

**Northam Town Council** – Minutes of a VIRTUAL meeting of the Town Council held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021 commencing at 6.00 pm.

**Present:** Cllrs Chalmers (Mayor), Davis, Edwards, Hames, Himan, Mrs Hodson, Laws, Leather, Miss Manley, Mrs McCarthy, Newman-McKie, Sargent, Shelley and Tisdale

**In attendance:** Mrs M J Mills - Town Clerk, Mr G Langton – Deputy Town Clerk, Mrs P Moores – Assistant Town Clerk, Miss T Tucker – Admin Apprentice  
District Cllr Ford  
14 members of the public

**2102/1201 Apologies**

All Members were present.

**2102/1202 Chairman's Announcements**

- The Chairman announced that in addressing the Council, members of the public may put questions but they would not be answered at this meeting, responses will be by letter or referred to the relevant committee. He also asked that those addressing the Council not make personal attacks on any member or criticise those not present.
- The Mayor reported that there had been 2 meetings regarding the parking problems in Appledore attended by various Councillors and District Council Officers. The next meeting will be on 11<sup>th</sup> March.

**2102/1203 Declarations of interest**

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

No member declared an interest in any item on the agenda.

**2102/1204 To agree the agenda between Part A and Part B**

It was **resolved** to agree the agenda between Part A and Part B after agreeing to move item 11 into Part B.

Proposed: Cllr Chalmers, Seconded: Cllr Edwards (all in favour).

**2102/1205 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

It was **resolved** to confirm the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021 as a correct record. The minutes will be signed at a later date.

Proposed: Cllr McCarthy, Seconded: Cllr Manley (all in favour).

**2102/1206 To note and adopt the reports of minutes and resolutions contained therein from Committees and Sub-Committees (Items contained in Part B to be considered under Part B)**

- Planning – 28<sup>th</sup> January and 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – (*herewith*)
- Climate Emergency – 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – (*herewith*)
- Finance & HR – 25<sup>th</sup> January and 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – (*herewith*)
- Town Projects - 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 (*herewith*)
- Northam Burrows - 18<sup>th</sup> January and 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – (*herewith*)
- Review Committee - 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – (*herewith*)
- Westward Ho Park Committee – 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021 (*herewith*)

It was agreed to note and adopt the reports of minutes and resolutions contained therein from Committees and Sub-Committees (Items contained in Part B to be considered under Part B).

**2102/1207 Action Points**

It was agreed to note the Action Points.

**2102/1208 To receive and consider reports from the Town Clerk**

It was agreed to note the reports from the Town Clerk.

**2102/1209 Public Participation**

*We welcome Parishioners speaking or making representations, asking questions or presenting petitions at the meeting of the Full Council in respect of any issue affecting the Northam Town Council area. A period of twenty minutes is allocated for this.*

Six members of the public wished to speak.

Two members of the public wished to speak on item 15 on the agenda.

Three members of the public wished to speak on item 13 on the agenda.

A further member of the public wished to speak regarding the maintenance men.

The first member of the public spoke regarding item 15 at this point in the meeting.

A second member of the public wished to congratulate the Northam Town Council maintenance team on all their hard work carried out in the area.

**2102/1210 To consider recommendations from the Review Committee**

- To recommend to Full Council that the revised Standing Orders be accepted (*amendments herewith*).

It was **resolved** to accept the revised Standing Orders.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Hodson, Seconded: Cllr Laws (12 in favour, 2 abstained).

- To consider review of the Terms of Reference for Westward Ho! Park amending the make-up of the committee from the AGM in May 2021 – proposed amendment “Nine elected Members, the Mayor (ex-officio), the four non-elected members of the public as specified previously, with a quorum of 5 elected Members for the meetings.”

It was **resolved** to accept the amendments as presented.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Hodson, Seconded: Cllr Laws (12 in favour, 2 abstained).

**2102/1211 To consider support for local businesses**

Councillors Edwards and Laws declared an interest in this item.

The Mayor stated that this had been a challenging year for local businesses and we should commend ourselves and our community as an area where we have supported our shops to buy local. Whilst maintaining social distance we have been able to offer a welcome to visitors. Some businesses wanted to extend tables and chairs outside in Appledore and in Westward Ho! and this enabled us to show support for businesses and visitors. He advised the Street Warden scheme promoted by the Police and Crime Commissioner had been very successful in Westward Ho! we should write to her to see if this could be continued at Westward Ho! and extended for Appledore. Members were advised that the District Council had acted exceedingly quickly to the requests from the local businesses. It was noted that new enterprises should be

promoted and start-up businesses by young people, also the need for support for high-speed broadband in the area.

Page 250

It was **resolved** that Northam Town Council support local businesses in recommending to “shop and buy local” and being able to offer places to sit and eat on the Quay in Appledore and at Westward Ho! also to look forward to other initiatives.

Proposed: Cllr Chalmers, Seconded: Cllr Leather (12 in favour, 2 abstentions)

**Action Point: Town Clerk to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner Requesting support for Wardens.**

**2102/1212 To consider the issue of jet skis launching from Appledore slipway**

It was **resolved** to suspend Standing Orders to allow members of the public to speak.

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

Councillors Miss Manley and Hames left the meeting during this item as members of Internal Overview and Scrutiny at Torridge District Council.

After hearing from 3 members of the public, it was then **resolved** to reinstate Standing Orders.

Proposed: Cllr Edwards, Seconded: Cllr Davis (all in favour).

It was further **resolved** to suspend standing orders to allow District Cllr Ford to speak.

Proposed Cllr Laws, Seconded Cllr Davis (all in favour).

