

Northam Town Council – Minutes of the Environment and Maintenance committee meeting held Wednesday 8th April 2026 at 6:30pm in the Town Hall, Windmill Lane, Northam.

Present: Cllrs Bell, Cllr Edwards, Cllr Hames, Cllr Sawyer, Cllr Lo-Vel, Tait and the Mayor, Cllr Bach (ex-officio). One vacancy.

In attendance: Ian Rawle – Parks & Buildings Manager.

2604/729 To receive and approve apologies for absence, in accordance with Local Government Act 1972 s85(1)

All members were present.

2604/730 Chair’s Announcements

The Chair invited councillors to discuss the reported spread of three-cornered leek within the parish.

Councillors noted reports of the spread of three-cornered leek in the parish, including at Burrough Farm and the Appledore churchyard. While some residents consider the plant attractive and beneficial to wildlife, the Parks and Buildings Manager advised that it is an invasive, non-native species. The Council will continue to remove three-cornered leek from council-owned land as part of its approach to restoring native wildflowers, with monitoring for regrowth.

2604/731 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.

2604/732 To agree the agenda as published

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

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

2604/733 To confirm as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Environment and Maintenance Committee held on 18th February 2026.

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 Tait, Seconded Cllr Sawyer (majority in favour, 2 abstentions – not present at the meeting).

2604/734 Public Participation

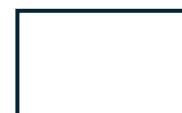
Members of the public are permitted to make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business included in the agenda. Each member of the public is entitled to speak once only in respect of business itemised on the agenda and shall not speak for more than 4 minutes. 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.

2604/735 To receive an update on action points

The action points were considered and noted as presented. In addition, the following updates were provided

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Action points

Action		June 2025	July 2025	October 2025	February 2026	March 2026
1	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.	Complete
2	Traffic issues at the Square, Northam	Costs of traffic surveys not yet researched. Cost of air quality surveys not yet researched. NOT STARTED	NOT STARTED	Traffic survey cost received, Discussion required in reference to air quality survey	Seeking updated quotes. ONGOING.	On Agenda
3	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.	80% Complete
4	NTC Officers to submit the P3 request for the upgrading of footpaths 35 and 36.	The P3 funding request has been submitted and is currently awaiting approval. ONGOING	No Change.	Email sent to chase funding	On Agenda. ONGOING.	Complete
5	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.	Complete. DCC
6	Investigate power issues to 3 lighting columns at WWH!		Added 30 th July 25	Investigation complete, works ongoing. On Agenda.	See report.	Complete. Remove
7	Finger post – Westbourne Terrace				COMPLETE	Complete. Remove
8	Obtain an Upper Tier Waste Carrier Licence				On Agenda	To be completed in April (financial year)

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2604/736 MVSID Data Reports

Members were advised that two Mobile Vehicle Speed Indicator Devices (MVSIDs) have been deployed within the Parish, located at Bay View Road and Churchill Way (prior to the junction with Fairway).

Members received a condensed report summarising the data collected from both locations. It was noted that Members were content with the revised format, which presents key findings clearly within no more than three to four pages.

The report provided insight into vehicle speeds, traffic behaviour, and vehicle footfall at each location. Members welcomed the inclusion of a graphical summary, clearly illustrating vehicle volumes and speed trends, which was considered helpful in understanding the data.

The purpose of the item was to present and discuss the MVSID findings and to consider any potential actions, including future deployment locations informed by the data.

Members **agreed** that it would be beneficial for MVSID data to be reviewed on a regular basis, and it was therefore proposed that this item be included as a standing agenda item for future meetings.

Members **Resolved** to note the MVSID report, continue the condensed 3–4 page format including graphical data, and include MVSID review as a standing agenda item.

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

Action Point: The Parks and Buildings Manager Prepare future MVSID reports in a condensed 3–4 page format, including graphs showing vehicle footfall and speeds.

2604/737 Purchase of Additional Solar Panel for MVSID

Members were advised that a budget of £10,000 (Cost Code 76 – MVSIDs) had previously been allocated for the purchase and deployment of Mobile Vehicle Speed Indicator Devices.

It was **noted** that two MVSIDs had been purchased from Elan City at a total cost of £6,215.98, leaving a remaining balance of £3,784.02.

Members were informed that the purchase of an additional solar panel to power the MVSIDs would enable quicker installation and relocation of the devices between sites, improving operational efficiency across the Parish.

The cost of the additional solar panel is £505.12, supplied by Elan City, and can be met from the remaining budget.

It was **Resolved** That the expenditure and purchase of an additional solar panel for the MVSIDs, at a cost of £505.12 from Elan City, be **approved**, with the cost to be met from the remaining MVSID budget under Cost Code 76.

Proposed Cllr Sawyer, Seconded Cllr Bach (all in favour)

Action Point: Purchase and install an additional solar panel for the MVSIDs to support quicker deployment and relocation.

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2604/738

Replacement of Failed Trees on Appledore Quay

Members were advised that two of the four trees along the quay front at Appledore have died. It was noted that the failed trees were believed to be Lime or Maple, which are not well suited to the exposed, saline coastal environment. The remaining two trees, which are Hawthorns, are healthy and demonstrate better suitability to the site conditions.

The proposed replacement species is Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata* ‘Rosea Flore Pleno’), to match the existing trees. Costings for the works were outlined, with an estimated total cost of £480, which includes stump removal and replacement planting.

Members **considered** the proposal and were advised that, subject to approval, the works would be scheduled for the start of autumn, which is considered the most appropriate time for tree planting.

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

Action Point: Arrange the removal of the two failed trees and replacement with Hawthorn trees at Appledore Quay Front at the start of autumn.

2604/739

To purchase two Benches for Blackies

Members were advised that two benches previously located at Blackies had been removed due to their poor condition, leaving suitable spaces for replacement seating.

A range of replacement bench options was presented for Members’ consideration. Following discussion, Members **agreed** that Option 4 – Moulded Seat (Recycled Material) was the most appropriate choice, being durable, low maintenance, and suitable for heavy-duty outdoor use. It was **noted** that the selected benches would have a blackframe with brown slats.

The benches are manufactured from Forest Saver recycled plastic, are weather resistant, and require minimal ongoing maintenance. The cost for the two benches is £1,015.20 (including VAT and delivery).

It was **Resolved** to purchase and installation of two Moulded Seats (recycled material), with black stands and brown slats, at Blackies, Appledore, be approved at a total cost of £1,015.20 (including VAT and delivery), and that officers be authorised to proceed with the purchase and installation.

Proposed Cllr Bach, Seconded Cllr Hames (all in favour)

Action Point: Purchase and install two Moulded Seat benches (Option 4) at Blackies, Appledore.

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2604/740 Cleaning of War Memorials – Northam and Appledore

Members were advised that the war memorials in Northam and Appledore require cleaning to ensure their proper preservation and continued respectful presentation.

It was **noted** that two quotations for the cleaning works had been received and circulated for consideration. A third quotation had been requested; however, no response had been received from the contractor, and therefore a third quotation was not available.

Members reviewed the quotations received and discussed the proposed works.

It was Resolved that the Council **approve** the cleaning works to the war memorials in Northam and Appledore, and that Grave Concerns be appointed as the contractor to carry out the works, based on the quotations received.

Proposed Cllr Tait, Seconded Cllr Bach (all in favour)

Action Point: Arrange for Grave Concerns to undertake the cleaning of the war memorials in Northam and Appledore.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19:20pm.

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

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