

Northam Town Council – Minutes of the Town Projects and Asset Management Meeting held on Monday 4th October 2021 in the Town Hall, Windmill Lane, Northam at 10.00 am.

Present: Cllrs Tisdale (Chairman), Mrs McCarthy, Mrs Hodson, Edwards, Hames and Himan.

In attendance: Mrs Jane Mills – Town Clerk
Cllr Davis

2110/629 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Laws and Leather.

2110/630 Chairman's announcements

There were none.

2110/631 Declarations of interest

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

2110/632 To agree the agenda as published

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

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

2110/633 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Town Projects Meeting held 6th September 2021 as a correct record

It was **resolved** to confirm and sign the minutes of the Town Projects meeting held on 6th September 2021 as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr McCarthy, Seconded: Cllr Hames (majority in favour, 1 abstention – not present at the meeting)

2110/634 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.

There were no members of the public present.

2110/635 To consider Action Points

Action Points were noted. The Town Clerk was asked to write to Torridge regarding Blackies and request a time limit for the transfer.

Action Point – Deputy Town Clerk to confirm the Tender Notice for Lords Meadow play area paths and any tenders received.

Action Point – Town Clerk to meet with Cllr Mrs McCarthy and others to progress the planting.

2110/636 To consider proposals for inclusion in the forthcoming budget

The members presented their proposals as follows:

Cllr Mrs McCarthy proposed:

- i) planters for the Town area as had been hired in the summer of 2021 in the light of the positive feedback received from residents and visitors.
- ii) an increase in the May Fayre's budget to cover any increase in costs since the last Fayre.
- iii) Rainwater storage at Northam Hall to reduce reliance on mains water for watering planters.

Cllr Himan proposed:

- iv) the Committee freeze its budget, given the hardship residents may be facing.

Cllr Davis proposed:

- v) the cost of a bus shelter at or close to the Library (north bound), and its erection be included.

Cllr Mrs Hodson proposed:

- vi) funds for a community bus service, given the levels of use of the Potwalloper service through the summer of 2021.
- vii) Funds for the restoration of Westward Ho! Park tennis courts.

Action Point – Deputy Town Clerk to provide a costed comparison for a rainwater storage system at Northam Hall, to be included on a future agenda of this Committee.

Action Point – Town Clerk to include an item on a future agenda reporting on the legal, competition and commercial implications of offering a community bus service.

2110/637 To consider a request for a shed on an allotment at Windmill Lane.

It was **resolved** that the request be granted for a shed of the approved size.

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

Action Point – Town Clerk to notify the plot holder of the permission and approved size.

2110/638 To consider options on replacement glass for a bus shelter in Golf Links Road

It was **resolved** to defer the item to the next meeting of the Committee to allow Officers to seek further costs and information.

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

Action Point – Deputy Town Clerk to seek costs for alternatives, including polycarbonate/Perspex and an advertising case.

2110/639 To consider an update on a resident's request for specimen tree planting along Golf Links Road, between Beach Road and Avon Lane

It was **resolved** to:

1. Delay any further requests to plant in Golf Links Road.
2. Arrange a meeting with the Neighbourhood Highways Officer, to include, the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk to review the verges within the Town Council area to ensure the contract for cutting is up to date and that the Town Council is being adequately recompensed.
3. Arrange a meeting with the Neighbourhood Highways Officer, to include Cllr Tisdale, Cllr Hames, the Town Clerk, The Deputy Town Clerk and the Devon County Ecologist, Mr T Whitlock to discuss suitable areas which could be planted with wild flowers, trees etc.
4. Bring a comprehensive report to a future Town Projects meeting.

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

2110/640 To consider an update on Footpaths

Cllr Hames reported that the resolved work on the footpaths had commenced.

2110/641 To consider an update on planting at Anchor Park to include funding

It was **resolved** to proceed with the plan as specified, at a cost of up to £2,890 as outlined in the circulated paper, exploring if the funds could be sought from the Welcome Back Fund, and seeking to meet any shortfall from budget lines 98 (Anchor Park improvements) and 67 (Town Projects – open spaces).

Proposed: Cllr Hodson, seconded: Cllr Hames (majority in favour, 1 abstention)

Action Point – Deputy Town Clerk to seek advice on the availability of the necessary funding.

2110/642 To consider tree planting

It was reported that the area to be considered was at the J.H. Taylor Drive end of Lords Meadow, as part of the 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee' scheme.

Action Point – Town Clerk to include on the agenda for the next meeting of this Committee.

2110/643 To consider possible remedial tree work

It was **resolved** to proceed as soon as possible with the work required on the trees at Windsor Road as specified, seeking the funding from the County Councillor's locality grant.

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

Action Point – Town Clerk to complete grant request and instruct tree surgeons.

2110/644 To consider co-ordinating works on the roof at Northam Hall

It was **resolved** to arrange a meeting between the Chairmen of this Committee and the Climate Emergency Committee, to include the Mayor, Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk and relevant Officers of Torridge District Council to coordinate any planned works on Northam Hall and the Town Hall to ensure efficient use of Council funds was achieved.

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

Action Point – Deputy Town Clerk to arrange the meeting.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 19.28pm

Signed

Dated.....