

Northam Town Council – Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Town Council held on Wednesday 5th December 2018 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Windmill Lane, Northam commencing at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllrs Davis (Chairman), Rev Arnold, Edwards, Hames, Himan, Laws, Leather, Sherborne and Tisdale

In attendance: Mrs M J Mills, Town Clerk

1812/675 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Berryman, Eastman and Hancock.

1812/676 Chairman's Announcements

- The Chairman advised Members he had been approached by Torridge District Council asking for a letter of support in connection with the development of the Burrows Centre. Members agreed, with one abstention, to send a letter of support. This will be ratified at the next Full Council meeting.
Action Point – Write letter of support and place item on next Full Council meeting
- Members were asked to respond, as a matter of urgency, to the invitation to the 2018 Christmas Tree Festival at St Margaret's Church on 14th December so that numbers can be advised to the organisers.

1812/677 Declarations of interest

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

1812/678 To agree the agenda as published

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

Proposed: Cllr Tisdale, Seconded: Cllr Sherborne (all in favour)

1812/679 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.

1812/680 To receive a recommendation from the Finance Committee that the attached list for Grant payments be accepted and £300 will be rolled over to next year's grant applications

The following Councillors declared an interest:

Cllr Edwards in grant numbers 15 and 22; Cllr Himan in number 30; Cllr Tisdale in numbers 28 and 29; Cllr Laws in number 24 and Cllr Rev Arnold in numbers 4, 6, 18 and 24.

Cllr Sherborne proposed that the recommendation from the Finance Committee be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Edwards. After some discussion there was a further proposal by Cllr Himan, which was seconded by Cllr Tisdale, that the applications received after the 12 noon cut off should be supported from the Donations account. **Resolved** (6 in favour with 3 against)

Action Point – Support late applications from the Donations Account

Members felt that as the Twinning has close connections with Northam Town Council, the Council should be providing some sort of grant/funding and this will be placed for discussion on the next Finance agenda.

Action Point – Place item re Twinning on next Finance agenda

There was a further proposal by Cllr Tisdale, seconded by Cllr Laws, that the grant to the SS Freshspring Society be reduced to £100 and the other grants be proceeded with as listed. (3 votes in favour, 6 against)

A vote was then taken on the original proposal by Cllr Sherborne to accept the list of grant payments and it was so **resolved** (all in favour)

1812/681 To receive a recommendation from the Finance Committee that the draft budget be accepted as amended

It was proposed by Cllr Leather that the donation to the Records Office should be increased to £1500 for next year and a letter be sent advising the South West Heritage Trust that Northam Town Council intends to support maintaining the North Devon Records office but cannot commit an exact donation for the following two years until after the Council elections next May. This was seconded by Cllr Hames and it was so **resolved** (all in favour).

Members requested the matter is placed on the next Town Council agenda for discussion.

It was proposed by Cllr Edwards, seconded by Cllr Laws, that £10,000 be added to the fixed reserves (2 votes in favour, majority against)

It was **resolved** to accept the budget as drafted after amending the Records Office donation to £1500.

Proposed: Cllr Sherborne, Seconded: Cllr Tisdale (all in favour)

Action Point – Write letter to South West Heritage Trust and place item on next Town Council agenda.

1812/682 To consider a request to raise the Grant application figure to £750 for applications from 2020-21

It was **resolved** to raise the figure to £750.

Proposed: Cllr Leather, Seconded: Cllr Laws (6 in favour, 3 against)

Action Point – Raise the grant application figure to £750 for 2020/21

1812/683 To consider a donation to the Cadet Group from which the Mayor’s Cadet is appointed annually and also a donation of a voucher/book token to the individual cadet

It was **resolved** to make a donation of £100 annually to the Cadet Group and a voucher/book token to the individual cadet of £50.

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

Action Point – Arrange to make donation annually to Cadet Group and purchase voucher/book token for individual cadet.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

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