

**MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE,
ON MONDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 8.35 P.M.**

Sub-Committee members present:

Councillor E Johnson (Chairman of meeting)
Councillors I Cameron, A Crawford, T Gilhome (part), J T Hannaby (part),
J E Nunn-Price and Dr C Walters.

Others present: One member of the public.

Clerk: W P Falkenau.

It was agreed that Councillor Johnson chair the meeting pending the election of a sub-committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

A. Apologies for absence

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor A Dunford.

B. To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests

None.

C. Statements and Questions from the Public

None.

D. Election of a sub-committee chairman and vice-chairman

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Crawford
SECONDED BY Councillor Cameron
IT WAS RESOLVED that Councillor Dunford be the sub-committee's Chairman.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Hannaby
SECONDED BY Councillor Crawford
IT WAS RESOLVED that Councillor Johnson be the sub-committee's Vice-Chairman.

In the absence of Councillor Dunford, as Chairman, Councillor Johnson continued as chairman of the meeting.

E. To consider arrangements for developing and refining the sub-committee's terms of reference which state "This Councilwill aim to ensure that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions, are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2030. We will work with and support local organisations and partners, through encouragement, sharing resources and provision of grants, whose aims are aligned with increasing sustainability and reducing the carbon footprint of local activities, amenities and businesses.", and determine how the aims should be pursued.

It was reported that Tim Sadler, an officer at Oxford City Council was taking a lead in climate change initiatives. It was agreed that it would be helpful to seek his advice on how the sub-committee should proceed and where grants might be available. It was felt that actions might be more effective if a consortium of councils worked together. It was noted that Oxfordshire County Council were also working in this area. There was a need to gather information from others and it was suggested that the Centre for Alternative Technology might be a suitable source.

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It was agreed that a press release should be issued to tell the town that a sub-committee had been set up and that the Town Council had set aside a budget of £10,000 to support initiatives dealing with climate change. It was suggested that it could be helpful to hold an event in the Market Place to inform the public and to encourage engagement. Other actions that might be considered were lobbying a change in building regulations, require that all new developments be carbon neutral, and the establishment of Wantage as a plastic free town. There was a need to ascertain what other councils were doing. It was noted that the Oxfordshire and National Associations of Local Councils could be a source for this information.

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.

In order to determine progress in the future there was a need for an assessment of the current state and measure progress made. Infrastructure improvements that might be considered were electric vehicle charging points around the town, water fountains to remove the purchase of bottled water. The improvement of air quality in the town centre was also something to be pursued. It was recognised that there were already organisations within the town who were pursuing initiatives to counter climate change. There was a need to ascertain what they were doing.

There was a need to consider activities that were being undertaken by other committees of the council to ensure they were environmentally friendly e.g. weed spraying.

Councillors Gilhome and Hannaby left the meeting.

From the above, it was agreed the following actions be pursued. Councillors Nunn-Price and Johnson to engage with Mr Sadler at Oxford City Council, **Action: Nunn-Price/Johnson**

Councillor Crawford to ascertain what is being done locally. **Action: Crawford**

Councillor Crawford and Wills-Wright to draft a press release. **Action: Crawford/Wills-Wright**

Councillors Dunford and Johnson to investigate the infrastructure requirement. **Action: Dunford/Johnson**

Councillors Dunford and Wills-Wright to contact Sustainable Wantage about an event day. **Action: Dunford/Wills-Wright**

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Nunn-Price
SECONDED BY Councillor Wills-Wright
IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to ask Sustainable Wantage to nominate a member for the sub-committee with appropriate knowledge and experience.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Johnson
SECONDED BY Councillor Cameron
IT WAS RESOLVED to ask Sustainable Wantage to provide an education event on the VC Forecourt.

The lobby to change building regulations was to be referred to the Planning Committee for it to pursue. **Action: Clerk**

F. To consider whether at this stage to co-opt others to the sub-committee

It was agreed to defer the co-option of others for the time being.

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G. Other business

An email had been received from Mrs Willemsen suggesting that the Town Council should seek to encourage the District Council, as Planning Authority, to adopt environmentally friendly policies for new developments. It was reported that this was a matter that could be included within the District Council's Supplementary Guidance to Developers and that the District Council was currently working on producing this. The Clerk was to advise Mrs Willemsen that her suggestion would be brought to the attention of those working on the Supplementary Guidance. **Action: Clerk**

H. Date of next meeting

The Chairman was not present at the meeting. It was agreed to defer the setting of a date, for her to arrange this. **Action: Dunford**

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

WPF/ME
