

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY SUB-COMMITTEE
OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY
ON MONDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2022 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Sub-Committee members present: Councillor A Dunford (Chairman)
Councillors A Crawford, J T Hannaby, E L Johnson and C Walters,
and G Wilkin

Others present: R Smith – Sustainable Wantage

Clerk: W P Falkenau

A. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C H Wills-Wright.

**B. To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, other registrable interests and non-
registerable interests**

None.

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 27 June 2022

The minutes were approved and signed.

E. Matters arising from the Sub-committee meeting held on 27 June 2022

a) Feedback from District Council Climate Emergency Committee

The Clerk had failed to invite District Councillor Povolotsky to this meeting. He was to invite her to a future meeting. **Action: Clerk**

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

Councillor Johnson had issued an update. It had yet to be reviewed by others. **Action: All**

c) Update from Mr Wilkin of HARBUG

The Active Travel Group were continuing to work on schemes to provide signposted routes to and from the town centre. Mr Wilkin agreed to pass details to County Councillor Hannaby for her to follow up with County Council officers. **Action: Wilkin/Hannaby**

Mr Wilkin expressed concern about the suitability of the link from the Kingsgrove development to the Wantage to Harwell cycle route. Work by the County Council on widening the cycle route from Lark Hill was progressing.

The next Group meeting was to be held on 17 November. An Oxford Active Travel meeting was being held on 7 November.

d) Update from Sustainable Wantage

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Mrs Smith asked for clarification on the location of land in Wallingford Street that Sustainable Wantage had been asked to plant up. She was advised that the land was adjacent to the steps leading to Haywards Close and was the responsibility of the District Council. It was agreed to seek permission from the District Council to plant up the land. **Action: Clerk**

Mrs Smith agreed to go back to Sustainable Wantage regarding it planting it. **Action: Smith**

Mrs Smith reported on the activities of Sustainable Wantage with regard to the community larder, draught busters, bicycle refurbishments, library of things and hedging at Manor Road Park.

The project to plant trees at the Manor Road Park needed to be progressed. There were still issues regarding what trees the District Council would approve to plant. Mrs Smith agreed to ask Mr Bradfield to liaise with Councillor Crawford concerning this. **Action: Smith**

A budget of £5,500 had previously been requested for the planting. It was agreed that there was a need to urgently progress this.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Johnson
SECONDED BY Councillor Dunford

IT WAS RESOLVED to set a budget of £5,500 for the Manor Road Park planting scheme and that this be referred to the Council meeting on the following Monday for approval. **Action: Clerk**

There was a discussion about providing ongoing funding to Sustainable Wantage. Mrs Smith agreed to seek the provision of more information regarding Sustainable Wantage funding needs. **Action: Smith**

Consideration was being given on producing a leaflet that provided tips on saving energy/money.

e) Events

The electric vehicle event had been postponed again. This was also being progressed by the Promotion, Communication and Events Committee and so it was agreed to remove it from the agenda of this sub-committee. **Action: Clerk**

f) Queen's Platinum Jubilee Tree Canopy project

An item had been placed in the newsletter.

g) District Council grant scheme

The grant scheme had re-opened. The deadline for applications was 25 November. The Clerk was to submit an application relating to the Manor Road Park Scheme and the Market Place tree planting. **Action: Clerk**

h) Air pollution in town centre

The Clerk had not yet sought information concerning this. **Action: Clerk**

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F. Review of progress on Action Plan and prioritization

The Action Plan was considered and updates noted. The District Council had changed to a 'green' electricity supply.

The Chairman was to amend the Action Plan with the updates and re-issue.

Action: Dunford

G. Estimates 2023/24

Only £198 had been spent from the current year budget of £20,000. Although it had been envisaged that some of the budget would be used for Sustainable Wantage projects it had been expected that others would apply for funding. This had probably not occurred because the funding had not been advertised. The Chairman agreed to put an article in the next newsletter, promoting the availability of the funds..

Action: Dunford

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Dunford
SECONDED BY Councillor Crawford
IT WAS RESOLVED to set a budget of £20,000 for 2023/24

H. Other Business

None.

I. Dates of future meetings

9 January and 20 February 2023.

The meeting closed at 9.11 pm.
