

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY SUB-COMMITTEE  
OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY  
ON MONDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2021 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Sub-Committee members present:

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

Others present:

Councillor David Grant, Chairman of the District Council's Climate Emergency  
Advisory Committee  
One member of the public (part)

Observing the meeting via Zoom: M. Landy and G Wilkin

Clerk: W P Falkenau

**A. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors I R Cameron, J T Hannaby, E L Johnson and C Walters. Mr Landy and Mr Wilkin were not able to attend the meeting in person.

**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 26 April 2021**

The minutes were approved and signed.

**E. Matters arising from the Sub-committee meeting held on 26 April 2021**

a) Feedback from District Council Climate Emergency Committee

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Grant to the meeting. He reported on actions pursued by the District Council over the past two years. It declared a climate emergency in 2019, just before the change of administration in May. An advisory committee was set up and a cabinet member allocated with specific responsibility. Targets were set in the Council's Corporate Plan with net zero by 2030 and a 75% reduction by 2025. Details of current district emissions have been published on the council's website. Government grant funding has been provided to decarbonise the Faringdon Leisure Centre. Funding for other schemes was being explored. The District Council was aiming to work with others in order to achieve a coordinated approach. The District Council has recently published its tree planting policy. This includes a procedure to allow third parties to plant trees on District Council owned land. An action plan to achieve the above targets was due to be published by the end of the year. The Local Plan and Design Guide were being updated and will aim to promote low/zero carbon development. More information was available on the minutes of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee minutes on the District Council's website.

Elizabeth Kingdom, the District Council's Climate Action Lead, had proposed a Teams meeting with representatives of the Town Council to share maps showing carbon emissions across the district and three main owns. The Clerk agreed to arrange this.

**Action: Clerk**

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

Payment to a carbon offset project, for the previous year, had not yet been paid. The Clerk was to seek details of the project from Councillor Johnson. **Action: Clerk**

The member of the public left the meeting.

Details of the carbon footprint calculation had not yet been placed on the Council's website. The public were to be invited to review the calculation. **Action: Johnson/Clerk**

Councillor Johnson had agreed to work with other councillors to identify and calculate the footprint of contractors and other parties associated with the Council's activities. This had not yet been progressed. **Action: Johnson**

c) Update from Mr Wilkin of HARBUG

The second Active Travel Working Group meeting was due to be held on Wednesday that week. This prospectively would be a recap of the first meeting held in February. Mr Wilkin hoped to hold monthly meetings in the future. The aim was still to produce a walking and cycling plan.

Remedial works on the greenway route between Wantage and Harwell had been completed.

Another missing cycleway link had been identified on the Crab Hill development at the western end connecting to the cycleway on the A338, Grove Road. This highlighted the need for the District Council to give more attention to route connectivity at the planning stage.

d) Update from Sustainable Wantage

The Clerk had received written reports from Sustainable Wantage prior to the meeting. He was to distribute these to members. **Action: Clerk**

Wild Wantage was progressing bulb and tree planting projects. The Mix had been continuing with its Repair Cafe and laptop rescue activities.

e) Solar Streets initiative

Sustainable Wantage had received mixed feedback on the initiative. It was felt there was a need for further investigation. The Chairman agreed to contact Didcot Town Council to ascertain its experiences. **Action: Dunford**

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

It had been agreed to display posters at appropriate locations around the town. The Clerk had not yet referred this to the Town Project Coordinator. **Action: Clerk**

g) Support for the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill

The Council's support for the Bill had been noted.

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h) Events

It was hoped to hold an event in association with Sustainable Wantage. This had not been practical prior to the re-opening of The Beacon in September. An electric vehicle event in the Manor Road Memorial Park was being planned for next summer. There was a need to consider whether expand this event or hold a separate event. The Chairman was discuss with others. **Action: Dunford**

The proposals 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, and the suggestion that presentations by an officer of the District Council and Seacourt printers about waste recycling and carbon reduction experiences, had not yet been progressed. **Action: Dunford**

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

The Town Centre Manager had mentioned this to some traders but had received a non-committal response.

j) Town Council newsletters

An article promoting the Action Plan and the tree planting initiatives were to be included in the next publication. **Action: Dunford**

**F. Review of progress on Action Plan**

The Plan had been published on the Town Council's website with a link from Facebook. There had already been some public feedback. It was agreed that comments and feedback be referred to the next meeting with a view to determining whether changes were required. **Action: Dunford/Clerk**

Given the District Council's new tree planting procedure, it was agreed to ask Mark Bradfield to complete the application form to request permission to proceed with the planting scheme at the Manor Road Memorial Park. The Clerk agreed to refer this to his deputy. **Action: Clerk**

**G. Other Business**

a) Estimates 2022/23

Committee members were invited to consider items to be included on the estimates for next year. **Action: All**

Sustainable Wantage had indicated a requirement for funding to take forward actions supporting a reduction in carbon emissions. A formal request had not been made. They were to be invited to make an application for referral to the next Policy, Management and Finance Committee meeting. **Action: Clerk**

**H. Dates of future meetings**

10 January, 21 February and 11 April 2022.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

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