

Northam Town Council – Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on Wednesday 15th November 2023 in the Town Hall at 6.30 pm

Present: Cllrs Hames, (Chair), Bach, Brading, Edwards, Himan, Mrs Hodson, Leather, Lo-Vel, Singh, and Tait,

In attendance: Mrs J Mills Town Clerk, Mr G Langton Deputy Town Clerk

Reverend Andrew Vidamour
Members of the public (2)
Police representative

The Police Representative gave a very informative talk and answered Members questions, he had previously circulated information on use of cctv, which members will read and consider at a future date.

2311/498

Apologies

Apologies: Cllr Whittaker,

2311/499

Chairman's Announcements

Members were advised

- that temporary marking of the new tennis courts would cost £843 per court and there was a possibility of some funding being available. It was agreed subject to the funding being available then all 3 courts would be marked up. (Ratify next meeting.)
- The salary agreement has been confirmed at £1925 per staff member backdated to April 2023
- There is an invitation to join the Rural Market Towns Group on a free trial until February 2024, members agreed to accept the offer.
- It has been necessary to purchase a new boiler for Northam Hall at a cost of £2100 plus VAT, this was dealt with as an emergency because of hall lettings.
- Officers have been asked to contact DCC with regard to the cost of a licence to install multiple dropped kerbs having been advised that the cost per kerb for a licence is in the region of £350 and is non-refundable if refused.
Action Points: It was unnecessary due to a change in funding to ratify this decision.

2311/500

Declarations of interest

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

2311/501

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

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

2311/502

To confirm and sign the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 8th October 2023 (Part A)

It was **resolved** to sign the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 8th October 2023 (Part A)

Proposed: Cllr Leather, Seconded: Cllr Brading, (all in favour subject to amendments: - the shipyard is refitting a vessel, see Chairman's Announcements and the addition of Strategic before plan in Chairman's announcements)

- 2311/503 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 and HR – 2nd August 2023
- Planning – 27th July 2023, 17th August 2023 and 7th September 2023
 - Town Projects and Asset Management 10th August 2023
 - Climate Emergency 18th January 2023 and 27th February 2023
 - Northam Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group – 23rd February 2023
- It was agreed 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).
- 2311/504 Action Points**
 It was agreed to note the action points with the addition that sponsorship of a Christmas Tree at St Mary's Appledore had also been arranged.
- 2311/505 To receive and consider reports from the Town Clerk** (bank reconciliation and budget report to date)
 It was agreed to note the reports from the Town Clerk.
- 2311/506 Public Participation**
We welcome Parishioners speaking or making representations, asking questions or giving evidence at the meeting of the Full Council in respect of any issue affecting the Northam Town Council area. A period of twenty minutes is allocated for this unless directed by the Chair of the meeting and a member of the public shall not speak for more than 4 minutes. A question shall not receive a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question. The chair of the meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given
 No member of the public wished to speak.
- 2311/507 To consider an update from the working group for a Vision Statement, strategic plan and delivery proposals**
 It was **resolved** that's the delivery proposals should be brought back to the next Full Council meeting.
 Proposed: Cllr Tait, seconded, Cllr Bach, Majority in favour, one abstention)
Action Point: Delivery proposals placed on the next Full Council Agenda and a working group meeting to be arranged.
- 2311/508 To consider Community Champions (Cllr Hames)**
 Members **resolved** to proceed with the "Community Champions" using the Bideford model. Members of the public will be invited to nominate 6 members of the public annually and the Council will make a final decision on the awards, which will be presented at the Mayor's Introduction Ceremony.
 Proposed: Cllr Hodson, seconded, Cllr Tait, Majority in favour, two abstentions)
Action Point: Proceed with setting up
- 2311/509 To consider a recommendation from Westward Ho! Park committee:**
The Council considers that the Pavilion and Sensory Garden be considered as a joint project moving forward. Initially arranging a feasibility study, when TDC agree in principle that there will be no problem with the Council's proposals
 It was **resolved** to accept the recommendation from Westward Ho! Park committee
 Proposed: Cllr Edwards, seconded, Cllr Hodson, (All in favour)
Action Point: move forward with seeking TDC agreement and then proceed with feasibility study.