District Cllr Ford began to read from an article published in the local press but was curtailed as those referred to in the article would have no right of reply, not being present.

It was **resolved** to reinstate Standing Orders.

Proposed Cllr Chalmers, Seconded Cllr Leather (all in favour).

After some discussion it was **resolved** to support a letter being written to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of TDC who will meet on 16<sup>th</sup> March, to express the opinion of Northam Town Council that we do not support bollards on the slipway, or the banning of the launch of jet-skis, but that education of users should be promoted. Northam Town Council would welcome a full and comprehensive examination into this issue. Also, that the Mayor after consulting with other interested parties attends the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March to express Northam Town Council's views.

Proposed Cllr Leather, Seconded Cllr Sargent (11 in favour, 1 abstained).

**Action point – The Town Clerk to write to TDC on behalf of the Council. Mayor to attend the TDC Meeting to express the views of NTC**

Councillors Miss Manley and Hames were re-admitted to the meeting at this juncture.

**2102/1213 To consider special funding for local schools**

Following a discussion it was **resolved** to support the request from the four schools in the Northam Town Council area for £500 for each school.

Proposed: Cllr Chalmers, Seconded: Cllr Mrs McCarthy (majority in favour, 1 abstention)

**Action point – The Town Clerk to identify a suitable budget**

Page 251

**2102/1214 To consider a recommendation from Climate Emergency Committee to Full Council that it resolves to support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill and write to the MP for Torridge asking him to vote for the Bill in Parliament**

It was **resolved** to suspend standing orders to allow a member of the public to speak.

Proposed: Cllr Tisdale, Seconded: Cllr Edwards (all in favour).

A member of the public spoke about the recommendation from the Climate Emergency Committee.

It was then **resolved** to reinstate Standing Orders.

Proposed: Cllr Chalmers, Seconded: Cllr Tisdale (all in favour)

After some discussion it was **resolved** to write to the MP for Torridge asking him to consider supporting the Bill to assist us in carrying out our aims in dealing with the Climate Emergency.

Proposed: Cllr Hames, Seconded: Cllr Shelley (10 in favour, 3 against, 1 abstention)

**Action Point – letter to be written to MP for Torridge.**

**2102/1215 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence to consider.

**2102/1216 Street Matters:**

There were no street matters to consider.

**2102/1217 To receive a Police/Councillor Advocate Report**

Cllr Sargent addressed the Council, noting the Speedwatch seminar he would attend on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021, it was hoped the Deputy Town Clerk would also be able to attend this event. Plans to commence Speedwatch and to meet with a representative from DCC Highways regarding road safety had been held in abeyance by the Covid-19 restrictions in place nationally and it was hoped activity could recommence soon.

Cllr Sargent also urged members of the public to raise issues such as noisy vehicles and anti-social driving, directly with the police at the time it was witnessed rather than reporting to it Council members.

**2102/1218 To consider an update on NALC/DALC (Cllr Chalmers)**

Cllr Chalmers reported that NALC and the local associations were lobbying the Government regarding an extension to virtual meetings, which the Coronavirus Act 2020 would see end in May 2021.

**2102/1219 Summary Report from a District Member (3 minutes)**

Cllr Mrs Hosdon reported that Torridge District Council had approved a balanced budget for 2021-22, meeting any deficit with agreed increased charges and fees; TDC had established a hardship fund to assist those struggling to pay. She further reported that members and officers of the Council would attend a virtual Emergency Planning meeting hosted by TDC on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021 from 7pm.

2102/1220

**Report from County Councillor (3 minutes)**

The Councillor was unable to attend the meeting of the Council.

DRAFT

**During Zoom meetings Members are required to confirm that they are alone during Part B of the meeting**

All Members confirmed this.

- 2102/1221 To resolve: that under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting.**  
 It was **resolved** that under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting  
 Proposed: Cllr Davis, Seconded: Cllr Edwards (all in favour).
- 2102/1222 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Town Council held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021 Part B (herewith)**  
 It was **resolved** to confirm the minutes as a true and accurate record.  
 Proposed: Cllr Tisdale, Seconded: Cllr Leather (all in favour).
- 2102/1223 To note and adopt the reports of minutes and resolutions contained therein from Committees and Sub-Committees in Part B**  
 • Finance & HR 25<sup>th</sup> January and 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021 - (herewith)  
 It was agreed to note and adopt the reports of minutes and resolutions contained therein from Committees and Sub-Committees.
- 2102/1224 To receive a staffing report**  
 Cllr Leather commented positively on the process of the recent round of appraisals. The Council received the report.
- 2102/1225 To consider a request from the Manager of the Seagate Hotel (information sent by email)**  
 The Councillors considered the request.  
 It was **resolved** to support tables and chairs to be placed in the carpark as previously, to facilitate social distancing, permission subject to review as Covid 19 restrictions are amended, but not to allow an outside cooking or bar area.  
 Proposed: Cllr Chalmers, Seconded Cllr Edwards (12 in favour, 2 abstained).
- 2102/1226 To consider quotation for staff and Member training – (sent by e-mail)**  
 The item would be deferred the item to allow Officers to seek alternative providers and proposals for comparison.  
**Action point – Deputy Town Clerk to research and draft a report for a future meeting.**  
 At this juncture Cllr Manley gave her apologies and left the meeting
- 2102/1227 To resolve to readmit members of the press and public**  
 It was **resolved** to readmit the press and members of the public.  
 Proposed Cllr Hodson, Seconded Cllr Tisdale (all in favour).

There being no further business the meeting closed 8.30 pm

**Signed..... Dated.....**