

Northam Town Council – Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on Wednesday 23rd February 2022 in the Town Hall at 6.30 pm

Present: Cllrs Mrs Hodson (Chair), Miss Manley, Mrs McCarthy, Miss Woodhouse, Davis, Hames, Himan, Laws, Leather, Newman McKie and Sargent

In attendance: Mrs M J Mills – Town Clerk
Mr G Langton - Deputy Town Clerk
County Cllr McGeough
Reverend Vidamour
1 member of the public

2202/1151 Apologies

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Cllrs Edwards and Tisdale

2202/1152 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman announced that for the Jubilee, on 2nd June, it has been suggested that Community Choirs rehearse and sing the new Anthem for the event. She has agreed to liaise with Reverend Vidamour. She went on to speak about the Jubilee link for the Mayor's Chain and the work that is required on the Chain and also repairs. Members supported the idea of purchasing a Jubilee link and for the repairs and engraving to be completed using the courier suggested by Fattorinis. This matter will be ratified at the next meeting.

Action Point – Agenda item for the next meeting

Members were advised that we now have a registration number for the Burrows Charity so a new bank account can be opened and we can get our affairs in order for the audit.

The Mayor went on to advise that she will be writing again to Stagecoach following their response that no change can be made to the service before April and after April the timings will only be adjusted by five minutes. However, there is an Academy bus which collects from all areas and actually drops students at the entrance to the College.

Following a recent e-mail to Councillors regarding the issues of bad parking and a request for enforcement, the Town Clerk has not yet written because only two responses have been received. If this is of concern to Councillors please notify the Town Clerk as soon as possible.

Finally, it is hoped that each Councillor could visit a Nursing/Care Home in their ward delivering cakes/scones subject to relaxation in Covid rules and agreement with each Home, sometime during April. Councillors were asked to sign a form circulated at the meeting confirming their agreement.

2202/1153 Declarations of interest

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

2202/1154 To agree the agenda between Part A and Part B

It was **resolved** to agree the agenda between Part A and Part B
Proposed: Cllr Mrs Hodson, Seconded: Cllr Davis (all in favour)

2202/1155 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 26th January 2022

It was **resolved** to sign the minutes of Town Council Meeting held 26th January 2022

Proposed: Cllr Miss Manley, Seconded: Cllr Laws (majority in favour 1 abstention Member not present at some of the meeting).

2202/1156 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)

- Neighbourhood Plan – 31st January 2022
- Town Projects – 7th February 2022
- Westward Ho! Park – 18th January 2022 and 15th February 2022
- Climate Emergency – 10th February 2022
- Planning – 27th January 2022 and 9th February 2022
- Finance & HR 17th January 2022
- Northam Burrows – 17th January 2022
- Review Committee – 20th January 2020

It was agreed to note and adopt the reports minutes and resolutions contained therein from Committees and Sub-Committees (Items contained in Part B to be considered under Part B)

2202/1157 Action Points

It was agreed to note the Action Points.

2202/1158 To receive and consider reports from the Town Clerk

It was agreed to note the reports from the Town Clerk.

2202/1159 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.

The member of the public advised that he was making lots of notes to follow up and would hope to speak at a future meeting.

2202/1160 To consider a recommendation from CEC that 12 solar PV panels, 2 batteries and an EV charger be installed at Northam Hall, paid from CEC budget (to £15000) as a stand-alone project. (Cllr Hames)

It was **resolved** to proceed with the work.

Proposed: Cllr Laws, Seconded: Cllr Miss Manley
(7 votes in favour, 4 votes against)

Action Point – Proceed with the work

2202/1161 To receive a verbal update on the progress of the Appledore Parking Group

Cllr Hames gave a verbal update on the Appledore Parking Working Group. They have met several times looking at all problems. The survey reports were disappointing; most people supported the idea of a residents' parking scheme. The main issues are visitor parking and the fact that most households have two cars or more. Some residents would like more restrictions and some would like less. The Park and Ride last year at Skern was unsuccessful. Devon County Council have no money to assist. Currently parking at Skern will not be available this year, nor the possibility of any parking at Appledore Football Club. Other sites are being investigated and the costs of a shuttle bus.

2202/1162 To consider a recommendation from Westward Ho! Park Committee (*report herewith*)

To recommend to Full Council that Northam Town Council agrees to apply for a PWLB loan to cover the cost of the refurbishment of the Pavilion and the works required on the tennis courts/sports area, in the region of £150,000 to £200,000

It was **resolved** to accept the recommendation from Westward Ho! Park Committee that Northam Town Council agrees, in principle, to apply for a PWLB loan to cover the cost of the refurbishment of the Pavilion and the works required on the tennis courts/sports area, in the region of £150,000 to £200,000. If the in principle recommendation for a PWLB application is approved the office staff and committee will commence the process of collating the survey results and drawing up of a more detailed schedule of works.

