

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY SUB- COMMITTEE OF
WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE
ON THURSDAY, 13 JULY 2023, AT 7.30 PM**

Committee members present: Councillors V Wright (Chair),
Councillors A Dunford (part), P Kirby-Harris and K Morris.

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

Clerk: W P Falkenau

A. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors E L Johnson and C Walters

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 8 June 2023

The minutes were approved.

E. Matters arising from the sub-committee meeting held on 8 June 2023

a) 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. The Clerk was to ask Councillor Johnson to provide details. Payment to the carbon offset scheme for the year 2021/2022 had not yet been made. **Action Clerk**

b) Update from Wantage and Grove Active Travel Group

The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan awaited the appointment of a consultant by the County Council The signposting proposal was being revised.

Councillor Dunford arrived.

d) Events (item taken out of order)

It was agreed to hold an event in The Beacon on Sunday 20 April to coincide with Earth Day on the Monday.

J Harvey arrived.

The Chair was to prepare an event plan and engage with potential participants.

Action: Chair

c) Update from Sustainable Wantage

There was to be a bike fixing stall in the western end of the Market Place on 29 July. A grant application was being made to the District Council to fund a survey.

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e) Tree planting

Wantage Tennis Club had agreed to provide water to fill a bowser at the Manor Road Memorial Park. This should enable the tree planting scheme to proceed. J Harvey was to confirm watering arrangements with volunteers. **Action: Harvey**

Planting schemes at the Stockham Park and Naldertown allotment sites were to be considered. The Chair was to work with others to develop proposals. **Action: Chair**

f) Letters to David Johnston MP regarding sewage in river water and sustainable building projects

The Chair had not yet prepared a draft a response to Mr Johnston's letter. **Action: Chair**

Councillor Dunford had not yet drafted the letter concerning sustainable building projects. **Action: Dunford**

F. Review of progress on Action Plan and prioritisation

A working group had met and the plan updated by the Chair. She asked for it to be reviewed by members and changes confirmed. **Action: All**

The Chair was to convene another working group meeting to complete the work on the action plan and assign responsibilities. **Action: Chair**

G. Other business

a) Active Travel Survey. Reference to the survey was to be included in the next Town Council newsletter. The Clerk was to refer to Mr Mitchell. **Action: Clerk**

b) Climate Emergency Plan. Councillor Morris had discovered documents on the internet which he felt were relevant to the Council. He agreed to pass a website link to the Clerk and members. **Action: Morris**

H. Dates of future meetings

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

The meeting closed at 8.17 pm.
