

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY SUB-COMMITTEE
OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ONLINE USING ZOOM,
ON MONDAY, 29 JUNE 2020 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Sub-Committee members present:

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

Others present: Councillor Major J Sibbald
G. Wilkin – HARBUG
P Gower - MacDermid
M Bradfield and M Norvell - Sustainable Wantage
Two members of the public.

Clerk: W P Falkenau.

A. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors I Cameron.

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, and discussion involving members of public on any points raised.

None.

D. To approve the minutes of the Sub-committee meeting held on 13 February 2020

The minutes were approved.

E. Matters arising from the Sub-committee meeting held on 13 February 2020

a) Feedback from District Council Climate Emergency Committee

County Councillor Hannaby reported on actions being taken by the County Council. Various proposals had been submitted to the County Council, involving clearing vegetation overhanging pathways, improving cycling routes, installing cycle racks and other initiatives to encourage cycling.

District Councillor Duveen reported on actions being taken by District Council. An assessment of the district's carbon footprint in 2017 had been undertaken and was to be referred to a meeting on the coming Wednesday. From this, actions to reduce the carbon footprint were to be considered.

b) Engagement with Peter Gower of MacDermid

Mr Gower reported on initiatives that had been taken by MacDermid since 1995 to reduce its energy use, Energy use had been equivalent to that used by the whole of Grove. This had required the installation of a lot of meters to measure power use and a cycle of continuous improvement to reduce consumption.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY SUB-COMMITTEE
OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ONLINE USING ZOOM,
ON MONDAY, 29 JUNE 2020 AT 7.30 P.M.

He would welcome initiatives by the Town Council to encourage employees to cycle to work rather than by car, and car sharing schemes for those that live more distant.

Mr Wilkin agreed to provide information to Mr Gower about how to set up a workplace cycle group.
Action: Wilkin

The website liftshare.com was mentioned as something Mr Gower might investigate.

The opportunity for MacDermid to source power from a local solar power company was raised. Councillor Crawford declared a pecuniary interest as a director of Westmill Solar. He agreed to provide Mr Gower with contact information.
Action: Crawford

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

Mr Landy and Councillor Johnson had agreed to undertake the calculation. They were to meet to determine how this should be done. Questions were to be referred to committee and sub-committee chairmen.
Action: Landy/Johnson

f) Action Plan

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Johnson
SECONDED by Councillor Wills-Wright
IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that Mr Landy and Councillor Johnson work together with others to produce a plan which the sub-committee could consider and determine priorities for carbon reduction.
Action: Landy/Johnson

d) Arrangements for events

Due to lockdown the event had not proceeded. It was agreed that a virtual event be arranged. The chairman agreed to prepare proposals to be referred to the next meeting.
Action: Dunford

e) Update re Sustainable Wantage projects

Ms Norvell gave a progress report.

- The electric cycle had been bought and a trailer was being constructed
- Barriers to carbon reduction - a draft survey had been prepared
- Reuse and repair mapping - could not proceed without face to face engagement
- Biodiversity mapping - focusing on online engagement

Mark Bradfield gave a report on activities he was pursuing.

F. Update re vegetation clearance by County Council of cycling routes

The County Council were cutting back overhanging vegetation from cycleways and footways as part of the government initiative to encourage cycling and walking following the pandemic. The public were to be encouraged to email the Clerk with any areas requiring attention.
Action: All

Requests could be referred to the local Ramblers Association who also conduct clearance works.

G. Review of information from Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)

The Chairman recommended members visit the BBOWT website where there was a list of ten excellent actions for local authorities. The Clerk was to add a link on the Town Council's website. **Action: Clerk**

H. Review of the presentation by Sustrans

The presentation was regarded as a success. A recording of the presentation was on the Sustrans website. Cyclists were more likely to spend locally than car users. There were a number of initiatives being promoted to encourage cycle use.

I. Review of comments for the neighbourhood plan

The Clerk advised that there were aspirations in the Neighbourhood Plan to achieve cycle route connectivity. The Council's Planning Committee should be giving regard to this when considering planning applications. The Clerk was to include a link to the Neighbourhood Plan on the Town Council's website. **Action: Clerk**

J. Update from Mr Wilkin of Harbug

Mr Wilkin reported that there had been a significant uptake in cycling during the pandemic lockdown. Initiatives mentioned earlier in the meeting were being pursued. The County Council had commenced consultation on the use of a second tranche of funding with a deadline of 28 August.

Mr Wilkin was seeking to establish a working group to pursue more cycling initiatives.

The County Council were reconstructing the cycle path from Lockinge to Harwell which will make it more direct and better quality. This left the section from Larkhill to Lockinge in an unsatisfactory condition. It was noted that this section was the responsibility of Sustrans. S106 contributions from Crab Hill could be available to improve this section.

K. Reducing the town's carbon footprint

Dealt with by actions above.

L. Other Business

The following items were to be carried forward to the next meeting:

- Vehicle charging points
- Water bottles and drinking points

M. Date of next meeting

7 September 2020 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

WPF