

**MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE,
ON MONDAY 6 JANUARY 2020 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Sub-Committee members present:

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

Others present: J Harvey, Mike Landy and three other members of Sustainable Wantage
One member of the public.

Clerk: W P Falkenau.

A. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T Gilhome and J Nunn-Price.

B. To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests

None. A number of councillors were members of Sustainable Wantage, but these were not pecuniary interests.

C. Statements and Questions from the Public

None.

K. To consider draft funding bids from Sustainable Wantage

The members of Sustainable Wantage gave briefings in support of the following donation requests:

Environmentally sustainable transport for the collection and distribution of resources from The Mix Community Space

The request was for £1,986 to purchase an electric bicycle, with trailer, to make deliveries and collections to and from The Mix premises.

It was suggested by the sub-committee that consideration be given to purchasing a second hand electric bicycle. The members of Sustainable Wantage accepted this.

Scoping report to identify barriers to achieving reduction in carbon emissions

The request was for £975.

Reuse and repair mapping and awareness raising

The request was for £900 to prepare a map identifying locations and opportunities for reuse and repair.

Map local biodiversity and create a nature recovery network

The request was for £6,000 to support and increase local biodiversity through the establishment of green corridors and regeneration/expansion of existing green spaces. To encourage and enable local residents to participate in the regeneration and maintenance of green spaces.

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It was noted that this proposed project covered Grove and other parishes, but that there was sufficient work involved to only focus on Wantage parish.

In discussion it was highlighted that the mapping software used needed to be compatible with software that was in general use. It was agreed to seek the advice of Councillor Sibbald concerning this.

Action: Clerk

It was agreed that projects that achieve carbon reduction should be given priority and that tree planting schemes should be pursued in support of this. There was a need to identify land where tree planting could take place and this could be investigated as part of the biodiversity project.

It was agreed that there was a need to consider the effect that climate change would have locally with regard to flooding, flash storms and droughts.

The representatives of Sustainable Wantage were thanked for their briefings.

D. To sign the minutes of the Sub-committee meeting held on 4 November 2019

The minutes were approved and signed.

E. Matters arising from the Sub-committee meeting held on 4 November 2019

a) Response to question regarding Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk had advised that specialist advice would be sought. An email dated 20 December 2019, from Mr Rios, Planning Policy Team Leader (Neighbourhood) at the District Council, was noted. He advised "There is scope for neighbourhood plans to have meaningful policies on climate change, policies that add real value. Perhaps one of the most proactive things a neighbourhood plan can do is identify sites for renewable energy projects."

The email was to be referred to the Planning Committee.

Action: Clerk

b) Engagement with Tim Sadler of Oxford City Council

Councillor Hannaby reported that dialogue with Mr Sadler, and others, was ongoing.

c) Feedback from District Council Climate Emergency Committee and request by district council officers to meet the sub-committee

It was reported that the District Council was seeking to prioritise projects. It was agreed that the district council officers be invited to the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

d) Infrastructure requirements

Thames Water were not willing to provide public water dispensers. An alternative was to install these in public buildings. The Clerk was to investigate whether a dispenser could be installed by the statue area in the Market Place.

Action: Clerk

Councillor Hannaby was to see if a dispenser could be installed at the Manor Road Memorial Park.

Action: Hannaby

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Councillor Johnson agreed to enquire whether Sainsbury's and Waitrose would provide water bottle refilling points. **Action: Johnson**

There was a scheme where those providing water refilling points advertised this with a window sticker.

Councillor Johnson also agreed to contact the District Council concerning installing electric car charging points in its car parks. **Action: Johnson**

e) Arrangements for events

The District Council was planning to arrange a number of events. There was a need to coordinate with these and avoid clashing. More thought needed to be given to the proposed Spring event. It was agreed that this be done by Councillors Dunford, Johnson, Duveen and Hannaby.

Action; Dunford, Johnson, Duveen and Hannaby

The next Café Scientifique event was to be held on 10 March.

f) Planning - green options – To consider responses from District Council Planning Department

An email from the District Council dated 18 November 2019 was noted. It advised that the Council was not currently preparing a Supplementary Planning Guidance in relation to climate change, however that position might change in the future.

g) Criteria for co-opting others to the Sub-committee

It was agreed that where the sub-committee had a gap in knowledge it should invite others to brief. If more involvement was required, the sub-committee should decide whether it wishes to co-opt.

It was noted that the sub-committee had not considered criteria for co-option. It was agreed that this be referred to the confidential item at the end of the meeting.

h) Participation of Sustainable Wantage, The Mix and Youth organisations – to consider note from Ms Norvell of Sustainable Wantage

The note that Ms Norvell had read from at the previous meeting had been distributed to all members.

F. To consider offer from Peter Gower of MacDermid to work with the sub-committee on initiatives to reduce carbon emissions

Mr Gower's offer was welcomed. It was agreed that the Chairman and Vice-chairman should engage with Mr Gower to progress this. **Action: Dunford/Johnson**

It was noted that there were websites that seek to facilitate car sharing. It was agreed that these should be promoted.

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G. To note withdrawal of request from Professor Hutchinson to be co-opted as a member of the Sub-committee

Consideration of a request from Professor Hutchinson to be a member of the sub-committee had been deferred from the last meeting. It was noted that Professor Hutchinson had decided to withdraw his request.

H. Action Plan and to consider what the Town Council can do itself to reduce its own carbon footprint

Members were to pass thoughts and ideas to the Chairman.

Action: All

There was a need to determine a base line from which progress could be measured. It was agreed that a working group be formed to address this.

Action; Chairman

I. Other Business

None.

J. Date of next meeting

13 February 2020 at 7.30 pm.

Confidential Item

ON THE PROPOSITION of 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.

K. To consider draft funding bids from Sustainable Wantage

The following were to be referred to the next Policy, Management and Finance Committee meeting.

Action: Clerk

Map local biodiversity and create a nature recovery network

It was resolved to recommend that a donation of £6,000, subject to the work being confined to Wantage parish and that the identification of land for tree planting be included. Payment of the donation was to be made by two instalments.

Scoping report to identify barriers to achieving reduction in carbon emissions

It was resolved to recommend that a donation of £975 be made. Publicity material should acknowledge the funding provided by the Town Council.

Reuse and repair mapping and awareness raising

It was resolved to recommend that a donation of £900 be made.

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Environmentally sustainable transport for the collection and distribution of resources from The Mix Community Space

It was resolved to recommend that a donation be made for the purchase of a second hand electric bicycle and trailer. The amount to be settled when suitable equipment identified, but lower than the £1,986 requested.

It was noted that the sub-committee was supporting these requests because Sustainable Wantage was well placed to take forward initiatives that addressed the climate emergency.

E g). Criteria for co-opting others to the Sub-committee (continued)

It was agreed that the following criteria should be adopted in determining whether someone should be co-opted to the sub-committee:

- Be a climate change believer
- Supports the aims of the sub-committee
- Able to provide expert input or represent constituents

It was noted that co-opted members would be required to complete a Register of Members' Interest Form.

IT WAS RESOLVED that Mike Landy of Sustainable Wantage be invited to be a sub-committee member, with Ms Norvell being a substitute if Mr Landy was unable to attend a meeting. **Action: Clerk**

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

WPF