

Northam Town Council – Minutes of the Climate Emergency Committee Meeting held 10th February 2022 at 6.30pm

Present: Cllrs Hames (Chairman), Newman-McKie, Laws, McCarthy and Hodson
Mr T Wiersma and Ms W Lo-vel (co-opted members)

In attendance: Guy Langton - Deputy Town Clerk

2202/1103 Apologies

Apologies were received from Ms P Gibb (co-opted member) and Cllr R Tisdale (non-committee member).

2202/1104 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman welcomed Ms W Lo-vel to the meeting as a newly co-opted member. The Chairman welcomed Cllr McCarthy to the meeting as a newly appointed member.

Cllr Hames reported that as the Lead Member for Climate at Torridge District Council he was closely involved with planning for the revised Local Plan as a member of the Joint Local Plan Review Committee, through which he hoped to see strengthened policies on biodiversity, climate emergency and energy efficiency at new affordable housing.

Cllr Hames further reported that Torridge District Council was undertaking a carbon audit at its buildings and had engaged a company to report on ways to reduce carbon emissions from the buildings which are the most energy inefficient.

2202/1105 Declarations of interest:

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

2202/1106 To agree the agenda as published

It was **resolved** to agree the agenda as published, deferring the item on working with Bideford College to the March 2022 meeting of the Committee
Proposed: Cllr Hodson, Seconded: Cllr Newman-McKie (all in favour)

2202/1107 To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2022

It was **resolved** to agree the minutes as recorded.
Proposed: Cllr Hodson, Seconded: Cllr Hames (majority in favour, three abstentions, absent at the meeting)

2202/1108 To consider Action Points

The action points as presented were noted.

2202/1109 Public Participation

No members of the public attended the meeting.

2202/1110 To consider amendments to the Draft Climate Action Plan.

The Committee discussed the current draft and changes that could be made to improve its readability and presentation for members of the Council and public alike.

Action points (to be carried out by Cllr Hames or others as appropriate):

- Include up to Coastal Change Management Area (CCMA) Technical Evidence and maps as appropriate.
- Include graphs as provided by Mr T Wiersma, referenced as appropriate.
- To update the references for any facts stated.
- To include the project to install solar panels on Northam Hall roof, battery storage and charging point to supply EV vehicles and battery powered machinery.
- Include reference to the Energy 361 carbon audit, which had been undertaken since this current draft had been written.
- Include reference to, and the Council's support of, the Barnstaple, Bideford and Northam Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).
- Include reference to requests for developers to include sustainable travel links in their Section 106 contributions and to locate developments near to existing settlements to avoid car dependency.
- Include an 'executive summary' as part of the introductory section on Aims and Visions.
- Include a section of the achievements of the Council to date, as part of introduction and completed actions.
- Consider the branding of the Action Plan, preparing a pared down version for circulation to schools.
- Include details of the work undertaken in an appropriate Council newsletter and on information boards at the May Fair on 30th April 2022 and on the Council's dedicated webpage.

It was **resolved** to request the final revised version be presented to the March 2022 meeting of Full Council, accompanied by a presentation from Mr T Wiersma as a member of this Committee.

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

2202/1111 To confirm the decision to meet virtually with representatives of the student body at Bideford College.

It was agreed to defer this item to the March 2022 meeting of this Committee.

2202/1112 To receive an update on EV charging in the Northam Town area.

The Committee received an update from Cllr Hames, who reported that the Property Officer at Torridge District Council was still investigating the installation of a suitable charging unit at Wilkie's Field in Westward Ho!

2202/1113 To receive an update on Footpath Guides for the Northam area.

Cllr Laws volunteered to walk some of the paths start to draft a guide. It was noted that a member of the Westward Ho! community leads walks on a voluntary basis and they may be willing to assist the Council in this work.

It was **resolved** to make contact with the Westward Ho! resident to discuss working together on the matter.

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

Action point: Deputy Town Clerk to make contact with the resident.

2202/1114 To consider the revised quote for Solar PV installation at Northam Hall

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that revised, up to date quotes had been received from the identified contractor. Further, pre-application advice had been sought from Torridge District Council, the final report of which was awaited.

Cllr Hames noted that the Committee held sufficient budget for this project in financial year 2021-22, the revised quotes being within the budget set at a previous meeting.

It was resolved to recommend to the February 2022 meeting of Full Council that the 12 solar PV panels, 2 batteries and an EV charger be installed at Northam Hall, paid from CEC budget (to £15000) as a stand-alone project.

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

There being no further business the meeting finished at 8:05pm.

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

DRAFT