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**Northam Town Council – Minutes of the Town Projects and Asset Management Meeting held on Monday 7th June 2021 in the Town Hall, Windmill Lane, Northam a 10.00 am**

**Present:** Cllrs Tisdale (Chairman), Mrs Hodson, Mrs McCarthy Edwards, Hames, Himan, Laws and Leather

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

County Cllr McGeough

Members of the public

**2106/128 Apologies**

All Members were present

**2106/129 Chairman’s announcements**

Members were advised that there was a disability group using Northam Leisure Centre and they would be interested in taking on weeding and future maintenance of the planter outside the Leisure Centre. They would also be happy to participate in community activities.

**2106/130 Declarations of interest**

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

**2106/131** **To agree the agenda as published**

It was **resolved** to agree the agenda as published after bringing forward item 14 to follow item 9.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Hodson, Seconded: Cllr Mrs McCarthy (all in favour)

**2106/132 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Town Projects Meeting held 12th April 2021 as a correct record**

It was **resolved** to confirm and sign the minutes of the Town Projects meeting held on 12th April as a correct record.

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

**2106/133 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Special Town Projects Meeting held 11th May 2021 as a correct record**

It was **resolved** to confirm and sign the minutes of the Special Town Projects meeting held 11th May as a correct record.

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

**2106/134 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 4 minutes. The period of time which is designated for public participation in accordance with standing orders shall not exceed 20 minutes.*

A number of members of the public wished to speak at item 9 and item 14.

**2106/135 To consider Action Points**

Action Points were noted.

**2106/136 To consider the information boards at Bone Hill**

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

Proposed: Cllr Mrs McCarthy, Seconded: Cllr Edwards (all in favour)

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

Proposed: Cllr Mrs McCarthy, Seconded: Cllr Edwards (all in favour)

After some discussion it was proposed by Cllr Mrs McCarthy and seconded by Cllr Himan that the wording provided by a local resident should be used in the third section of the information board. There were three votes in favour, four votes against and one abstention so the proposal was not carried.

There was a further proposal from Cllr Laws, seconded by Cllr Hames, that the plinth be re-modelled to give more space for both 1069 and Hubba the Dane. A report will be prepared for the August meeting and it was so **resolved** (all in favour)

***Action Point – Prepare report for August meeting***

**2106/137 To consider a request from Northam Lions** *(Cllr Mrs McCarthy)*

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

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Hodson, Seconded: Cllr Edwards (all in favour)

Members were advised that the Club supports large groups of the public including girls’ teams, men’s teams and disability teams of varying ages. Northam Lions are concerned about vandalism, broken glass on the pitch and vandalism in an around the dugouts.

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

Proposed: Cllr Mrs McCarthy seconded: Cllr Edwards (all in favour)

Cllr Himan proposed refusal of the erection of a fence, there was no seconder.

Cllr Leather then proposed that a decision should be deferred until there had been a site visit to be arranged after 21st June. This was seconded by Cllr Edwards. There were 6 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 1 abstention and it was so **resolved.**

Members then discussed a number of options which could be considered to overcome the problems, including working with the Police and the Crime Prevention Officer and use of CCTV. It was then agreed to invite the Crime Prevention Officer to the site visit.

It was further **resolved** to suspend Standing orders as members of Northam Lions wished to clarify some additional points.

Proposed: Cllr Laws, Seconded: Cllr Mrs McCarthy (majority in favour, 2 votes against)

Members were then advised that use of CCTV had not been successful. Northam Lions had attempted, unsuccessfully, to engage with the people causing a lot of the problems. They advised that where there had been problems at Bideford College they had now erected an extremely high fence. The main problem is a safeguarding issue which is why they would like to proceed with fencing. There is money available from the Football Foundation but the Club urgently needs confirmation of support from the Town Council as the landowner. Whilst there is no time implication on accessing the funding there is a pot of money available which is being allocated on a first come, first served basis.

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

Proposed: Cllr Laws, Seconded: Cllr Mrs McCarthy (all in favour)

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In light of the funding issues it was then **resolved** to withdraw the date of the site visit and bring it forward to the week commencing the 14th June, followed by a special Town Projects meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs McCarthy, Seconded: Cllr Tisdale (all in favour)

***Action Point – Arrange Site visit week commencing 14th June to be followed by Special Town Projects meeting.***

**2106/138 To consider an update on festoon lighting at Westward Ho!, including information from a representative of DS Electrical**

This has been deferred to the next meeting awaiting further information from DS Electrical.

***Action Point – Place matter on next agenda***

**2106/139 To consider renovating, adopting and maintaining the benches close to the Appledore Lifeboat station** *(Cllr Mrs McCarthy)*

It was **resolved** to write to Torridge District Council requesting that the benches could be transferred to Northam Town Council for a commuted sum.

Proposed: Cllr Leather, Seconded: Cllr Hames (majority in favour, 2 against)

***Action Point – Write to Torridge District Council requesting transfer***

**2106/140 To consider the purchase of an additional, suitably illuminated Christmas Tree for Bone Hill.** *(Cllr McCarthy)*

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

Proposed: Cllr Laws, Seconded: Cllr Mrs McCarthy (majority in favour, 2 votes against)

Standing Orders were then reinstated.

Proposed: Cllr Laws, Seconded: Cllr Mrs McCarthy (majority in favour)

It was **resolved** to defer this item to the next meeting. A full report was requested on electrical issues.

***Action Point – Place item on next agenda and request report on electrical issues***

**2106/141 To consider installing hearing loops to assist with the Council’s meetings.** *(Cllr McCarthy)*

After some discussion it was agreed to seek further information with regard to hearing loops and their compatibility with new digital hearing aids and to seek check whether or not they have been superseded.

***Action Point – Seek further information with regard to hearing loops***

The meeting having extended beyond 2 and a half hours it was **resolved** to defer the last three items to the next Town Projects meeting

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

There being no further business the meeting finished at 8.35 pm

**2106/142 To consider a resident’s request for specimen tree planting along Golf Links Road, between Beach Rd. and Avon Lane**

***Action Point – Place item on next agenda***

**2106/143 To consider the feedback from residents regarding the use of outdoor gym equipment at Burrough Farm** *(herewith)*

***Action Point – Place item on next agenda***

**2106/144 To consider an update on Footpaths** *(Cllr Hames)*

***Action Point – Place item on next agenda***

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