

Northam Town Council – Minutes of the Climate Emergency Committee Meeting held 14th March 2023 at 6.30pm

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

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

2303/987 Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr T Wiersma (co-opted member).

2303/988 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman had no announcements.

2303/989 Declarations of interest:

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

2303/990 To agree the agenda as published

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

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

2303/991 To confirm and sign the minutes of the meetings held on 18th January 2023 and 27th February 2023

It was resolved to confirm both sets of minutes, which were signed by the Chairman.
Proposed Cllr Mrs Hodson, Seconded Cllr Newman-McKie (all in favour).

2303/992 To consider Action Points

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the work to install insulation at Northam Hall had encountered a problem with health and safety, the suspended ceiling not being judged to be solid enough to hold the workers. New dates would need to be identified.

The remainder of the action points were noted.

2303/993 To consider the Climate Action Plan

The committee heard the updates as presented overleaf.

It was **resolved** to request the office staff devise a process whereby the HIVE heating system at Northam Hall would be adjusted to suit the bookings on a weekly basis and be adjusted as required through the week.

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

2303/994 Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

2303/995 To receive an update on engagement with parish schools and Bideford College.

It was reported that the hedge planting had been completed at Appledore School, the grant application would be completed when all the details had been collated by the office. The day was a great success, with two councillors (Mrs McCarthy and Hames), two members of the maintenance team (Mr Callebaut and Mr Heuze) and the Deputy Town Clerk all attending to help plant the hedge whips.

The effect of the current strike action on liaising with the other schools was noted.

Action point: The Deputy Town Clerk to submit the final papers of the grant application.

Action		Responsible	Priority	Status	End Date	Carbon Saving	Cost (£)	Updates - 14.03.2023
2. Transport	2.1 Replacement of oldest current vehicle Electric vehicle for the Maintenance Team	Town Projects Committee	High	Amber				TP&AM did not receive the report. It had been requested for the Apr2023 meeting of that committee.
3. Energy	3.3 Hot water unit (Town Hall)	Office Staff / Torridge District Council (the building owners)	Low	Red				No suitable alternatives to a kettle had been identified. Staff are to fill the kettle with only as much water as would be needed.
	3.4 Northam Hall insulation	Office staff	Low	Green	To be confirmed		£3,496	The installers had encountered problems with H&S duringb the installation. New dates were to be agreed.
	3.5 Northam Hall heating system	Council Staff	High	Green	Dec-22		£275	Setting the HIVE controls would become part of the weekly routine of the office staff, as part of the Hall booking process.
6. Biodiversity	6.2 Open spaces plan to increase biodiversity/climate resilience	Town Projects Committee	High	Amber				TP&AM had planned to plant wildflowers areas in Anchor Park. The plug plants had been purchased as advised by the Bumblebee Conservation Trust and planting would be completed by the end of March 2023. Another area would be de-turfed and seeded with a wildflower mix. These seeds would also be scattered where the plugs had been planned.
7. Water	7.2 Rain water capture at Council-owned buildings	Council staff	Medium	Amber				The possibility of adding an extra water capture container at Westward Ho! Park pavilion was discussed. This would be considered at a future meeting of the relevant committee.

- 2303/996 To consider using the Climate Poster for publicity**
It was agreed to provide posters for community and public buildings around the Town area, including (but not limited to) schools, health centre, dentist, libraries, community halls the Town Hall, Northam Burrows Centre/Café, and community and council noticeboards.
It was **resolved** to print fourteen A2 posters for display around the Town area, 8 of suitable material for outdoor display, 6 for indoor. A3 and A4 versions would be printed (and laminated where appropriate) by the Council in-house.
Proposed: Cllr Laws, Seconded: Cllr Mrs Hodson. (all in favour)
- 2303/997 To consider signage to highlight the Council’s alternative land management activities.**
It was resolved to print four A4-sized posters to highlight the Council’s wildflower planting activity.
Proposed: Cllr Hames, Seconded: Cllr Mrs Hodson. (all in favour)
- 2303/998 To receive an update on the work of Torridge District Council’s *Active Travel* committee.**
Cllr Hames reported that the current main areas under consideration were the planned cycle/mixed-use path route through Victoria Park in Bideford and links from Bideford to the Tarka Trail. He also reported that the LCWIP had been approved by the County Council’s HATOC committee and would soon be considered by DCC’s Cabinet.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 8.00pm.

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