



# NORTHLEACH WITH EASTINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council Held on Friday 17th July 2020 at 7pm via video conference

**Those Present:** Cllr Rob Platt (Chairman), Cllrs Caroline Brady, Brian Hulcup and Andrew Wellman.

**In Attendance:** Tim Barter, Will Rayner (PPMC Committee members)

The meeting started at 19.10 hours.

1.	<b>To receive apologies for absence:</b> Cllrs Steve Abbotts and Terry Morley-Blackwell and the Clerk, Sharon Henley.
2.	<b>To receive Councillor's declarations of interests:</b> There were none.
3.	<b>Council is required to pass the resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Section 1, extended by the Local Government Act 1972, Section 100, that the following item is confidential as it involves discussion on a dispute and as such the press and public are excluded from the meeting.</b> Proposed by Cllr Wellman, seconded by Cllr Platts and unanimously approved.
4.	<b>Agree Council's formal response to actions taken by residents to clear the River Leach on the Water Meadow:</b> The Chairman outlined that he had created a document summarising all actions relating to river management over the past two years and this had been circulated prior to the meeting.  It was confirmed that residents had previously been advised by the Town Council of the legal position on river boundaries and ownership and that permission had not been given for any works to be completed.  A Management Plan for the Water Meadows was in the process of being drafted to create a 'road map' of works to be completed going forward. Tim Barter outlined the process for this which would include surveys and the collation of historical information, consideration of management options and preferences and a statement of objectives. This to be followed by consultation with residents.  Following research, Riparian ownership on that section of the River Leach had also been clarified to residents along with confirmation that dredging was not necessary.  It was discussed that the work recently completed by residents to clear the river had been done without the Town Council's permission and had resulted in large amounts of excavated spoil and vegetation being left on the river bank. This now required removal further down the river, resulting in potentially significant expense to the Town Council.  It was also raised that as part of the Management Plan, licences should be granted for any bridges already created across the river by residents and this would serve to avoid 'adverse possession'.  Following discussion, the following actions were agreed:  To write a strongly-worded letter to the residents of Dutton Leys who had completed the works to confirm that this work had been done without the Council's permission and was unacceptable. No further works should be completed by residents. In addition, a letter to be sent all residents whose property borders the river to state that no further works should be completed by residents. The Clerk to draft the letters. This was proposed by Cllr Platts, seconded by Cllr Wellman and unanimously approved.  It was also agreed to complete the Management Plan and undertake a consultation exercise with all residents. Proposed by Cllr Brady, seconded by Cllr Platts and unanimously approved.  Tim Barter noted that he had contacted the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust to ask for their advice and help with the creation of the Management Plan.  There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.52 hours.