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**Northam Town Council – Minutes of the Northam Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group Meeting held by Zoom on Thursday 18th February 2021**

**Present:** Cllrs Chalmers (Chairman), Mrs Hodson, Hames, Laws, Newman-McKie and Shelley

Non-Councillor Members: Ms Bartleman, Ms J Smart and Mr G Allen

**In attendance:** Mrs Jane Mills – Town Clerk

Mrs P Moores – Assistant Town Clerk

Mr G Langton – Deputy Town Clerk Designate

Mr G Townsend – Planning Consultant

1 member of the public

**2102/1174** **Apologies**

There were no apologies.

**2102/1175 Chairman’s announcements**

The Chairman introduced the Deputy Town Clerk Designate.

**2102/1176 Declarations of interest**

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

**2102/1177** **To agree the agenda as published**

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

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

**2102/1178 To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held 21st December 2020**

It was **resolved** to confirm the minutes of the meeting held 21st December 2020.

They will be signed at a later date.

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

**2102/1179 Public Participation**

*Members of the public are permitted to make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business included in the agenda. Each member of the public is entitled to speak once only in respect of business itemised on the agenda and shall not speak for more than 3 minutes. The period of time which is designated for public participation in accordance with standing orders shall not exceed 15 minutes.*

The member of the public did not wish to speak.

**2102/1180 To consider action points**

Action Points were noted.

**2102/1181 To consider the vision statement**

The Chairman suggested that the statement was checked through to ensure relevant issues are included, where appropriate. The following items should be included:

* Carbon neutral
* Biodiversity
* Tree planting
* Recreational spaces including Westward Ho! Park
* NNP1 covers local green spaces and NNP21 Indoor and outdoor activities
* Affordable homes
* Engaging with schools
* Heritage trail

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* Cycle paths
* Skills hub in Northam
* Community Hub

Members were advised that due to the Government White Paper, it is felt best not to attempt to schedule the referendum to coincide with the May elections as the final outcome of the White Paper may result in significant changes to our Neighbourhood Plan.

***Action Point – Chairman to ensure all relevant items are included.***

**2102/1182 To consider the “Foreword”**

The Chairman advised that he had looked at the Foreword and felt that it currently sums up the position. The Consultant advised that it is very much a Foreword for when the Plan goes out for final consultation, but an amended Foreword will be required once the Plan is adopted.

***Action Point – Chairman to amend as required.***

**2102/1183 To consider adopting polices 13–16 ready for publication**

Following a lengthy discussion, it was **resolved** to bring the matter of second homes back to the next meeting

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

Mr Townsend will seek further information and liaise with Cllr Mrs Hodson.

***Action Point – Town Clerk to arrange a Zoom meeting.***

Members went on to discuss NNP14 – Affordable Housing. It was **resolved** to amend objective 3 to read “to encourage affordable housing in the NNP area through the establishment of Community Land Trusts, Community led housing initiatives and other means of provision”.

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

Concerns were expressed about how the contents were worded and it was agreed to bring NNP14 back to the next meeting. Mr Townsend agreed to rewrite the Justification. He advised it is important not to duplicate what is already in the Local Plan.

***Action Points – Wording of NNP14 to be amended and Mr Townsend to rewrite the Justification and produce a Glossary for the future.***

***NNP 14, 15 and 16 will be considered at the next meeting.***

**2102/1184 To consider the website**

This was deferred to the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Signed ………………………………………………. Dated………………………………….