

**Northam Town Council – Minutes of the Climate Emergency Committee Meeting held 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 at 6pm**

**Present:** Cllrs Hames (Chairman), Hodson, Laws and Shelley

**In attendance:** Cllr K Davis  
Guy Langton - Deputy Town Clerk

**2109/467 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Ms A Hill, Ms P Gibb and Mr T Wiersma.

**2109/468 Chairman's announcements**

The Chairman reported that a workshop would be held on 2nd September where TDC and NDDC Councillors on the two authorities' Climate Groups would discuss ways of strengthening the Joint Local Plan policies regarding climate change.

He further reported that the Joint Climate Officer serving the two District Councils had undertaken a carbon audit of their buildings and operations.

**2109/469 Declarations of interest:**

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

**2109/470 To agree the agenda as published**

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

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

**2109/471 To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

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

Proposed: Cllr Shelley, Seconded: Cllr Hames (majority in favour, one abstention)

**2109/472 To consider Action Points**

The Committee sought clarity as to the detail of two of the action points:

Action Point 3: *Deputy Town Clerk to draft and submit the grant application.*

The Deputy Town Clerk clarified that this concerned the possible new planting scheme at the entrance to the Town Hall. He further reported that since the action points had been circulated, the Council had been offered a small grant to support the project but dependent on clarification of the type of planting being proposed.

Action point 10: *Deputy Town Clerk to request the item be placed on Part B of the Full Council agenda, with costs to be met from this Committee's budget.*

The Deputy Town Clerk clarified that this concerned the recommendation to install solar PV, batteries and an EV charger at Northam Hall. The matter was included on the action list for the Full Council.

The remainder of the action points were noted.

**2109/473 Public Participation**

No members of the public attended the meeting.

**2109/474 To consider a cycling and walking strategy for the Town area, including the timing of the agreed informal meeting with residents regarding the redefining of Chircombe Lane as a mixed use path.**

The Committee discussed the item, noting any cycling and walking strategy for the Town area would be dependent on the outcome of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and the detail of any agreements with developers arising from the planning process.

Regarding the meeting with residents of Chircombe Lane, a suitable date would be sought in October 2021.

**Action point: Deputy Town Clerk to seek an update on the progress of the LCWIP, and detail of representation from this Council.**

**Action point: Deputy Town Clerk to circulate possible dates for a meeting with residents of Chircombe Lane.**

**2109/475 To consider the drafting of a biodiversity strategy, to include a protocol for weed control.**

The Committee discussed a draft policy circulated by Councillor Hames,, noting that the Council had resolved to return to using glyphosate-based herbicides in its operations to control weeds on hard surfaces.

The Committee considered possible amendments to the Council's Weed Control Policy (adopted at the July 2015 meeting of Full Council, minute 1507/285) that could be recommended through the Review Committee to Full Council.

It was **resolved** to draft an amendment to the Council's Weed Control policy and circulate amongst members for consideration at the next meeting of this Committee. Proposed: Cllr Laws, Seconded: Cllr Shelley (all in favour)

**Action point: Cllr Shelley to share his proposed wording to the Deputy Town Clerk so the draft revision may be made.**

**2109/476 To consider joining the 'Our place: Our Planet' website.**

After a discussion the Committee **resolved** to not join this website.

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

**2109/477 To receive an update on the Northam Climate Sustainability App.**

Due to the absence of Annabel Hill this item was deferred to the next meeting.

**2109/478 To receive an update on 'Life on the Verge'.**

The Committee received the report from the Deputy Town Clerk and considered its approach to the areas identified as available for Life on the Verge projects. The possibility of working with other local groups, such as local schools and raising awareness of the project via social media was also discussed.

It was **resolved** to seek delegated authority from Full Council for planting and maintenance of appropriate non-visibility verges, including but not limited to Mondeville Way and Golf Links Road.

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

**Action point: Cllr Laws to Liaise with the Golf Club regarding plans for, and possible planting close to its entrance.**

**Action point: Cllr Hames to contact a botanist regarding suitable planting and identification of plant species currently growing in the non-visibility verges listed in the Deputy Clerk’s report. Cllr Hames to report back to a future meeting.**

**Action point: Deputy Town Clerk to ascertain the availability of ‘Life on the Verge’ signs from Devon Council Council to help publicise the project.**

**2109/479 To receive an update on a footpaths guide for the Town Area.**  
The Committee heard that no update was available for the meeting.

**2109/480 To consider how to approach establishing an electric vehicle charging network across the Town area.**  
Cllr Hames reported that TDC’s Estates Manager is investigating the possibility of charge points at Bone Hill and Westward Ho! car parks.

**Action point: Cllr Hames to discuss the matter further with Officers at Torridge District Council.**

**2109/481 To consider future projects for the Climate Emergency Committee and possible areas of Committee member responsibility.**  
The Committee noted that it had already discussed future projects earlier in the meeting, with Life on the Verge and the Cycling and Walking infrastructure. Other project ideas raised were added a ‘shop local’ event, a rooted Christmas tree project and a Climate Day.  
Cllr Hodson suggested that the Mayor’s Cadet be involved so the Committee could engage and work with young people.

It was **resolved** to establish a task-and-finish group to work with the Cadet to develop project ideas and ways forward.

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

**Action point: Cllr Hames and Cllr Hodson to set up this group and seek other members from the Committee.**

There being no further business the meeting finished at 8.25pm.

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