

Northam Town Council – Minutes of the Environment and Maintenance committee meeting held Wednesday 18th February 2026 at 6:30pm in the Town Hall, Windmill Lane, Northam.

Present: Cllrs Bell, Edwards, Hames, Lo-Vel, Cllr Sawyer, Cllr Tait. One vacancy.

In attendance: Ian Rawle – Parks & Buildings Manager.

2602/628 To receive and approve apologies for absence, in accordance with Local Government Act 1972 s85(1)
Apologies for absence were received and approved from Cllr Bach and Cllr Lo-Vel.

2602/629 Chair’s Announcements
The Chair expressed his thanks to the Maintenance Team for their recent work cutting the grass around the parish. He commented positively on the high standard of work undertaken and was particularly impressed with the care taken when strimming around the daffodils, ensuring they were not damaged. He asked that his appreciation be formally recorded.

2602/630 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.

2602/631 To agree the agenda as published
It was **resolved** to agree the agenda as published.
Proposed: Cllr Tait, Seconded: Cllr Hames (all in favour).

2602/632 To confirm as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Environment and Maintenance Committee held on 15th October 2025.
It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of that Environment and Maintenance committee meeting as a true and correct record, they were signed by the Chair.
Proposed: Cllr Hames, Seconded Cllr Sawyer (all in favour).

2602/633 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.

2602/634 To receive an update on action points
The action points were considered and noted as presented. In addition, the following updates were provided.

| Action | | June 2025 | July 2025 | October 2025 | February 2026 |
|--------|--|--|---|--|---|
| 1 | Schools to be contacted to design their own 'don't idle' signs for the Council to have made and installed. | Seeking a discussion with the interested school. ONGOING | ONGOING | Schools re-contacted, ONGOING | No response. Decision required to remove or pursue. Councillors agreed to Remove. |
| 2 | Prepare a report on the purchase and installation of MVSIDS for the Parish | Work on the report has started and is currently in progress. ONGOING | ONGOING | Awaiting location sign off from DCC | On Agenda. ONGOING. Investigate whether the MVSIDS equipment is capable of carrying out the traffic survey as suggested by Cllr Sawyer (Item 3). |
| 3 | Traffic issues at the Square, Northam | Costs of traffic/air surveys not yet researched..NOT STARTED | NOT STARTED | Traffic survey cost received, Discussion required in reference to air quality survey | Seeking updated quotes. ONGOING. As above. |
| 4 | Schedule the works for Life on the Verge | The design is being redrafted in line with the requirements of the Neighbourhood Highways Officer. ONGOING | Not supported by Highways officer. Revisit Plans. | Fresh plans will be put to council in December | On Agenda. ONGOING. |
| 5 | NTC Officers to submit the P3 request for the upgrading of footpaths 35 and 36. | The P3 funding request has been submitted ONGOING | No Change. | Email sent to chase funding | On Agenda. ONGOING. |
| 6 | Officers to liaise with Devon County Council to request the upgrading of the stiles on Footpaths 4 and 6 to kissing gates. | Liaison with Devon County Council has taken place, and the works have been scheduled for November. ONGOING | Awaiting response from DCC | Email sent to chase funding | On Agenda. 6 Complete. |
| 7 | Investigate power issues to 3 lighting columns at WWH! | | Added 30 th July 25 | Investigation complete, works ongoing. On Agenda. | See report. Complete |
| 8 | Finger post – Westbourne Terrace | | | | Post ordered (to be delivered 11.2.26), S171 licence obtained, contractor instructed to install by 31.3.26. Costs of the fingerpost and installation obtained from councillor grants (DCC and TDC). COMPLETE |

chair's initials

2602/635 To consider and approve the funding request for P3 footpaths around the Parish.

The Parks and Buildings Manager presented the proposed funding request to members. Members requested that accurate costings for Footpath 36 be obtained prior to submitting the funding request to Devon County Council.

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

2602/636 To consider the recommendation of the Working Group for Mobile Vehicle Speed Indicator Devices (MVSIDs)

Members **considered** the Working Group’s recommendation regarding the purchase of two Mobile Vehicle Speed Indicator Devices (MVSIDs). The Task and Finish Group had reviewed proposals from three suppliers—Pandora Technologies Ltd, Elan City, and Swarco—and recommended sourcing two MVSIDs from Elan City at a total cost of £6,215.98 (cost code 76, MVSIDs; £10,000 budget).

Members **agreed** with the Working Group’s recommendation and **approved** the purchase of two MVSIDs from Elan City.

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

2602/637 Life on the Verge – Revised Works Programme

Members **considered** the amended *Life on the Verge* project plans, noting the removal of proposed works at Churchill Way due to practical constraints affecting tree and wildflower planting. Members **agreed to approve** the revised plans. The Parks and Buildings Manager advised that, due to current ground conditions, the programme of works will commence once conditions improve.

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

2602/638 Environmental Licence – Upper Tier Waste Carrier

Members **considered** the requirement for an Upper Tier Waste Carrier Licence, noting that it is a legal obligation when transporting third-party waste or the Council’s own building, construction, and demolition waste. Members **agreed** that the licence should be obtained at a cost of £304 plus VAT, to be taken from an appropriate cost code within the Environment & Maintenance Budget (75 Litter/Recycling & Dog Waste Bins).

Members also **requested** that the Parks and Buildings Manager be allocated an appropriate budget for compliance-related works and licences, to avoid the need for repeated referrals to committee for routine statutory expenditure. It was **agreed** that this **recommendation** be referred to Full Council for **consideration**.

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

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7: 33pm.

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