

Minutes of the Northam Burrows Committee Meeting held on Monday 18th January 2021 by Zoom at 10.00 am

Present: Cllrs Laws (Chairman), Mrs Hodson, Chalmers and Edwards
In attendance: Mrs M J Mills – Town Clerk, Miss T Tucker – Admin Apprentice
Mr M Day, Senior Ranger
Mr G Langton – Deputy Town Clerk designate

2101/1013 Chairman's Announcements

There were none.

2101/1014 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Hames, Sargent, Shelley and Tisdale.

2101/1015 Declarations of interest:

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

2101/1016 To agree the agenda as published

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

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

2101/1017 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Committee meeting held 14th September 2020

It was **resolved** to confirm the minutes of the Committee meeting held 14th September. They will be signed at a later date.

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

2101/1018 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 3 minutes. The period of time which is designated for public participation in accordance with standing orders shall not exceed 15 minutes.

No members of the public were present.

2101/1019 Action Points

Action Points were noted.

2101/1020 To receive an update on the Charity Commission position

It was **resolved** to recommend to Full Council:

- (a) to correct the erroneous reference to TDC, being the Trustee, and specify instead that Northam Town Council is the sole Trustee of the Charity.
- (b) To amend the Draft Charitable objects to include an additional object to allow for the Charity's funds, not required, for the preservation/management of the Rights of Common to be used for worthy charitable purposes "to advance such other charitable purposes (according to the Law of England and Wales) for the benefit of the inhabitants of Northam, Devon as the Charity Trustee(s) see fit from time to time".
- (c) To include additional administrative provisions as appropriate to the Northam Burrows Charity to assist the Council in its capacity as sole Trustee in the management and administration of the Charity.

Proposed: Cllr Chalmers, Seconded: Cllr Mrs Hodson (3 in favour and 1 against)
It was further **resolved** to recommend to Full Council that Tozers is authorised to progress this matter with the Charity Commission.

Proposed: Cllr Laws, Seconded: Cllr Hodson (3 in favour and 1 abstention)

Action Point – These items to be placed on Full Council agenda.

- 2101/1021 To consider gates and hardstanding at Northam Burrows**
 The Ranger advised Members that the Pimpley Gate/horse riding gate area is a very boggy. It is the lowest spot on the Burrows and there is considerable run-off from Sandymere Road. Natural England were approached with a view to creating a hardstanding. This was refused because of the area being a SSSI and bringing in scalplings would change the environment. They have been further approached requesting that excavated materials from the re-development could be used to build up the level of the ground. This would direct water away from the area. There is a further suggestion to put in a drain/ditch alongside Sandymere Road.
 The Town Clerk was asked to write to South West Water asking if there are any provisions to deal with run-off on Sandymere Road and this matter will be on the next agenda for an update.
Action Point – Town Clerk to write to South West Water.
- 2101/1022 To consider an update on the Westward Ho! end of Northam Burrows in relation to the Pebbleridge**
 The Pebbleridge had been in danger. As a result, Torridge District Council and the Environment Agency have completed works putting in place a huge amount of large stones. There is further work required to be completed and also the creation of a walkway to make the Burrows safe.
- 2101/1023 To consider a possible update regarding the sewage query with Southwest Water**
 The response from South West Water will be circulated to Members and this will be an agenda item on the next meeting.
 Members were advised about a meeting attended by Cllr Chalmers in relation to the Sewage Inland Waters Bill which is due for a second reading later in January. This issue is being looked at by DALC and various other Councils and we need to look at supporting the Bill.
 The Town Clerk was asked to write to Torridge District Council hoping they will look at and support the Bill.
Action Point – Town Clerk to write to Torridge District Council regarding supporting the Bill.
- 2101/1024 To receive an update on the construction of the bridges at the Burrows**
 The Ranger advised Members that the wood has been purchased. There is a two-month lead-in time for delivery. The Golf Club are making a start on construction. It is anticipated the contribution from the Northam Burrows Committee funds would be 50% (£4,408) of the total cost. It is hoped the bridges and trails will be in place later in the year. Dates cannot be promised because of Covid.
 The Town Clerk was asked to put Heritage Trails on the next agenda and distribute maps from Cllr Shelley.
 The Visitors' Centre will be a modular building and has been ordered. It is hoped to deliver a complete package for the Burrows providing better access, enjoyment and learning about the Burrows.
Action Point – Town Clerk to place item on Heritage Trails on next agenda.
- 2101/1025 To consider future meeting dates**
 The next meeting is to be held on Monday 15th February 2021 at 6pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.36am

Signed.....Date.....