

**MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE,
ON MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2019 AT 8.47 P.M.**

Sub-Committee members present:

Councillor A Dunford (Chairman)
Councillors I Cameron, A Duveen, T Gilhome, J T Hannaby,
E L Johnson, J E Nunn-Price and C H Wills-Wright.

Others present: Fourteen members of the public.

Clerk: W P Falkenau.

The Chairman opened the meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Wills-Wright

SECONDED BY The Chairman

IT WAS RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded.

D. To sign the minutes of the Sub-committee meeting held on 9 September 2019

Page 2 – Proposition regarding the request to Sustainable Wantage to nominate a member for the sub-committee with appropriate knowledge and experience

The Clerk had proceeded to invite a member of Sustainable Wantage to be a member of the sub-committee. Councillor Wills-Wright advised that in seconding the proposition put forward by Councillor Nunn-Price she had not envisaged that whoever was nominated would automatically become a member of the sub-committee. Councillor Nunn-Price, who had made the proposition, advised that the action of the Clerk was in accordance with her expectation. On this basis members of the sub-committee accepted that the minutes of the meeting were accurate, but did not reflect their intention.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Duveen

SECONDED BY Councillor Hannaby

IT WAS MOVED that the proposition recorded in the minutes be set aside and substituted with the following: “IT WAS RESOLVED to ask Sustainable Wantage to put forward someone with appropriate experience for the sub-committee to consider as a member”. The proposition was approved five in favour, none against.

The meeting came out of confidential session and the members of the public joined the meeting.

A. Apologies for absence

An apology of absence was received from Councillor Walters.

B. To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests

None.

C. Statements and Questions from the Public

Mrs Maberley put forward the following question:

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“The minutes of the previous Climate Emergency meeting state “Although too late for the current iteration of the Neighbourhood Plan, there was the possibility of incorporating a requirement for sustainable house building when due for revision.” Why is it too late for the current iteration of the Neighbourhood Plan? The Plan has not been published in any form since January 2016 so why is it suddenly urgent? Surely it is more important to ensure it is correct than to publish a plan which doesn’t appear have any real policies in it?”

Mrs Maberley was advised that consideration would be given to her question and a response made in due course.

D. To sign the minutes of the Sub-committee meeting held on 9 September 2019 (continued)

The minutes were amended to add Councillor Wills-Wright as an attendee. The minutes, as amended, were approved and signed.

E. Matters arising from the Sub-committee meeting held on 9 September 2019

a) Engagement with Tim Sadler of Oxford City Council

Some information had been received from Mr Sadler. Councillor Hannaby agreed to follow up with Mr Sadler and other officers who are dealing with climate emergency matters. **Action: Hannaby**

b) Feedback on what is being done locally

There had been dialogue between Ms Norvell of Sustainable Wantage and Councillor Crawford. Ms Norvell was present as a member of the public. It was agreed that she should give a briefing on this towards the end of the meeting, if time was available.

c) Feedback on the creation and release of the press release

The Clerk had not had sight of a press release. He was to ask Councillor Crawford to provide a copy of this. **Action: Clerk**

The District Council had established its own climate emergency committee of which Councillor Duveen was the Vice Chairman. He agreed to provide feedback from its meetings and distribute to this sub-committee its minutes. It was hoped that this would assist in developing a list of suitably qualified people to provide briefings to the sub-committee. **Action: Duveen**

d) Infrastructure requirements

Councillor Johnson agreed to make enquiries concerning the provision of water dispensers.

Action: Johnson

The District Council was conducting a feasibility study regarding the provision of electric vehicle charging points. The County Council was looking at locations where charging points could be installed. Bus operators were being encouraged to introduce hybrid electric buses. The County Council and District Council were seeking to replace their own vehicles with electric ones. Biffa, the local waste collection contractor, was trialling electric vehicles in Manchester with a view to rolling these out elsewhere. Oxford City Council was seeking the introduction of electric taxis. All the principal authorities were seeking to encourage their suppliers to adopt climate friendly policies.

The members of the public were asked to submit any comments and views, for the sub-committee, to the Town Clerk.

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e) Arrangements for events

Lecture event at The Beacon

The Chairman and Councillor Wills-Wright agreed to organise this. It was suggested that Biffa could be involved. **Action: Dunford/Wills-Wright**

Spring event

It was agreed that this could be held on either the VC Forecourt or in the area between Barclays and King Alfred's Head. Councillor Johnson agreed to develop proposals concerning this. **Action: Johnson**

Café Scientifique

It was noted that Café Scientifique was organising a number of briefings that were related to climate change. It was agreed that support be given to publicising these. **Action: Clerk**

f) Planning – green options

The Clerk had emailed the District Council regarding the updating of its supplementary guidance. It was noted that the policies needed to be in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The Clerk was to distribute a copy of the NPPF to all councillors. **Action: Clerk**

F. To determine criteria for co-opting others to the Sub-committee

Membership of the sub-committee was to be open to members of the public who met criteria set by the sub-committee. It was agreed that as well as specifying criteria there was a need for a formal process to evaluate applicants. It was agreed that the Chairman and Councillor Duveen progress this. **Action: Chairman/Duveen**

It was noted that members of the public could give briefings and presentations to the sub-committee without necessarily becoming members of it. It was agreed that this should be an agenda item for a future meeting for the public to present ideas to the sub-committee. **Action: Chairman**

It was agreed that items H to J on the agenda be deferred to a future meeting and that a report be received from Ms Norvell.

G. Participation of Sustainable Wantage, The Mix and Youth Organisations

It was agreed that it was important to involve youth organisations in initiatives being pursued by the sub-committee. Ms Norvell gave a report on actions and activities being pursued by Sustainable Wantage. She advised that Sustainable Wantage would be interested in arranging the event to be held at The Beacon. She agreed to provide a copy of her report for distribution to the sub-committee members.

The meeting closed at 10 pm.

WPF/ME