

Northam Town Council – Minutes of the Climate Emergency Committee Meeting held 18th January 2023 at 6.30pm

Present: Cllrs Hames (Chairman), Laws, Mrs Hodson, Mrs McCarthy and Newman-McKie

In attendance: Wendy Lo-vel, Bert Bruins and Tom Wiersma (co-opted members)
Guy Langton - Deputy Town Clerk

2301/789 Apologies

No apologies were received.

2301/790 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman reported that Mr David Inwood has resigned as a co-opted member of the committee, saying whilst he was very impressed by the work being done, he had thought the Council's remit would be wider. The Chairman reported that he had written to Mr Inwood to thank him for his work on the committee. His replacement would be sought when the Council's committee structure was known after the election in May 2023.

2301/791 Declarations of interest:

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

2301/792 To agree the agenda as published

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

Proposed: Cllr Laws, Seconded: Cllr Newman-McKie (all in favour)

2301/793 To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2022

It was **resolved** to agree the minutes as recorded, which were signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Cllr Laws, Seconded: Cllr Newman-McKie (majority in favour, one abstention, absent from the meeting)

2301/794 To consider Action Points

The action points were noted.

Action: Deputy Town Clerk to send copies of the correspondence with St Mary's school with Cllr Mrs Hodson.

1. Publicising the Town Council's / Committee's work in tackling the climate emergency. Cllrs McCarthy and Newman-McKie had met with the designers. The first version of a poster was on the agenda to review.
2. Insulation at Northam Hall. It was reported that the contractor is reviewing the asbestos report for Northam Hall provided by the Council and that a provisional date of 13th and 14th March 2023 had been agreed for the installation, pending the outcome of consideration of the survey. The action is complete
3. Updating the climate action plan. The matter was on the agenda.

2301/795 To consider the Climate Action Plan

The action plan was updated as follows presented at the end of these minutes:

It was **resolved** to recommend to the Finance and Human Resources committee to review the Council's investments and consider placing the monies in sustainable funds, provided by (for example) the Churches, Charities and Local Authorities (CCLA) Investment Management Limited.

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

Action		Responsible	Priority	Status	End Date	Carbon Saving	Cost (£)	15.11.2022	13.12.2022	18.01.2023
5. Food	5.1 Community Orchard(s)	Climate Emergency Committee	High	Amber				Orchards have many benefits, pollinator friendly, food producing and reflecting the county's fruit-growing heritage.	The Committee will consider locations at Anchor Park, Lords Meadow and Bloody Corner for planting in the autumn.	The matter would be included on an agenda item in the new civic year for full consideration.
6. Biodiversity	6.2 Open spaces plan to increase biodiversity/climate resilience	Town Projects Committee	High	Amber				Members of the committee are drawing up plans for sustainable planting across the town area.	The TP&AM committee had resolved to adopt planting schemes for the Council's parks, to include pollinator friendly and bio-diversity promoting species.	The Committee had recommended to the Town Projects Committee a planting scheme for the Council's open spaces and planters, to include wildlife friendly and drought resistant plants. The TP committee had resolved to adopt the scheme The CEC has heard that Torridge District Council would be interested in working together to plant the gardens at Hillcliff Terrace a the northern end of Irsha St, Appledore with pollinator-friendly and drought resistant plants.
7. Water	7.2 Rain water capture at Council-owned buildings	Council staff	Medium	Amber				Northam Hall complete. Plans to be drawn up to maximise rain water captured at Westward Ho! Park pavilion.	(no update)	The water butt at the Town Hall would be investigated to understand why it wasn't collecting water from the roof.

9. Investments	9.1 Explore green investment opportunities.	Finance & HR committee	Low	Red				A review of the Council's on deposit holdings would be required. A recommendation to Finance & HR could be made.	(no update)	The committee resolved to recommend to the Finance and HR committee that the Council seek to review its investments, seeking to place long term deposits in sustainable funds.
10. Community Engagement	10.3 Expand NTC Emergency Plan to include climate resilience	Review committee	Medium	Red				A recommendation to Review Committee could be made.	(no update)	The matter would be included on an agenda item in the new civic year for full consideration.

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2301/796

Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

2301/797

To receive an update on the committee's budget for 2022-23.

The committee noted the budget and planned spending remaining for 2022-23.

It was **resolved** to request at the January 2023 Full Council meeting that the remaining cost of insulating Northam Hall, approx. 50% of the whole cost, be allocated to the wider project budget, or other suitable budget line.

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

2301/798

To consider a request from the Town Projects and Asset Management committee, following a resolution to:

Plant 60 of the 70 baskets will be planted spring/summer bedding plants and 10 baskets will be planted with perennial plants.

The top two planters of the three tied planters will be planted with spring/summer bedding plants and the bottom tier will be planted with perennial plants.

The fourteen containers and the boats will be planted with spring/summer bedding plants and a request made to Climate Emergency to approve the payment.

The committee discussed the matter in detail, noting that the request did not make the amount that was being requested clear, nor was the total anticipated cost. The details of the difference between the cost of planting solely with annual bedding plants and planting some baskets and planters with perennials was not clear.

It was **resolved** to decline to meet the full cost of the plants and to request information on the difference in the cost of planting solely with annual bedding plants and planting some baskets and planters with perennial plants was available. Proposed: Cllr Newman-McKie, Seconded: Cllr Mrs Hodson.

Action: Deputy Town Clerk to request details of the difference in cost.

2301/799 To receive an update on engagement with parish schools and Bideford College.

The Committee heard that the Council had been successful in its grant application to the Tree Council to work with the Appledore School PTA, the North Devon Biosphere and Northam Burrows Country Park on their project to Create School Micro Reserves within the North Devon Biosphere. This grant was for £699.20 and required the Council to initially meet the cost of the spending, which would be claimed back from the Tree Council.

It was resolved to delegate the signing of the grant acceptance form to the Deputy Town Clerk.

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

Action: Deputy Town Clerk to sign and return the acceptance form.

Action: Deputy Town Clerk to make phone contact with the Head of 6th Form at Bideford College.

2301/800 To receive a report from the West Country Buzz Project Officer at the Bumble Bee Conservation Trust.

The committee received the report, noting its valuable content and clear advice.

2301/801 To receive an update on the progress of the Climate Poster.

The committee heard that Cllrs Newman-McKie and Mrs McCarthy had met with the designer to talk through the committee's requested changes.

The committee would receive a further draft of the poster in due course, for approval.

2301/802 To consider replacing the bicycle rack at Lords Meadow.

It was **resolved** to remove the damaged bicycle rack at Lords Meadow and review the provision of cycle storage at a future meeting of the committee.

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

[Mr T Wiersma left at this juncture]

2301/803 To receive an update on the work of Torridge District Council's Active Travel committee.

The final proposals from Barnstaple, Bideford & Northam Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) was awaited from Devon County Council, which would be submitted to central government for funding.

TDC Active Travel Advisory Group had drawn up proposals for cycle rack locations in the district, although funding was still required.

The District Council is investigating a cycle route through Victoria Park. This would be part of the proposed route from Northam to Bideford Quay. The route through the Park is being considered as an alternative to a suggested route in front of Riverbank House through to the Quay.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 8:32pm.

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