

Grants

The Council has completed its grant awards for the coming financial year, having extended the application process to the end of March. Recipients of grants include 35 local organisations and other community groups. A Grant Presentation Evening will be held at the Council Chamber, Windmill Lane, on 22nd May, starting at 7pm, there will be light refreshments served and an opportunity for networking following the presentations.

Council's New Responsibility For Benches

Responsibility for maintaining benches in Northam, Appledore, Westward Ho! and Orchard Hill has been passed from Torridge District Council to Northam Town Council. All the benches are being checked and repaired where necessary before the hand-over, and a sum of money will be included to help with maintenance.

Footpath Surfacing

The footpath from Windmill Lane, Northam to Goats Hill has been virtually unusable during wet weather recently due to its very muddy state. However, following Northam Town Council requests the path is now being surfaced with road 'scalpings'. Grateful thanks are due to the County Council and the National Trust for this work. This will now make the path usable at all times as part of a pedestrian route joining up with the estuary path and linking Appledore and Northam with Bideford. Northam and Bideford Town Councils have also agreed to use part of joint TAP funding to surface and enhance the estuary path.

Get Buzzing!

Devon Wildlife Trust has launched a Devon Buzzing campaign to help save bees. Bees are vital for pollination of plants, including food crops, and it is not too alarmist to state that without bees the world will be in dire trouble.

Help a sick bee - if you find a weary bumblebee place it in a quiet spot with a few drops of sugar water to help revive it.

For more information go to the Trust's website: www.devonwildlifetrust.org. Northam Town Council will of course be playing its part in this vital campaign.

Vacancy for Town Beadle

Northam Town Council is seeking a Town Beadle, duties include accompanying the Mayor to various functions also taking part in events within the town. Applicants must have a car and be willing to drive the Mayor to functions etc. The Beadle is provided with a mileage allowance, a small honorarium, plus a uniform. Some duties will involve evening and weekend work. The vacancy is open to both men and women. For more information please contact the Town Clerk at the Council Offices.

Northam Burrows

Over the past two years we have separated the Burrows finances from the main Council funds so that any money spent on the Burrows is from a separate self-financing budget. The money is acquired from the Golf Club, from Torridge District Council (TDC) and from the Manor Passes. This year we are also charging the graziers the same amount for their grazing passes and also a small sum per head of livestock. This income will be used to pay for our Administrative Assistant, who processes all the passes and grazing allocations, for our new Commons Warden, for micro-chipping horses and for the provision of 'dog poo' bags at each Burrows entrance.

Northam Burrows Cont.

The Commons Warden is responsible for monitoring stocking levels on the Common, animal welfare and is also being trained in enforcement and other environmental matters. She is already working directly alongside the graziers and TDC staff, and is our link with them and all users of the Common by providing a weekly report to the Town Clerk.

During the past year we have agreed with TDC, the owner of the Burrows, that we enter into a joint agreement with Natural England regarding a Higher Level Stewardship scheme. This agreement has now been formally signed by all parties and will be in place for some ten years with the primary objectives being:

- Wildlife conservation
- Maintenance and enhancement of landscape quality and character
- Natural resource protection
- Protection of the historic environment
- Promotion of public access and understanding of the countryside

These objectives will be achieved mainly by a reduced stocking level from April-July, a large amount of scrub clearance, intensive grazing in certain areas and the clearing of ditches etc., all of which will be funded by annual grants from Natural England.

Annual Electors Meeting

The Annual Electors Meeting will take place on May 8th this year in the Council Chamber, 1 Windmill Lane, Northam. It will commence at 7pm, preceded by drinks and nibbles at 6.45pm

New Councillor and Maintenance Men

A vacancy for Orchard Hill left by the departure of Richard Osborne has been filled by the election of Jim Jackson (pictured below).



Two new maintenance men have been employed by the Council, following the departure of their predecessors. The new employees are Ivan Heuze and Tim Martin (pictured below).



Councillor List

Appledore Ward

CLlr Mrs A Boyle	471199
CLlr A Eastman	474550
CLlr B M Edwards	477441
CLlr P Hames	421065

Northam Ward

CLlr C Ballard	477082
CLlr K Davis	472136
CLlr J Himan	422227
CLlr R J Johnson	475408
CLlr R W A Miller	474658
CLlr Mrs J Whittaker	472315

Orchard Hill

CLlr Mrs P D Biggs	476485 or 473103
CLlr J Jackson	470712

Westward Ho!

CLlr B Mason	424109
CLlr R M M Tisdale	474703

Town Council Officers & Staff

Town Clerk	Mrs M J Mills MILCM
Assistant Town Clerk	Mrs Pat Moores
Admin Assistant	Miss Alice Kendall
Maintenance Men	Tim Martin Ivan Heuze
Commons Warden	Rachel Summers



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SPRING NEWSLETTER 2013

Northam Town Council Budget & Precept for 13-14

Northam Town Council has, after a lengthy debate, arrived at the precept figure required from Torridge District Council to meet its requirements for 2013 – 14. Over the last few years the Town Council is proud to report how much it has moved forward in the work it does for all its parishioners. In recent times it has purchased Northam Hall, Burrough Farm and the car park at Appledore, which adjoins the Seagate Hotel. It has taken on additional part-time staff, some of whom are employed keeping the streets litter and, where possible, weed free. They also do many maintenance jobs as required and install the Christmas Trees annually. The Town Council has also agreed future projects, which include the purchase of a mobile speed sign which will be set up where it is considered necessary to enhance road safety in the area. Work will be scheduled on Northam Hall to lay a proper car park, improve the gent's toilets and improve the insulation thus reducing future heating bills. Provision has also been made to install a footpath in Lords Meadow play area in conjunction with the improvements Torridge District Council is making to the play equipment. All this work does come at a cost but with hard work and careful budgeting Northam Town Council is pleased to announce that all its endeavours can be met with a charge of only 71p a week on a Band D property, an increase of 13p a week on last year's figures. Mrs Jane Mills MILCM - Town Clerk