

**MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE MUSEUM, CHURCH STREET, WANTAGE,
ON MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2020 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Sub-Committee members present:

Councillor A Dunford (Chairman)
Councillors A Crawford, A Duveen and C H Wills-Wright
M. Landy

Others present: Councillor Major J Sibbald
G. Wilkin – HARBUG
Two members of the public.

Clerk: W P Falkenau.

A. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors I Cameron, T Gilhome J T Hannaby, E L Johnson, J Nunn-Price and C Walters.

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.

D. To sign the minutes of the Sub-committee meeting held on 6 January 2020

The minutes were approved and signed.

E. Matters arising from the Sub-committee meeting held on 6 January 2020

a) Engagement with Tim Sadler of Oxford City Council

The advice of Mr Sadler would be sought, as and when needed.

b) Feedback from District Council Climate Emergency Committee

The District Council has included an amount of £100k in its budgets to progress projects relating to the Climate Emergency. The district council officers were not able to attend forthcoming meetings.

It was agreed that the Chairman and Councillors Crawford and Duveen should meet the officers in a separate meeting. **Action: Chairman, Crawford and Duveen**

It was noted that the District Council had arranged an event at Botley on 29 February.

c) Infrastructure requirements

It was reported that a number of outlets in the town centre already were participating in the scheme to allow the public to get water bottles refilled. Those participating display a sticker showing a water droplet. It was agreed that the Town Centre Manager be asked to promote the scheme. This promotion should make the need for a water fountain in the town centre unnecessary. **Action: Clerk**

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

Action: Hannaby

d) Arrangements for events

Deferred until later in the meeting.

e) Engagement with Peter Gower of MacDermid

The Chairman had spoken to Mr Gower and would involve him in future activities.

f) Initiatives for Town Council to reduce its own carbon footprint

It was agreed that in the first instance there was a need to determine the Council's current carbon footprint. Councillor Sibbald agreed to provide details of the method to be adopted for calculating the footprint and what should or should not be included.

Action: Sibbald

Mr Landy and Councillor Johnson agreed to undertake the calculation. **Action: Landy/Johnson**

Council committee chairmen were to be asked to advise on activities that were deemed to fall within the footprint. **Action: Clerk**

There was a need to consider what actions were being taken by other councils. **Action: All**

g) Update re Sustainable Wantage projects

The grant payment had been handed to Sustainable Wantage that evening.

d) Arrangements for events

An event was to be held to ascertain what the public wanted with regard to responding to the climate emergency. Speakers at the event could be Mark Bradfield regarding the Letcombe Brook and Peter Gower regarding actions being taken by MacDermid. This was to be held in the Ridgeway Room at The Beacon. The chairman was to liaise with the Town Mayor regarding the use of a free booking.

Action: Chairman

F. Action Plan – discuss ideas

There was a need to liaise with Councillor Grant, Chairman of the District Council's Climate Emergency Advisory Committee, about what the district council was doing.

Mr Wilkin and others commented on actions required to encourage more cycling:

- Engage with Councillor Suzanne Bartington, the county council's cycling champion
- Better signage to direct to the bridleway leading from Lark Hill
- Mr Wilkin agreed to provide details of other locations where access for cycles could be improved
- Provision of cycle training
- Improve connectivity for cyclists to Wantage town centre
- Promote locations for cycle parking
- Communications with cycling groups
- Develop cycle routes between Wantage and Grove and onward to a future Grove railway station
- Give regard to cycling needs in the new Local Plan

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- Cycle days only in town centre (need to investigate closure arrangements)
- Cycling bus to school

Other initiatives mentioned were:

- Drivers waiting outside schools to be discouraged from leaving their vehicle engines running – pupils to produce posters?
- District Council open space contracts were up for renewal – Manor Road Park and Humber Ditch to be managed differently? Mark Bradfield to provide advice.

E. d) Arrangements for Events (continued)

It was agreed that the event at The Beacon should proceed between Easter and the beginning of July. Other speakers at this event could be Mr Landy, Mr Wilkin and representatives of Biffa. There could be a speaker from the School Eco Council. The objectives of the event need to be thought through. There was a need to get feedback. There should be consultation on specific areas. There was a need for a vision for the future. Mr Landy agreed to forward ideas to the Clerk.

Action: Landy

I. Other Business

It was noted that there was a video online that gave guidance on carbon reduction.

The District Council's Waste Team will be visiting Wantage Market Place on 28 February between 11 am and 1 pm to meet the public to talk about littering.

J. Date of next meeting

23 March 2020 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

WPF