

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY SUB- COMMITTEE OF  
WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE  
ON THURSDAY, 8 JUNE 2023, AT 7.30 PM**

Committee members present: Councillors V Wright (Chairman),  
Councillors A Dunford, E L Johnson and P Kirby-Harris

Others present: J Harvey – Sustainable Wantage,  
J Tranter – Wantage and Grove Active Travel Group  
G Wilkin – Wantage and Grove Active Travel Group

Deputy Clerk: S Sanders

**A. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor K Morris

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

None.

**C. Statements and questions from the public, discussion involving member of the public.**

None.

**D. To approve the minutes of the sub-committee meeting held on 20 February 2023**

The minutes were approved and signed.

**E. Matters arising from the sub-committee meeting held on 20 February 2023**

a) Feedback from District Council Climate Emergency Committee

District Councillor Povolotsky was not present to give an update.

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

The information of the Council's carbon footprint was not yet available on the Council's website. There was no update about the payment to the carbon offset scheme for the year 2021/2022

**Action Clerk**

c) Update from Wantage and Grove Active Travel Group

The group were trying to raise awareness and had exhibited at the recent carnival held in Wantage. There was also a Facebook page.

The proposal for the signposting of walking/cycling routes was being refined. The routes were being checked for distance and travel time.

d) Update from Sustainable Wantage

The tree planting project planned for Wantage Memorial Park had not progressed because a solution to the delivery of water had not yet been found. It was agreed that Councillor Johnson and Councillor Kirby- Harris would make a site visit to see if it was feasible to use a hosepipe from a water source at the bottom of the park, to a water storage container near the site for the planned planting.

**Action: Johnson/Kirby-Harris**

It was noted that there were apple trees on the highway verge near Top Lock Meadow (Denchworth Road). It was requested that ownership of the land be confirmed with a view to

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incorporating this into the meadow.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

e) Events

It was suggested that a ‘Sustainability Show Case’ event should be added to the next meeting of the PC&E committee.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

f) Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Tree Canopy project

There had been no correspondence received advising of any tree planting projects in Wantage.

It was suggested that students from King Alfred’s Academy could get involved with tree planting projects as part of the extra-curricular enrichment programme, if suitable land for planting was found. It was noted that there were other groups that could possibly get involved such as Sweatbox and the National Citizen Service Programme.

A response had been received to the letter regarding the sewage in river water. Councillor Dunford was to draft a response to the letter and circulate it to members of the Council and Mark Bradfield (Letcombe Brook Officer) for comment and approval prior to being sent.

**Action: Dunford**

The letter concerning sustainable building projects was to be drafted by the chairman and circulated to members of the Council for comment and approval prior to being sent.

**Action: Chairman**

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

It was agreed that the climate action plan should be circulated to members of the committee and that a working group should meet to update the plan.

**Action: Chairman**

**G. Other business**

Reference was made to King Alfred’s Academy’s elective programme and the suggestion for councillors to speak at one of the groups about how students could reduce their carbon footprint.

It was agreed that the neighbourhood plan should include sustainability but there was lack of evidence to support this inclusion. It was agreed that once the plan had been approved and adopted, evidence could be built up to support an amendment later.

**H. Dates of future meetings**

13 July, 11 September, 23 October 2023, 8 January and 19 February 2024.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

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