

Minutes of the Northam Burrows Management Committee Meeting held on 26th March 2026.

Present: Cllr Bach, Edwards, Hames (Deputy Chair), Cllr Leather and Cllr Tait (Chair)

In attendance: G Langton, Town Clerk; Mrs T Stewardson, Community Engagement Officer; M Day, Burrows Ranger.

- 1. To receive and approve apologies for absence**
Cllrs Newman-McKie and Whittaker all apologised.
- 2. Chair’s announcements**
There were none
- 3. To agree the agenda as published.**
The published agenda was **agreed** with the amendment to consider works on the Burrows immediately after the confirmation of the minutes.
Proposed: Cllr Hames, seconded: Cllr Bach (all in favour)
- 4. To receive any dispensations and disclosable pecuniary or other interests**
Members were reminded that all interests must be declared prior to the item being discussed.
- 5. To confirm as a correct record and sign the minutes of Northam Burrows Charity Management Meeting held on 22nd January 2025**
The minutes, with the amendment of one typographical error at item 8, were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting and were signed by the Chair.
Proposed: Cllr Hames, seconded: Cllr Edwards (majority in favour, one abstention – not present at the meeting)
- 6. To receive an update on action points**
The committee was updated as follows:

Action		March 2026
1	To consider the progress being made by the consultant	The report’s recommendations were presented to a meeting of the Burrows Forum on 17 th November 2025. The Burrows was owned by Torridge District Council, so the report remains confidential between that Council and the author. The Current Stewardship Scheme is due to end in 2028 and it is expected another feasibility study would be needed, focusing on the effects of coastal erosion. This Charity, as Trustee of the Common Right, fully expected to be co-signatory of any future Stewardship Scheme and associated Management Plan. COMPLETE
2	Dung beetle workshop	Burrows Ranger, with the support of Charity staff, to arrange the workshop, the ideal month being June. All Graziers to be contacted for suitable dates and to be invited to the workshop. ONGOING
3	Take out insurance policy	Policy taken out on 11 th November 2025. COMPLETE

Chair’s initials

4.	To consider works on the Burrows: Improving access to FollyFoot stables from the Burrows to move the horses away from the road access point at Sandymere.	Circulate the map and arrange a site visit. On the agenda. COMPLETE
5.	To consider works on the Burrows: Installation of a new footbridge to improve crossings of the stream.	Circulate the map and arrange a site visit. On the agenda. COMPLETE

7. To consider grazing allocations 2026-27

The maximum permitted grazing numbers were as follows:

	Apr-Jul		Aug-March	
	Min	Max	Min	Max
Sheep	152	360	508	712
Horses	9	32	32	45

Below is a summary of the applications received.

Sheep

APPLICANT	APPROVED ALLOCATION 2026/27	MAX REQUEST FOR 2026/2027	Grazing numbers requested 2026/27	
			1 st April – 31 st July	1 st August – 31 st March
Sheep grazier 1	300	300	150	300
Sheep grazier 2	200	200	100	200
Sheep grazier 3	200	200	100	200
TOTAL	700	700	350	700

The above allocation of sheep grazing numbers were **approved**.

Proposed: Cllr Edwards, Seconded: Cllr Bach (all in favour)

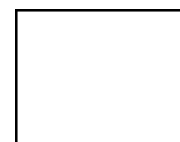
Horses

APPLICANT	Approved Allocation 2026-27 (To be completed)		Grazing numbers requested 2026/2027	
	1 st April – 31 st July	1 st August – 31 st March	1 st April – 31 st July	1 st August – 31 st March
Horse grazier 1	9	12	12	12
Horse grazier 2	2	2	2	2
Horse grazier 3	15	22	19	22
Horse grazier 4	3	4	3	4
Horse grazier 5	1	1	1	1
Horse grazier 6	2	2	2	2
Total	32	43	39	43

The above allocation of horse grazing numbers were **approved**, being a reduction of three in the period 1st April to 31st July for Grazier 1 and 4 for Grazier 3.

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

Chair's initials



Action points:

- a) **Increase horse counts to 4 per year, advising graziers**
- b) **Advise horse graziers of their responsibilities regarding keeping their animals on the Burrows common**
- c) **Remind graziers of the need to provide animal counts each month and to respond to emails when received.**

8. To consider works on the Burrows common

- a. **Improving access to FollyFoot stables from the Burrows to move the horses away from the road access point at Sandymere.**

The ranger gave a brief description of what the project entails.

The committee, following their site visit, the members discussed the detail of the proposal.

It was **agreed in principle** that the Charity would fund an access a to a new bridge as described, with costs and other details being considered at a future meeting of this committee.

Proposed: Cllr Hames, Seconded: Bach (majority in favour, two against)

Action point: Town Clerk to check the alignment of this spending with the Charities Objects.

- b. **Installation of a new footbridge to improve crossings of the stream.**

The ranger reported that the landowner was in a position to instal the necessary bridges.

Cllr Bach left the meeting at this point (11:50am)

9. To consider amending the list of roads within the Ancient Manor

The committee reviewed the list of eligible roads within the Ancient Manor and parish of Northam and **resolved** to remove roads that were not in the Ancient Manor and Parish of Northam, those being:

- Riverside Court, numbers 30 on (numbers 1 to 29 were within the Ancient Manor and Parish)
- Riverbank Cottages, numbers 6 on (numbers 1 to 5 were within the Ancient Manor and Parish)
- Newbridge Close, numbers 26 on (numbers 1 to 25 were within the Ancient Manor and Parish)

Proposed: Cllr Leather, Seconded: Cllr Edwards (all in favour)

Action point: The properties would be informed and the revised list published on the website.

10. To note any business for future agendas:

- a. A detailed Manor Pass issuing process has been requested by Finance & HR committee, with an estimate of the time taken to complete the whole process, which will inform any change to the recharge.
- b. Grant fund available for the 2026 Burrows Grant year.
- c. Any other matters raised by committee members.

The meeting closed at 11:55am

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair's initials

