters - Cllr Hodson reported that the effects of Covid-19 had been felt at the school, so staff and student absence had limited the possibilities. The students had operated a small-scale clothes swap event and it was hoped that a follow-up event in the spring would generate more interest. It was agreed that a virtual meeting would be arranged to open channels of communication between the students and the Committee. All members agreed and this would be ratified at the next meeting of the Committee.

Action point: Deputy Town Clerk to seek attendees from the members of the Committee.

Action Point: Cllr Hodson to liaise with the Cadet.

Action point: Deputy Town Clerk to include ratification on the February agenda of this Committee.

Deputy Town Clerk to arrange the meeting between the Chairmen of Town Projects & Asset Management and Climate Emergency Committee as soon as possible – Cllr Hames reported that he had contacted the Chairman of the Town Projects and Asset Management Committee, who had given his support to the installation of solar panels and battery storage at Northam Hall.

The remainder were noted.

2201/980 Public Participation

No members of the public attended the meeting.

2201/981 To consider applications for co-option to the Committee

It was **resolved** to co-opt Wendy Lo-Vel as a resident member of the Climate Emergency Committee.

Proposed: Cllr Hames, Seconded: Cllr Hodson (all in favour)

Action point: Deputy Town Clerk to contact Ms Lo-Vel.

2201/982 To receive an update on EV charging in the Northam Town area

Cllr Hodson reported that Wilkies Field car park in Westward Ho! had been well used in the summer of 2021, generating income for Torrington District Council. It was hoped that the increase in usage may lead the third party EV charge point provider to include the area in its installation plans.

It was **resolved** to write to the relevant officers at Torrington District Council to request that the parking ground be used as a pilot for the installation of EV charge points for Westward Ho!

Proposed: Cllr Hodson, Seconded Cllr Laws (all in favour).

Action point: Cllr Hames to draft and send the letter.

2201/983 To receive an update on *Life on the Verge*

It was **resolved** to divide the project into two phases and provide training for staff as required.

Phase 1. Sites at:

Cornborough Road – continue with rewilding.

Highfield – prepare for wildflowers with yellow rattle.

Atlantic Way – prepare for bulb planting.

Churchfield – prepare for bulb planting.

Golf Links Road – prepare for wildflowers with yellow rattle.

Phase 2: Sites at:

Lundy View, Appledore Road, Churchill Way/Wooda Road, Hanson Park, Heywood Road.

Proposed: Cllr Hames, seconded: Cllr Hodson (all in favour)

Action point: Deputy Town Clerk to advise Devon County Council officers and division member of the plans.

Action point: Council staff to plan the work in, seeking training and/or advice if necessary.

2201/984 To consider the installation of Solar PV and Battery Storage system at Northam Hall

It was **resolved** to seek up to date prices from Company C, the favoured provider and proceed if appropriate.

Proposed: Cllr Laws, seconded: Cllr Hodson (all in favour).

Action point: Deputy Town Clerk to seek up to date costs and instruct contractor, circulating to committee members if necessary.

2201/985 To consider updating the draft Climate Emergency Action Plan
 It was **resolved** to request all members send their comments to Cllr Hames and the Deputy Town Clerk for collation in advance of the February meeting of this Committee, where there would be a timed item of 30 minutes to consider the updates. Proposed: Cllr Hames, seconded Cllr Laws (all in favour).

Action point: all members to draft comments and circulate as indicated.

2201/986 To receive an update from the LCWIP steering group.
 The Chairman had attended a meeting of the Group and reported that there was a good presentation (circulated to members of the Climate Emergency Committee). However, he had commented that leisure cycling should be included in the LCWIP plan and he thought that additional cycle/pedestrian routes should be included.

The Committee heard that the North Devon Cycling Campaign had submitted a map to the LCWIP consultants which showed additional suggested routes.

2201/987 To consider the recommendation from the Town Projects and Asset Management Committee regarding rain water capture at Northam Hall
 It was **resolved** to accept the recommendations of the Town Projects and Asset Management Committee and progress the project, to include recycled juice containers as the water tanks. Proposed: Cllr Hodson, seconded: Cllr Hames (all in favour).

Action point: Deputy Town Clerk to order the equipment and progress the project.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 8:10pm.

Signed..... Dated.....