

Northam Town Council – Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on Wednesday 26th May 2021 in the Northam Hall at 6.00 pm

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

In attendance: Mr G Langton – Deputy Town Clerk
County Cllr D McGeough
2 members of the public

2105/087 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Himan.

2105/088 Chairman's Announcements

Meetings were to be considered in each ward, subject to the removal of the Corona Virus restrictions, with the ward members and representatives of local resident associations to re-start engagement and dialogue.

Torrige District Council were planning to paint the walls of the promenade at Westward Ho! utilising Welcome Back funding allocated to Torrige District Council. All members welcomed this.

Action point: Officer to confirm Northam Town Council approval with Torrige District Council

The next meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group had been postponed to the 24th June 2021 as there had not been the required representatives from each ward. This has now been resolved with the resignation of Cllr Chalmers from this group being rescinded. Officers are undertaking a review of the amendments agreed to policies and of the process milestones for the next meeting.

There would be an additional item at Part B, to consider the Council's insurances.

2105/089 Declarations of interest

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

2105/090 To agree the agenda between Part A and Part B

Cllr Hodson noted that:

Agenda item 14 should not refer to the allotments at Tadworthy Road, but the proposed allotments at Golf Links Road.

The Council would hear the report from the County Councillor at the same time it received the item on Street Matters.

Part B would include consideration of the Council's insurances.

It was **resolved** to agree the agenda between Part A and Part B with the above amendments.

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

2105/091 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 28th April 2021

It was **resolved** to confirm and sign the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 28th April 2021 as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr Leather, Seconded: Cllr Sargent (all in favour)

2105/092 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Annual Town Council meeting held 4th May 2021

It was **resolved** to confirm and sign the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 4th May 2021 as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr Leather, Seconded: Cllr Manley (all in favour)

- 2105/093 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)**
- **Town Projects and Asset Management – 11th May 2021**
 - **Planning – 29th April and 12th May 2021**
 - **Climate Emergency - 13th May 2021**
 - **Westward Ho! Park Committee – 19th May 2021**
- 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)
- 2105/094 Action Points**
It was agreed to note the Action Points.
- 2105/095 To receive and consider reports from the Town Clerk**
There were no reports to receive as there has not been a Finance and HR meeting this month.
- 2105/096 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.
One member of the public addressed the Council noting their concern over the postponement of the Northam Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group meeting.
- 2105/097 To consider a recommendation from Town Projects regarding Lords Meadow “to recommend to Full Council that Northam Town Council resolves to make a formal decision not to tender through the Contracts finder website as this contract is specialist in nature as the proposal is to provide rubberised mulch paths and areas under the equipment”.**
It was **resolved** to approve the approach to the work as described.
Proposed: Cllr Tisdale, Seconded: Cllr Laws (all in favour)
Action point: Town Clerk to seek quotes and research funding, to be included at a future meeting of the Town Projects and Asset Management Committee.
- 2105/098 To consider a request from Bideford Town Council to elect a representative member to join their Tourism Committee meetings**
Cllr Hodson clarified that the Committee sought a representative of Northam Town Council and it was looking ahead to opportunities to work together in the future.
It was **resolved** to nominate Cllr Manley as Northam Town Council’s representative.
Proposed: Cllr Hodson, Seconded: Cllr McCarthy (all in favour)
Cllr Manley accepted the nomination.
Action point: Town Clerk to inform Bideford Town Council of the appropriate contact details.
- 2105/099 To consider how the Cost Centre fund “Project Provision” will be administered**
It was **resolved** to administer the Project Provision fund through Full Council, accepting projects initiated by individual members or by Committees or Working Groups, accompanied by a completed project initiation form.
Proposed: Cllr Tisdale, Seconded: Cllr Manley (majority in favour, 1 abstention)

