

Minutes of the Climate Emergency Committee held on Thursday 11th February 2021 at 10.00 am by Zoom

Present: Cllrs Hames (Chairman), Chalmers, Mrs Hodson (until minute no 2102/1127) Newman-McKie and Shelley
Co-opted member – Ms A Hill and Mr T Weirsmas
In attendance: Mrs M J Mills – Town Clerk and Mrs P Moores – Assistant Town Clerk
Cllrs Mrs McCarthy (from minute no 2102/1132) and Tisdale

- 2102/1119 Apologies**
There were no apologies.
- 2102/1120 Chairman's announcements**
There were no Chairman's announcements.
- 2102/1121 Declarations of interest**
Members were reminded that all interests should be declared prior to the item being discussed.
- 2102/1122 To agree the agenda as published**
It was **resolved** to agree the agenda as published after bringing forward item 9 to follow Public Participation.
Proposed: Cllr Hames, Seconded: Cllr Shelley (all in favour)
- 2102/1123 To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held 14th January 2021**
It was **resolved** to confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held 14th January 2021 as a correct record. They will be signed at a later date.
Proposed: Cllr Shelley, Seconded: Cllr Hames (majority in favour, 2 abstentions, Members not present at the meeting).
- 2102/1124 To consider Action Points**
It was **agreed** to note the action points.
- 2102/1125 Public Participation**
Members of the public are permitted to make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business included in the agenda. Each member of the public is entitled to speak once only in respect of business itemised on the agenda and shall not speak for more than 3 minutes. The period of time which is designated for public participation in accordance with standing orders shall not exceed 15 minutes.
No members of the public were present.
- 2102/1126 To consider Community Energy**
Members were advised that in view of the huge task involved in community energy we do not currently have the capacity to engage with this. It is therefore suggested that we focus on other current achievable projects. It was further suggested that we continue to explore ground and other heat pumps and endeavour to invite someone to talk about these. It was suggested that we contact Energy 361 and the Chairman will also invite a member of the public who has recently had alternative heating installed to speak about their experiences.
Cllr Mrs Hodson gave her apologies and left the meeting at this juncture.
Action Point – Contact Energy 361 and invite to a future meeting and Chairman to invite the member of the public to a future meeting.

- 2102/1127 To consider an update on the Kenwith Valley and other cycle routes**
 Members were advised that a motion was agreed at Full Council that Northam Town Council would take the lead on progressing Chircombe Lane to be re-designated as a bridleway. Cllr Hames will draft a letter to be circulated to local residents which should describe clearly the benefits from proceeding with this and explaining that where re-surfacing is required there will be no costs to local residents. Members were advised that local MPs are in support of extending cycle routes and it was agreed that the Chairman would draft a letter to the MP for Torridge asking him to confirm his support and await his confirmation of this so that his support could be referred to when the letters are sent to Chircombe Lane residents.
- Members were advised that letters have been sent to relevant landowners with regard to the Kenwith Cycle route and the Mayor has recently had discussions with the Mayor of Bideford and their Town Council is happy to support this route. A question was raised as to how far advanced opening the route to Kenwith Castle, as an initial project, has progressed and information has also been received with regard to a cycleway from the middle of Westward Ho! to Sandymere Road. The Chairman will circulate this information for the next meeting.
- Action Point – Draft letter to be prepared by the Chairman and information to be circulated by the Chairman regarding the Westward Ho! to Sandymere Road route.**
- 2102/1128 To discuss Climate matters with a representative from the National Trust (subject to their attendance)**
 The representative from the National Trust sent their apologies for this meeting but asked to be given a date of a future meeting when they hoped to attend.
- Action Point – Advise National Trust representative of the next meeting date.**
- 2102/1129 To consider exploring the possibility of extending the allotment provision (this item subject to response from National Trust)**
 The National Trust representative advised that they had no land available for allotment provision.
- 2102/1130 To consider Projects**
 Members were advised that the bike rack and recycling bins projects had been approved at Full Council. A minimum of three quotes for each item will be sought and brought to the next meeting. Members were advised that the Town Hall is on the list of Torridge District Council's capital plan for improvement with regard to insulation and carbon reduction.
- Action Point – Town Clerk to obtain three quotes for each project and place on next agenda.**
- 2102/1131 To consider a Sustainable Procurement Policy**
 Members were asked if they had read the Torridge District Council policy that had been circulated. It was felt that a simpler version should be produced for Northam Town Council. The Chairman will prepare this and circulate for inclusion on the next meeting.
- Action Point – Cllr Hames to prepare policy and circulate for inclusion in the next meeting.**

- 2102/1132 To consider biodiversity at Anchor Park**
 Concerns were expressed with regard to dog mess if areas of the park are left uncut. A number of suggestions were put forward which will be referred to Town Projects in relation to dog mess issues. It was further suggested that perhaps there could be fenced off areas within the parks where small wildflower meadows could be created. The Chairman will identify areas and bring them to the next meeting.
 Cllr Mrs McCarthy advised that as the plan of Westward Ho! park is being created she will investigate the inclusion of a wildflower area and the positioning of bike racks.
Action Points – Chairman to identify wildflower meadow areas and Cllr Mrs McCarthy to supply information for the next meeting regarding Westward Ho! Park.
- 2102/1133 To recommend to Full Council that it resolves to support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill and write to the MP for Torridge asking him to vote for the Bill in Parliament**
 It was **resolved** to recommend the above proposal to Full Council.
 Proposed: Cllr Shelley, Seconded: Cllr Hames (all in favour)
Action Point – Place on the next Full Council agenda.
- 2102/1134 Northam Sustainability App – To consider the scope and content of the app to be shared with Petroc College in order to engage the input of student groups**
 Members were advised that there had been a recent meeting with Petroc College. This is an exciting project which will provide an online resource with lots of advice in relation to the climate emergency.
 It was **resolved** to put forward an outline plan regarding the Northam Sustainability App as prepared and circulated, to Petroc College to enable them to progress this with the students and staff as discussed.
 Proposed: Cllr Chalmers, Seconded: Cllr Shelley (all in favour)
Action Point – Outline plan to be forwarded to Petroc College. Members were invited to advise Ms Hill with any comments.
 Ms Hill was thanked for her efforts so far.
- The Chairman requested that there is a Life on the Verge agenda item for the next meeting.
Action Point – Agenda item Life on the Verge for the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.00 noon.

Signed..... Date.....