

**Northam Town Council** – Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2019 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Windmill Lane, Northam commencing at 7.00 pm

**Present:** Cllrs Himan (Chairman), Mrs Hodson, Miss Manley, Mrs McCarthy, Bell, Chalmers, Davis, Edwards, Hames, Laws, Leather, Shelley and Tisdale  
**In attendance:** County Cllr Eastman  
 Mrs M J Mills, Town Clerk

**1908/318 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Sargent

**1908/319 Chairman's Announcements**

- The Chairman advised that an e-mail had been received from Torridge District Council regarding Westward Ho! Park and invited Cllr Hodson to speak as follows:  
 "Fellow Councillors, Councillor Laws and I are seeking your approval to undertake preliminary enquiries with Torridge District Council before the Community Asset protocol negotiations commence.  
 We are further seeking your approval that as District ward members for Westward Ho! that we support our Town Clerk in progressing discussions with TDC.  
 Finally, that having received key information from TDC that a full recommendatory report will be an Agenda item on Full Council 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019 before any meeting with Jenny Wallace and Staci Dorey takes place."  
 Members agreed with Cllr Hodson's proposal. This will be placed on the next agenda for ratification.  
**Action Point – Place proposal on next agenda for ratification**
- The Chairman announced that Northam Town Council are finalists in the Blachere/Revive and Thrive competition and are guaranteed £1,000 worth of festoon/festive lighting with the top prize being £10,000 worth of the same and appearance of the Jersey Boys at the switch on of the lights.
- Members were advised that they have been invited to the Licensing of Reverend Roger Elks at St Margaret's Church, Northam at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Members were asked to respond to the Town Clerk as a matter of urgency.
- The Chairman reminded Members that his Civic Church Service will be held on 29<sup>th</sup> September at 3.00 pm followed by refreshments and entertainment at Northam Community Centre.

**1908/320 Declarations of interest**

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

**1908/321 To agree the agenda between Part A and Part B (confidential information)**

It was **resolved** to agree the agenda between Part A and Part B, after bringing forward item 22 to follow item 8.

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

- 1908/322 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019**  
 It was **resolved** to confirm and sign the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 as a correct record.  
 Proposed: Cllr Tisdale, Seconded: Cllr Miss Manley (majority in favour, 1 abstention not present at the meeting)
- 1908/323 To note and adopt the reports of minutes and resolutions contained therein from Committees and Sub-Committees (Items contained in Part B to be considered under Part B)**
- Finance – 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019
  - Planning – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019
  - Town Projects – 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019
  - Planning – 14<sup>th</sup> August 2019
  - Finance – 19<sup>th</sup> August 2019 a
- It was **agreed** to note and adopt the reports of minutes and resolutions.
- 1908/324 Action Points**  
 It was **agreed** to note the Action Points
- 1908/325 To receive and consider reports from the Town Clerk**  
 It was **agreed** to note the reports.
- 1908/326 Report from County Councillor (brought forward)**  
 County Cllr Eastman spoke about the National Planning Policy. He took questions about Avon Lane and why the repairs have been postponed until next year. Members were appalled that the County Council had not informed County Cllr Eastman about the change. He took a further question on what emergency preparations there were by the County Council in the event of a no deal BREXIT. He will contact the relevant Cabinet member and respond. He was also asked how we can report to the relevant Highways Officer and he will obtain this information and report to the Town Council.  
 Cllr Himan thanked him for his attendance and he left the meeting.
- 1908/327 To receive a Police/Councillor Advocate Report**  
 There was no report from the Police or Councillor Advocate
- 1908/328 To receive questions and/or deputations or petitions from parishioners. All deputations or petitions to be referred without discussion to the Clerk for action, or to the next Council meeting for discussion as appropriate. Any question requiring an answer at the meeting to be submitted at least five working days before the meeting to the Town Council office.**  
 No questions had been received.
- 1908/329 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 fifteen minutes.*  
 No members of the public were present.

- 1908/330 To consider amendments recommended by the sub-committee/working group Town Projects**  
It was **resolved** to defer a decision until after the next Sub-Committee/Working Group meeting.  
Proposed: Cllr Tisdale, Seconded: Cllr Shelley (majority in favour, 1 abstention)  
**Action Point – Defer decision until after next Sub-Committee/Working Group meeting.**
- 1908/331 To consider a donation of £1000 to the local food bank (Cllrs Mrs Hodson, Mrs McCarthy and Laws)**  
After some discussion, when Members were advised that this is a mini food bank run by volunteers out of the Baptist Church, it was **resolved** to donate £1,000.  
Proposed: Cllr Mrs McCarthy, Seconded: Cllr Tisdale (majority in favour, 2 votes against)  
**Action Point – Make donation of £1,000.**
- 1908/332 To consider making a decision to declare a climate emergency and continue with the action plan as referred to Town Projects**  
It was **resolved** to vote on the agenda item with revised wording as follows:  
“Northam Town Council declares a climate emergency and commits to producing an action plan within six months with the aim of securing net zero carbon emissions relating to the Council’s buildings and assets by 2030 and achieving significant carbon reductions in Northam parish by the same date.”  
Proposed: Cllr Chalmers, Seconded: Cllr Shelley (majority in favour, 2 votes against)
- 1908/333 To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan (Cllr Leather)**  
Members were advised that at the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> August the policies were updated with omissions and minor changes. At the next meeting a gentleman from Planning Partnership Ltd will be in attendance and will have consulted with a Planning Inspector on a couple of issues which were queried. It is hoped that the consultation will be ready to go out by the end of the year or early next year.  
Cllr Shelley was thanked for his consultation with the students at Bideford College. The Mayor thanked Cllr Leather and the group for all their hard work.
- 1908/334 To consider draft General Privacy Notice**  
It was **resolved** to accept the General Privacy Notice  
Proposed: Cllr Leather, Seconded: Cllr Miss Manley (11 votes in favour, 1 abstention and Cllr Edwards voted against)
- 1908/335 To invite applications to fill a vacancy on the Planning Committee**  
No Members wished to apply.
- 1908/336 To consider an update on Appledore Fire Station meeting**  
Members were advised that despite a number of attempts by the Town Clerk to contact Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue, she has been unable to speak to the relevant people. She has spoken to a representative of the Fire Brigade’s Union and they would be reluctant to share a platform.  
Members were then advised Torridge District Council received an excellent presentation and a report is being prepared and it was suggested that the Town Council request a copy of this to circulate to Members for endorsement.  
On receipt of the report it was suggested that Members should consider where priorities are in light of the future population.

- 1908/337 To consider correspondence**
- DALC Annual Return (*held in office*)
  - CPRE letter (*held in office*)
- It was agreed to note correspondence.

- 1908/338 Street Matters**
- Devon County Council – Temporary prohibition of through traffic and parking – New Quay Street, Appledore, 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019 between the hours of 9am and 5pm to allow construction of retaining wall.
- It was agreed to note Street Matters.

Cllr Laws advised that he had received a reply regarding Atlantic Way.

- 1908/339 Summary Report from a District Member (3 minutes)**
- Cllr Leather reported that at a recent External and Overview Committee meeting, he had hoped to question Devon Fire and Rescue Service on finance aspects but they were not in attendance. August has been very quiet for meetings. There is a Plans Committee next week which has two items on it. On 12<sup>th</sup> September, Torridge will be holding a Councillor day when they will decide their plans for the next four years. As Lead Member of Waste and Recycling he will be aiming for a new depot.

Cllr Mrs Hodson advised she will be unable to attend the Councillor day but has been invited to list three priorities to be considered at the meeting. Her first priority is the regeneration of Bideford Quayside which she feels important for Bideford and neighbouring areas. She is still considering her other suggestions.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

**Signed**..... **Dated**.....

DRAFT