

Northam Town Council – Minutes of a Special meeting of the Town Council held on Wednesday 17th May 2017 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Windmill Lane, Northam commencing at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllrs Brading (Chairman), Mrs Whittaker, Berryman, Davis, Durkin, Eastman Edwards, Hames, Hancock, Himan, Leather, Miller and Tisdale

In attendance: Mrs M J Mills – Town Clerk
Members of the public

1705/034 Apologies

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Cllr Sherborne.

1705/035 Chairman's Announcements

- The Chairman announced that an invitation had been extended to everyone to attend the Armed Forces event on Monday 19th June in Victoria Park, Bideford at 6.30 pm.
- He then advised about a quote which had been received from a specialist Solicitor who would be able to investigate the issues regarding the transfer of assets from Northam Urban District Council to Torrington District Council. It was **resolved** to proceed with the investigation subject to ratification at the next Full Council meeting with a cap on the costs of £2,000.
Proposed Cllr Durkin, Seconded: Cllr Leather (8 votes in favour, 5 votes against)
Action Point – Town Clerk to place item on next Town Council agenda and proceed with investigation
- The Town Clerk advised that a renewal offer had been received today from our insurers for an extended renewal period. She was asked to seek additional quotes and place the matter on the Full Council agenda for 31st May.
Action Point – Town Clerk to seek additional quotes and place on next Town Council agenda
- The Chairman reminded Members that having received considerable information prior to the meeting for agenda item 6 he requested that those wishing to speak would restrict their comments to no more than three minutes

1705/036 Declarations of interest

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

1705/037 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 Tisdale, Seconded: Cllr Leather (all in favour)

1705/038 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.

A member of the public raised a series of queries. It was **resolved** that he be invited to furnish his list of questions to the office for a response.

Proposed: Cllr Tisdale, Seconded: Cllr Mrs Whittaker (all in favour)

The gentleman subsequently withdrew two of his questions and will submit the remain questions to the Town Clerk.

Cllr Himan also raised some queries which will be responded to.

1705/039 To consider Northam Burrows

Members discussed the matter.

Cllr Edwards raised a number of questions:

1. Who owns the Burrows? - Response: Torridge District Council.
2. What are Northam Town Council's responsibilities? - Response – Northam Town Council are Trustees of the Grazing and Lords of the Manor.
3. Accountability? - He was advised that the Burrows accounts are incorporated into the accounting package and shown under a separate cost centre and split under a number of cost codes. These accounts are presented to Finance Committee on a monthly basis.

Cllr Edwards then proposed that the Northam Burrows bank account should be closed and the monies paid into the General Account and the accounting to appear within the accounts package. This was seconded by Cllr Himan. There were 2 votes in favour, 9 votes against and 2 abstentions.

The Mayor then explained the need to comply with Charity Commission regulations and advised that the Town Council would be the Corporate Trustee and Members would manage the day to day running.

It was **resolved** to register the Charitable Trust with the Charity Commission

Proposed: Cllr Leather, Seconded: Cllr Hancock (11 votes in favour, 2 abstentions)

Action Point – Town Clerk to register the Charitable Trust with the Charity Commission

1705/040 To consider correspondence

The Chairman advised that there had been a query regarding the issue of Manor Passes.

It was **resolved** to seek legal advice as to the stance of the Town Council.

Proposed: Cllr Brading, Seconded: Cllr Davis (all in favour)

Following a further brief discussion, it was **resolved** to seek “independent” legal advice
Proposed: Cllr Brading, Seconded: Cllr Tisdale (10 votes in favour, 2 abstentions and 1 Member had left the room at that point)

Action Point – Town Clerk to seek “independent” legal advice

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30 pm

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