

Northam Town Council – Minutes of the Environment and Maintenance committee meeting held Wednesday 17th June 2026 at 6:30pm in the Town Hall, Windmill Lane, Northam.

Present: Cllrs Bell, Cllr Edwards, Cllr Hames, Cllr Sawyer, Cllr Lo-Vel, Hodson and the Mayor, Cllr Sam Newman-McKie (ex-officio).

In attendance: Ian Rawle – Parks & Buildings Manager.

2606/094 To elect a Chair for the Committee

Cllr Bell nominated Cllr Bell as Chair of the Environment and Maintenance Committee.

The nomination was seconded by Cllr Bach. The matter was put to a vote. All members were in favour.

2606/095 To elect a Deputy Chair for the Committee

Cllr Hames nominated Cllr Sawyer as Deputy Chair of the Environment and Maintenance Committee.

The nomination was seconded by Cllr Bach. The matter was put to a vote. All members were in favour.

2606/096 To receive and approve apologies for absence, in accordance with Local Government Act 1972 s85(1)

All members present.

2606/097 Chair's Announcements

The Chair thanked Members for their support in electing him as Chair and outlined his vision to increase edible planting across the parish to support the community and help educate children about foraging.

It was also noted that Cllr Hodson has filled the vacancy on the Environment & Maintenance Committee.

Cllr Hames asked the Chair to consider exploring opportunities to support climate awareness and community resilience at a local level.

Members noted that this could include:

- Working with community groups, schools, and volunteers
- Promoting awareness of climate and resilience issues
- Identifying small local projects (e.g. planting, biodiversity, and food growing)
- Encouraging community preparedness and education initiatives

The Chair confirmed that this matter would be referred to the next meeting of the Environment & Maintenance Committee for further discussion and to consider possible actions.

Chair's
initials

Action Point: The Parks and Buildings Manager Prepare a report to the next Environment & Maintenance Committee meeting on opportunities to support climate resilience, biodiversity and community food-growing initiatives across the parish.

2606/098 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.

2606/099 To agree the agenda as published

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

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

2606/100 To confirm as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Committee held on 8th April 2026

It was **resolved** that to approve the minutes as a true and correct record, which were signed by the Chair.

Proposed Cllr Hames, Seconded Cllr Bach (majority in favour, 2 abstentions – not present at the meeting).

2606/101 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.

2606/102 To receive an update on actions

The Action table is presented below.

Chair's
initials

Action points

Action		June 2025	July 2025	October 2025	February 2026	March 2026	June 2026
1	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.	Include condensed report for June	On Agenda
2	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	Complete
3	Purchase and install an additional solar panel for the MVSIDs					Added	Complete
4	Obtain an Upper Tier Waste Carrier Licence				On Agenda	To be completed in April (financial year)	Complete
5	Arrange the removal of the two failed trees and replacement with Hawthorn trees at Appledore Quay Front at the start of autumn.					Added	Added to schedule for Works in October 2026
6	Purchase and install two Moulded Seat benches (Option 4) at Blackies, Appledore.					Added	Complete
7	Arrange for Grave Concerns to undertake the cleaning of the war memorials in Northam and Appledore.					Added	Works to Start on the 15 th June.

Chair's initials

2606/103 MVSID Data Reports

Members noted the data collected from the Mobile Vehicle Speed Indicator Devices (MVSIDs) located on Bay View Road and Churchill Way. The key findings demonstrated that average vehicle speeds on both roads remain broadly compliant with the 30 mph speed limit, with the majority of vehicles travelling between 20–30 mph. Traffic volumes were consistent throughout the monitoring periods, with peak flows occurring during morning and late afternoon periods. Members also noted the small number of high-speed outliers recorded on both roads.

Members further noted that the MVSID previously deployed on Bay View Road has been relocated to Lenards Road to support ongoing monitoring in relation to traffic issues at The Square, Northam.

The Officer confirmed that MVSID data is routinely shared with the Police and Devon County Council Highways. Members requested that future MVSID reports presented to the Committee include confirmation that the data has been shared with both organisations.

It was **noted** by Members that the Officer routinely shares MVSID data with the Police and Devon County Council Highways. Members requested that this be reflected in future agenda reports.

Action Point: Include a statement within future MVSID reports confirming that the traffic data has been shared with the Police and Devon County Council Highways.

2606/104 P3 Footpaths (FP) Grant and FP36 Westward Ho!

Members noted the update regarding Footpath 36 at Westward Ho!, including confirmation that the annual P3 Grant application has been approved.

The Officer advised that a contractor had attended the site to assess the proposed works and prepare a quotation. Once received, the quotation will be forwarded to the Public Rights of Way Officer to assist in identifying potential funding opportunities and determining the most appropriate way to progress the project.

Members noted the update.

Action Point: Forward the contractor's quotation for the proposed works to Footpath 36 to the Public Rights of Way Officer to support consideration of funding options and the next steps for the project.

Chair's initials

2606/105 Blackies - Orchard and Pollinator Planting

Members considered the proposed planting scheme for Blackies, including the planting of three edible fruit trees and a pollinator-friendly planting area.

Following discussion, Members agreed to proceed with the purchase and planting of the three fruit trees. Members requested that the proposed lavender planting be reconsidered and that alternative planting options be explored before any further purchases are made.

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

Action Point: The three edible fruit trees (Apple, Pear and Plum) be purchased within the approved budget of £500 from Environment and Maintenance Cost Code 63 and planted during the October/November 2026 planting season.

The proposed lavender planting be reconsidered, with alternative pollinator-friendly planting options presented to Members at a future meeting.

2606/106 Floral Displays Update

Members **noted** that the Grounds Maintenance Team had completed the summer planting programme throughout the Parish, including the planting of planters, half-moon baskets, display troughs, hanging baskets and Parish boats.

During discussion, Members commented on the presence of weeds within the planting bed at Westward Ho! Green, as shown in the report photographs.

The Officer advised that Westward Ho! Green is not owned or maintained by Northam Town Council. Whilst the Council had funded and installed the seasonal planting within the bed, responsibility for the wider maintenance of the site rests with the current landowner. The Officer further advised that the position may become clearer following the implementation of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), at which point there may be opportunities to review future ownership and maintenance arrangements for the asset.

Members **noted** the update.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19:26pm.

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

Chair's initials