Proposed: Cllr Leather, Seconded: Cllr Sargent (majority in favour, 1 abstention)

Action Point – Accept recommendation from the Westward Ho! Park Committee. If the in-principle recommendation for a PWLB application is approved the office staff and committee will commence the process of collating the survey results and drawing up of a more detailed schedule of works.

2202/1163 To consider ideas for the Platinum Jubilee (*report herewith*)

This report was noted and there was a request to put information on the website regarding where to apply for a road closure (Devon County Council)

It was **resolved** to suspend Standing Orders to allow a member of the public to speak.

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

The member of the public advised that he felt sure Appledore Fire Brigade would be happy to be in attendance when the Beacon is lit on 2nd June.

It was then **resolved** to reinstate Standing Orders.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Hodson, Seconded: Cllr Sargent (all in favour)

Action Point – Put information on the website

2202/1164 Correspondence:

No correspondence had been received.

2202/1165 Street Matters: All street matters forwarded by e-mail

Members were advised that yellow lines have been renewed in Northam today.

2202/1166 To receive a Police/Councillor Advocate Report

Members were advised that Speedwatch is up and running. There have been two sessions to date. Last week's Speedwatch was postponed because of the weather. Out of the significant numbers tested, only four cars were speeding over 35 mph. It is anticipated there will be a further Speedwatch in two weeks' time.

No other areas are currently allocated but other locations are being looked at.

Health and Safety issues have to be considered and information sent to Exeter for a decision. However, Cllr Sargent advised that he can use the Town Council's speed gun to look at other areas himself but these will not be official surveys.

Requests were made that he looks at Churchill Way and Buckleigh Road.

He went on to advise that following difficulties with access to Cadets for the May Fair, the Royal Marines Association have come to the rescue and will supply assistance.

The Mayor thanked him and the Speedwatch Group for their service to the community.

2202/1167 To consider an update on NALC/DALC (Cllr Chalmers)

Cllr Chalmers was not present at the meeting.

2202/1168 Summary Report from a District Member (3 minutes)

Members were advised that Torridge budget has been agreed with a small increase. Disappointment was expressed as to the fact that the Government settlement is well below other areas. At a meeting with Sir Geoffrey Cox MP this issue was discussed, pointing out that this is an area of deprivation.

At this juncture Cllr Miss Manley gave her apologies and left the meeting.

2202/1169 Summary Report from County Councillor (3 minutes)

The Chairman welcomed the County Councillor and hoped he was now back to full health.

The County Councillor apologised for his previous absences. He advised that Devon County Council set their budget last week with a 2.9% increase. From April some funding from the Locality Budget will be lost. He is unable to give to individuals.

He went on to advise that road markings are slowly starting to happen in the area. He then spoke about Buckleigh junction and the new traffic lights. He has had some complaints but feels people will soon get used to it. It had made a huge improvement. He is still trying to get Buckleigh Road widened. Enforcement Officers have been promised for the area starting in approximately two months' time. He is shortly meeting with Appledore School and Devon County Council with regard to the school crossing and the possibility of re-aligning the parking spaces at Odun Road car park which would give a few extra spaces. He also spoke about the possibility of Appledore Fire Station being downgraded. Cllr Mrs Woodhouse had some information which she will forward to everyone and a report was requested with regard to this issue for the next Full Council meeting.

Action Point - Prepare report for next meeting

He further advised that HATOC have only met on a few occasions recently. He and fellow Councillors are challenging Devon County Council as to why they are being prevented from adding items to the agendas.

Part B

2202/1170 To resolve: that under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting.
It was **resolved** that under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting
Proposed: Cllr Davis, Seconded: Cllr McCarthy (all in favour)

2202/1171 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Town Council held January 26th 2022 (herewith)
It was **resolved** to sign the minutes of Town Council Meeting held 26th January 2022
Proposed: Cllr Laws, Seconded: Cllr Davis (majority in favour, 1 abstention Member not present at the meeting)

2202/1172 To note and adopt the reports of minutes and resolutions contained therein from Committees and Sub-Committees in Part B

- Westward Ho! Park – 18th January 2022 and 15th February 2022 (*herewith*)
- Finance & HR 17th January 2022 (*herewith*)
- Climate Emergency – 10th February 2022 (*herewith*)

It was agreed to note and adopt the reports of minutes and resolutions contained therein from Committees and Sub-Committees in Part B.

At this juncture it was **resolved** to extend the meeting beyond two and a half hours.
Proposed: Cllr Leather, Seconded: Cllr Davis (all in favour)

2202/1173 To consider grass cutting contract
It was **resolved** to continue with the contract subject to an increase in line with inflation.
Proposed: Cllr Leather, Seconded: Cllr Mrs Hodson, (8 in favour, 2 abstention)
Action Point – Continue with grass cutting contract

2202/1174 To resolve to readmit members of the press and public
It was **resolved** to readmit members of the press and public
Proposed: Cllr Mrs Hodson, Seconded: Cllr Laws (all in favour)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05 pm

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