

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY SUB- COMMITTEE OF
WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE
ON MONDAY 23 OCTOBER 2023 AT 7.30 PM**

Committee members present: Councillor V Wright (Chair)
Councillors P Kirby-Harris, K Morris and C Walters

Other councillors present: Councillor A Crawford

Others present: R Smith – Sustainable Wantage
G Wilkin – Wantage and Grove Active Travel Group

Deputy Clerk: S Sanders

A. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors A Dunford and E L Johnson

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

None.

C. Statements and questions from the public

None.

D. To approve the minutes of the sub-committee meeting held on 11 September 2023

The minutes were approved and signed.

E. Matters arising from the sub-committee meeting held on 11 September 2023

a) Update regarding initiatives for Town Council to reduce its own carbon footprint

There was nothing to report. It was agreed that this item should be removed from the agenda.

Action: Deputy Clerk

b) Update from Wantage and Grove Active Travel Group

The proposal for the signposting of walking/cycling routes was still work in progress and not yet ready to be presented.

There had recently been a reorganisation at Oxfordshire County Council. There was a new officer responsible for active travel matters, but there had been no communication from the officer to date.

Councillor Crawford was to seek clarification from the District Council about whether the new S106 agreement for Crab Hill replaces or is in addition to the existing agreement.

Action: Crawford

The travel survey had received over 300 responses, but they had not yet been analysed.

c) Update from Sustainable Wantage

The orders had been submitted to suppliers for the trees and tree guards for planting at Manor Road Memorial Park. The proforma invoices had not yet been received by Wantage Town Council. Volunteers were being sought for the tree planting.

A climate action fund had been approved for Sustainable Wantage from the District Council.

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d) Earth Day event 20 April 2024

The Deputy Clerk was to find out if there were any additional rooms available at the Beacon.

Action: Deputy Clerk

Councillors Crawford, Kirby-Harris, Walters, Wright and Mr Wilkin agreed to be members of the working group. A letter had been drafted and was to be sent to all local businesses asking if they would like to be involved in the event, which would hopefully extend to various locations around the town.

Action: Town Centre Manager

Consideration was given to merging the event with an event being considered by the PC&E committee for 21 April 2024 (St George's Day event) but it was agreed that the focus and goals of the Earth Day event would not merge well.

It was noted that there was a team from the District Council who could offer advice to businesses about making savings on fuel. Councillor Crawford was to contact the appropriate person with a view to offering a stall at the event.

Action: Crawford

It was also noted that there was planned work for improvements to the Portway Car Park during the Easter period. Councillor Crawford was to find out if the date had been confirmed.

Action Crawford

e) Tree planting

It was agreed that the tree planting suggestions for the allotment sites should be dealt with by the Leisure and Amenities committee.

Action: Hannaby

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

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

Action: Chair

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

Action: Dunford

g) Active travel survey

The survey had closed. Over 300 responses had been received but had not yet been analysed.

h) Emergency planning

Councillor Morris was to re-send the document as it had not been received by some members.

Action: Morris

F. Review of progress on Action Plan and prioritisation

The plan was still work in progress.

Action: Chair

G. Other business

It was noted that there had been no recent data received from the diffusion tube near the Bell PH. The Deputy Clerk was to ask the District Council's Environmental Health Officer for the data.

Action: Deputy Clerk

H. Dates of future meetings

8 January and 19 February 2024.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm
