

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY SUB-COMMITTEE
OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ONLINE USING ZOOM,
ON MONDAY, 26 APRIL 2021 AT 8.03 P.M.**

Sub-Committee members present:

Councillor A Dunford (Chairman)
Councillors I R Cameron, J T Hannaby (part), E L Johnson, C Walters and
C H Wills-Wright, and M. Landy and G Wilkin.

Others present: M Bradfield and J Harvey - Sustainable Wantage
One member of the public

Clerk: W P Falkenau

A. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Crawford and A Duveen.

Mr Wilkin was welcomed to this, his first meeting as a full member.

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

None.

D. To approve the minutes of the Sub-committee meeting held on 15 February 2021

The minutes were approved.

E. Matters arising from the Sub-committee meeting held on 15 February 2021

a) Feedback from District Council Climate Emergency Committee

The Chairman was to seek an update, particularly with regard to due diligence relating to the Solar Streets initiative. It was noted that on the website of the company that installs for the Solar Street initiative there were questions and answers pages that addressed concerns raised. The Chairman agreed to write to Councillor David Grant, chairman of the District Council's Climate Emergency Advisory Committee concerning this .

Action: Dunford

b) Update re initiatives for Town Council to reduce its own carbon footprint

It was reported that securing accreditation through an accrediting body would cost in excess of £10,000. The Council's own calculation of its carbon footprint had indicated an offset cost of just £35 per annum. It was agreed that the cost of accreditation could not be justified. The £35 was to be contributed to a carbon offset project. Details of the carbon footprint calculation were to be placed on the Council's website and the public invited to review the calculation.

Action: Johnson/Clerk

The Chairman and Councillor Wills-Wright agreed to assist Councillor Johnson in preparing the material for the website.

Action: Dunford/Wills-Wright

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The above calculation does not include the carbon footprint of contractors and other parties associated with the Council's activities. Councillor Johnson agreed to work with other councillors to identify and calculate their footprint. **Action: Johnson**

c) Update from Mr Wilkin of HARBUG

The first Active Travel Group meeting had been held in February. Mr Wilkin was working on the practicalities of producing a walking and cycling plan, which he hoped to present to the next meeting. **Action: Wilkin**

Remedial works on the greenway route between Wantage and Harwell were not to be completed until the autumn. There was dissatisfaction with the state of the new works and complaints had been referred to the County Council.

There had been engagement with the County Council about the crossing arrangements for the cycleway at the entrance to the new nursing home in Grove Road. It demonstrated the slowness by planning authorities to fully adopt new National Design Standards.

Regarding the Crab Hill development, advice was awaited from the County Council about the missing link of cycleway on the Reading Road and the provision of a new crossing on the A417 by the Lockinge junction, linking to the cycleway route to Harwell. The Crab Hill developers had produced a map of cycle routes but did not show any leading to the town centre. Addressing cycling routes into the town centre was likely to be one of the most important elements of the walking and cycling plan.

d) Update from Sustainable Wantage

First year of Wild Wantage had ended. Mr Bradfield reported on the outputs achieved. He was awaiting a response from the District Council about schemes proposed on land it owns or controls. The Clerk agreed to seek a response from the District Council. **Action: Clerk**

It was suggested that the open space that will be created in Grove Road between the junction to the new link road and the proposed new allotment site could be used as an area for tree planting. The Clerk and Mr Bradfield were to refer this to the land owners. **Action: Bradfield/Clerk**

The "Re-use and Repair Map" was due to be launched on 1 May. Businesses participating in and supporting the scheme will be displaying a window sticker. As well as printed maps there will be an online app.

Sustainable Wantage was seeking grant support of £2,500 for a second year of Wild Wantage and £7,500 to take forward actions supporting a reduction in carbon emissions. In order to enable the Wild Wantage project to proceed with minimum delay it was agreed that the grant request be referred to the Annual Council meeting on the following Monday. **Action: Clerk**

More information was required regarding the carbon reduction project. It was noted that Frome Town Council provided an example of what could be achieved.

e) Oxfordshire COP26 Climate Alliance (OCCA)

The Town Council had decided not to join the COP26 Alliance.

f) Solar Streets initiative

See item E a) above.

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g) Drivers leaving their engines running whilst parked in Wantage town centre

An article had been included in the recent newsletter. It was agreed to follow up with posters to be displayed at appropriate locations around the town. The Clerk was to refer this to the Town Project Coordinator.

Action: Clerk

h) Carbon Reduction Community Survey

The survey results had not yet been published on the Town Council's website.

Action: Clerk

i) Update re Action Plan and arrangements for events

The Action Plan had been presented to the Annual Town Electorate meeting. It was noted that this was a live document and subject to updating on a regular basis.

Action: Dunford

F. To consider declaring support for the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill

This had been discussed by councillors but no conclusion reached. It was noted that Oxfordshire County Council and South Oxfordshire and City District Councils had expressed support.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Cameron

SECONDED BY Councillor Walters

IT WAS RESOLVED to give support to the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill. The Chairman was to advise David Johnston MP of the sub-committee's support.

Action: Dunford

It was also agreed to ask the Vale of White Horse District Council to give its support.

Action: Dunford

Councillor Hannaby left the meeting.

G. Other Business

a) Events

It was agreed to invite representatives from the recycling centre at Ardley to give a Zoom presentation to councillors and the public at the beginning of a sub-committee meeting or a separate meeting. It was suggested that presentations by an officer of the District Council and Seacourt printers about waste recycling and carbon reduction experiences. Jo Harvey agreed to provide contact details.

Action: Harvey

b) Display of country of origin of produce and products sold at Wantage markets

It was suggested that traders be asked to display country of origination information. The Clerk was to ask the Town Centre Manager to engage with traders concerning this.

Action: Clerk

c) Town Council newsletters

The Clerk was to seek the printing of these on recycled paper and for this to be noted in the newsletter.

Action: Clerk

H. Dates of future meetings

28 June, 6 September and 18 October 2021

The meeting closed at 9.36 pm.