

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY SUB-COMMITTEE
OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ONLINE USING ZOOM,
ON MONDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2020 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Sub-Committee members present:

Councillor A Dunford (Chairman)
Councillors I R Cameron, J T Hannaby,
C H Wills-Wright and M. Landy

Others present:

Councillor Major J Sibbald
G. Wilkin – HARBUG
M Bradfield - Sustainable Wantage
Three members of the public.

Clerk:

W P Falkenau.

A. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Gilhome, E L Johnson 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, and discussion involving members of public

A statement was made by Extinction Rebellion Wantage Group encouraging the Town Council to consider the environment when planning the next budget, including considering increasing car parking charges, further pedestrianisation of the town and improving energy efficiency in council buildings. The Council were also encouraged to tell the truth about the severity of climate and ecological emergency, as per the demands of Extinction Rebellion. Suggestions for display boards, a museum exhibition on contribution to carbon emissions and biodiversity loss, were made, as well as encouragement to pass a resolution supporting climate emergency bill. The comments were noted and were to be discussed later in the meeting.

D. To approve the minutes of the Sub-committee meeting held on 7 September 2020

Mr Bradfield felt the minutes did not reflect the content of the information he had given at the last meeting. He had advised that he had carried out a lot of survey work over the spring and summer. The Clerk explained that the minutes were used to record decisions made during the meetings and not verbatim discussions. It was agreed that Mr Bradfield should send a report to the Clerk for inclusion with the distribution of the minutes.

Action: Bradfield

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Hannaby
SECONDED BY Councillor Wills-Wright
IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes be approved.

E. Matters arising from the Sub-committee meeting held on 7 September 2020

a) Feedback from District Council Climate Emergency Committee

Councillor Hannaby reported that the District Council were still working on the assessment of their carbon footprint and that she would follow up to ascertain how far along in the assessment they were, and what methodology was being used for the calculation.

Action: Hannaby

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b) Follow up re engagement with Peter Gower of MacDermid

Mr Wilkin reported that he had been in contact with Mr Gower and had provided him with the information needed to set up a workplace cycle group.

The Clerk reported that as liftshare.com was a commercial website, it would be inappropriate for the link to be included on the Town Council's website. It was also felt that in the current Covid situation the mixing of households should not be encouraged.

c) Updates re initiatives for Town Council to reduce its own carbon footprint

Mr Landy and Councillor Johnson had prepared a questionnaire regarding the Council's carbon footprint. This had been passed to the Clerk for completion. The Clerk said that he was half way through it and would send it to Councillor Johnson on completion. **Action: Clerk**

e) Update re Sustainable Wantage projects (item taken out of order)

Mike Landy reported that a carbon reduction survey had been drafted, tested by small groups and a final version produced, incorporating the feedback. An online version was available on the Sustainable Wantage website and will be launched on social media from November.

Mapping for the re-use and repair services was underway and progressing well. Fifty local businesses that facilitate re-use and repair had been identified and the businesses were being contacted regarding being a part of the re-use and repair map. The response has been positive so far. It was hoped that the final version of the map would be produced by early December.

Mark Bradfield commented that reports from the habitat surveys that took place over the summer were being produced. The overall conclusion of the reports was that most of the communal green space in Wantage was lacking biodiversity and had lots of potential for improvement. David Henwood a councillor for Cowley has been in discussions with Oxford City Council and the District Council to encourage better management of amenity grass in line with the plant life recommendations and it is recommended that Wantage Town Council seek to join in with these discussions as soon as possible.

The maintenance contracts for verges and open spaces was being taken in house by the District Council and more spaces were going to be left to grow, as long as they did not pose a highways safety issue. It was agreed that Mr Bradfield and Mr Landy work with the Chairman to insert a piece in the next newsletter explaining the change. **Action: Dunford**

Council Hannaby agreed to secure an invite for Mr Bradfield to the Grove Development Forum.

Action: Hannaby

g) Update from Mr Wilkin of HARBUG

Mr Wilkin reported that HARBUG has been invited to inspect the new route to Harwell campus. Cycling UK have been working with King Alfred's school to develop a school cycling policy. Cycling UK have also developed local leisure route cards. Traffic was also raised as an issue resulting in a reduction of the number of cyclists on the roads. The County Council has responsibility for producing a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). Mr Wilkin suggested establishing a working group to develop a strategy for Wantage to be input, in due course, to the County Council LCWIP. It was agreed that there should be further discussion about who should organise this. **Action: Dunford**

Both Councillor Hannaby and Mr Wilkin had progressed arrangements for the provision of a directional sign to be installed at the junction of Lark Hill with Charlton Road. Councillor Hannaby and Mr Wilkin were to liaise

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to avoid duplication.

Action: Hannaby/Wilkin

F. Other Business

Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme

The government initiative for energy efficiencies in public buildings was discussed. It was agreed that contact be made with the property manager at the District Council to discuss a potential application for funding for The Beacon.

Action: Clerk

E. Matters arising from the Sub-committee meeting held on 7 September 2020 (continued)

f) Update re Action Plan and

d) Update re Arrangements for events

The proposed action plan was considered. Some items in the plan had already been discussed earlier in the meeting.

The Clerk was to provide the Chairman with a map showing land owned by the Town Council with a view to looking at tree planting opportunities.

Action: Clerk

The Town Council was engaging with the District Council about taking responsibility for the Manor Road Memorial Park and the public toilets in the Portway car park. This would give the opportunity to pursue various environmentally friendly initiatives at the Park.

It was agreed to recommend that CIL funding be used to improve connectivity of cycle routes. It was agreed that maps be brought together identifying where improvements could be made.

Action: Clerk/Wilkin

The Youth Community Project was to be asked to create an education piece to be presented to schools in the area.

Action: Clerk

The County Council were working with District Councils to plan the installation of electric vehicle charging points across the county. The County Council was also working on the installation of LED street lights. Progress reports for both initiatives can be found here;

<https://twitter.com/OxfordshireCC/status/1317495586929532929>

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/energy-and-climate-change/what-you-can-do>

<https://twitter.com/OxfordshireCC/status/1317857978561777667>

An education piece regarding the use of herbicides and weed killers needed to be developed.

The newsletter could be used for informing the public.

A community litter picking event was also proposed and was to be discussed further.

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It was agreed that there was a need to prioritise actions in the plan. The chairman was to review and update the action plan. Some items had been dropped out from an earlier version of the plan. The chairman was to check this. The Clerk would then redistribute. **Action: Chairman/Clerk**

There was a need for clear messaging. It was suggested that some messages could be displayed by posters in empty shop windows.

F. Other Business (continued)

Civil Parking Enforcement

The District Councils were to consider a proposal from the County Council. If agreement could be achieved, an application would be made to the Department For Transport for the County Council to take over responsibility for parking enforcement from the police. It was currently forecast that this would be in place by November 2021.

G. Dates of future meetings

4 January, 15 February & 26 April 2021

The meeting closed at 9.32 pm.

KS/WPF