- 2311/510 To consider the appointment of a Police Advocate**
The Town Clerk was asked to circulate the brief and request expressions of interest.
Action Point: as above.
- 2311/511 To consider a request re Bone Hill car park**
It was agreed to contact TDC with a request that the car park should be enabled for cash payments.
Action Point: contact TDC with a request.
- 2311/512 To consider D Day 80 6th June 2024**
We have been advised by Bruno Peek (Pageant Master for the UK) of a plan to light Beacons for the D Day anniversary.
It was **resolved** to confirm our wish to participate.
Proposed: Cllr Leather, seconded: Cllr Brading (all in favour)
Action Point: confirm we will participate.
- 2311/513 To consider a response to the TDC Strategic Plan**
It was proposed by Cllr Hodson that NTC endorse the strategic plan, there was no seconder. Members agreed to comment individually.
- 2311/514 Correspondence:**
- **Countryside Voices (held in the office)**
 - **Love Devon (held in the office)**
 - **Allotments (held at the office)**
- It was agreed to note the correspondence.
- 2311/515 Street Matters: All street matters circulated by the Town Clerk, by email**
It was reported that lights in Appledore, although reported as fixed, are still not working.
- 2311/516 To receive a summary report from the County Councillor**
A report received from the County Councillor had been circulated, Members reiterated their concerns that the report primarily covered highways issues and there was nothing regarding other responsibilities of Devon County Council, the Town Clerk was asked to write again expressing Members concerns.
Action Point: Town Clerk to write to the County Councillor requesting a more detailed report.
- 2311/517 To receive a summary report from a District Member (3 minutes)**
Cllr Bach advised that Harland and Woolf are taking on more apprentices and their order book is looking good. He also told members that the Westward Ho! business association has been revived and there is a new committee. Issues with the sea wall are still in progress, there is a full review.
Cllr Lo-Vel spoke of her recent tour of Sully House which has been purchased by TDC as temporary housing provision for the homeless and was very impressed.
Other District Members had nothing further to report.

Northam Town Council – Minutes of a Special meeting of the Town Council held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 13th December 2023 at 6.30 pm.

Present: Cllrs Hames, Bach, Brading, Bruins, Edwards, Ford, Himan, Hodson, Leather, Lo-Vel, Singh, Tait and Whittaker

In attendance: Mrs M J Mills – Town Clerk
Mr G Langton – Deputy Town Clerk

2312/ 588 Apologies: Cllr Newman McKie

2312/589 Chairman's announcements

Members were advised about a proposal from the police to site a hub in Westward Ho! in response to increased crime and anti-social behaviour. They will attend Full Council on 17th January 2024 to give an update.

2312/590 Declarations of interest

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

2312/591 To agree the agenda as published

It was **resolved** to agree the agenda as published item 9 not for consideration
Proposed: Cllr Hodson, Seconded: Cllr Bach (all in favour)

2312/592 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.

No members of the public were present

2312/593 To receive a recommendation from the Finance Committee that the attached list for Grant payments in the sum of £17191.00, be accepted

It was **resolved** to agree the grants in the sum £17191.

Proposed: Cllr Hodson, Seconded: Cllr Whittaker (majority in favour one abstention)

Cllrs declared personal interests:

Cllr Himan, Bideford Archive and Twinning

Cllr Whittaker, Bideford Archive, TTVS

Cllr Tait, Appledore Village Association, Appledore Community Craft Group.

Cllr Bach & Cllr Hodson, Westward Ho! Business Association

2312/594 To receive a recommendation from the Finance Committee that the draft budget be accepted as presented in the sum of £554370 being required for the precept for 2024-2025

The Town Clerk advised that having received the new tax base for 2024-25 the precept figure now required adjustment.

Options were presented and after some discussion it was proposed by Cllr Himan and seconded by Cllr Brading that the original budget resulting in an increase of £1.96 per year (1.92% on last year) on a Band D property be accepted. There were 2 votes in favour and the majority against.

There was a further proposal by Cllr Leather and seconded by Cllr Bach that an increase on a Band D property of 4.4% (£4.48 per year) be accepted.

It was **resolved** to accept the proposal that the draft budget be accepted as amended, following the change to the tax base, to the sum of £567832 being required for the precept for 2024-2025

Proposed: Cllr Leather, Seconded: Cllr Bach (majority in favour)

2312/595 To consider Christmas Closing

It was **resolved** to agree the dates for Christmas Closure from December 22nd at 1pm to 9am on 2nd January 2024'

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

2312/596 To consider that for the Changing Places Facility "NTC resolves to make a formal decision not to tender through the "Contracts Finder" website as this contract is specialist in nature, subject to meeting the requirements of the TDC funding agreement

This item was not considered at the present time

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.30pm

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