- 2105/100 To consider the adoption of the allotment site at Golf Links Road**
The Council noted the location of the site, its inclusion of public open space, pedestrian access to the Burrows Country Park and allotments and associated car parking.
The Council noted that the land would not be handed over until all site works at it had been completed and this would form part of the S106 agreement.
It was **resolved** to accept the transfer of the land and the associated commuted sum for maintenance, as part of the S106 agreement.
Proposed: Cllr Leather, Seconded Cllr Tisdale (all in favour)
Action point: two Ward members will be involved in the detail of the S106 agreement.
Action point: Officers to notify Torridge District Council of the decision.
- 2105/101 To consider re-appointment of the police advocate (Cllr Sargent is willing to stand)**
It was **resolved** to re-appoint Cllr Sargent as the Council's police advocate.
Proposed: Cllr Hodson, Seconded: Cllr Shelley (all in favour)
Cllr Sargent accepted the nomination.
- 2105/102 To consider a request from St Mary's C of E (VC) Primary School for a local authority Governor**
Cllr Tisdale reported that, as others had done, he has taken the invitation as a direct request to him and had responded saying he would be willing to stand. The Council thanked Cllr Tisdale for agreeing to stand.
Action point: The Mayor to email the Head Teacher in support of Cllr Tisdale's application to be the local authority Governor.
Action point: To request Councillors to update the Town Council of any outside bodies with which they were involved, either as a Councillor or as a private individual which will update their register of interests.
- 2105/103 To consider incorporating the work of the Appledore Parking Working Group into Town Projects**
It was **resolved** to not incorporate the Appledore Parking Working Group into the work of the Town Projects Committee, allowing it to formulate recommendations and report the outcomes to Full Council.
Proposed Cllr Tisdale, Seconded Cllr Leather (all in favour)
- 2105/104 Correspondence:**
- Countryside Voice – (*held in office*)
- Noted
- 2105/105 Street Matters:**
- Devon County Council – Temporary prohibition of through traffic – Monday 24th May 2021 for a maximum of 5 days between the hours of 19.00 and 0700 to enable reactive patching works.
 - Devon County Council – Temporary prohibition of through traffic – Monday 28th June until Friday 2nd July 2021 (both dates inclusive) – Torridge Road, Appledore - to enable new sewer connection.
 - Devon County Council – Temporary prohibition of through traffic – Monday 9th August until Friday 13th August (both dates inclusive) – Lenwood Road, Northam 20M north of Green Pastures on Lenwood Road – to enable access to overhead network – cable renewal to restore permanent customer service plus tree cutting.
 - Devon County Council – Temporary prohibition of through traffic – Monday 20th September until Friday 24th September 2021 (both dates inclusive) – Golf Links Road, Westward Ho! – to enable renewal of communication pipe.
- The above were noted.

Cllr McGeough addressed the Council, stating he was always contactable by email and requesting local people and Town Council members report street matters through the County Councils' dedicated webpage.

The Council brought Cllr McGeough's attention to:

- hazards at the Cornborough Rd/ Buckleigh Rd junction
- illegal and antisocial parking in the centre of Westward Ho!
- incidents where horse riders had been injured as a result of increased traffic
- a highway-edge wall with a significant crack in North Street, Northam
- a manhole covered by tarmac that needed uncovering in Appledore which was affecting the landowner.

2105/106 Summary report from County Councillor

Cllr McGeough reported that

- he had been in communication with the householder affected by the covered manhole
- he was working to find a source of developer funding for improvements related to the Daddon Hill development
- he was seeking developer and other funding to install a pedestrian crossing at Westward Ho!
- he was seeking to bring the planned pedestrian crossing at Appledore forward
- he was planning on commissioning a road safety survey for his Division, roughly equating to the Northam Town area
- as a Division member, he had access to a fund for small projects that met the County Council's objectives, which he hoped to allocate equitably across the three wards of Northam Town. Details were available on the County Council's website.

In response to a question from Cllr Sargent, Cllr McGeough noted that the pedestrian crossings planned drew on developer funding and that it was hoped similar would be available for the Northam ward in due course.

2105/107 To receive a Police/Councillor Advocate Report

Cllr Sargent reported that

- the area PCSO had yet to complete the risk assessments for the locations identified as potential for Speedwatch surveys
- he would attend a virtual meeting with the Inspector and other local Councillor Advocates.

2105/108 To consider an update on NALC/DALC

Cllr Chalmers reported that

- following a forthcoming meeting, a paper on Devon's economic development would be circulated to Parish and Town Councils for consideration and comment
- DALC and NALC continue to lobby central government on the matter of remote and virtual meetings.

2105/109 Summary Report from a District Member

Cllr Hames reported that

- Torridge District Council had begun to review its Local Plan, which would include the impact of climate change, a review of affordable housing provision and of allocated development site viability.
- TDC had joined North Devon District Council in recruiting a Carbon Officer, who would be undertaking a carbon audit of the two authorities.

Cllr Laws reported that TDC had produced forecast maps to indicate the possible effects of climate change on parts of the northern Devon coastline.