

ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a VIRTUAL meeting (GoToMeeting ID: 183-814-213) of the CLIMATE ACTION SUB COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held on Thursday 25 June 2020 at 11.00am.

PRESENT Cllr Rose Allwork Karen Hunt
Ian Bark Dave Rickard
Kelvin Clayton

ALSO PRESENT: Will Austin (Town Clerk), David Dixon (Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer)

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: that Cllr Rose Allwork be elected as Chairman of the Sub Committee.

2. APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the notes of the meeting of the committee held on 13 February 2020 be agreed, signed by the Chairman at the earliest practicable opportunity.

5. CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

The Project Manager updated members on current activity in relation to:

- Mountfield Biomass Boiler. Following a discussion at the Climate Action Task & Finish Group, this was not now being pursued. Instead, investigations were ongoing into a solar array. Sites at Flaxhayes, North Mills Industrial Estate would be the subject of a feasibility study. Solar canopies were also being considered for Town Council car parks, and a supplier was due to visit on 30 June. Other car parks could be considered but the priority was to look at sites under Town Council ownership or control.
- Tree Planting. Planting had taken place at Riverside Gardens, and management plans had been prepared for Jellyfields and Bothenhampton Nature Reserve. Maps for a tree plan had been drafted, with priority based on a combination of

air quality, flood alleviation and ecology impacts. Local groups were assisting and the plan was due for completion by August.

- Food Security. Alan Heeks and others had been researching and had a set of actions to pursue.
- Raise the Roof. Vearse Farm was being considered for this project, and a proposal had been received from Assemble.
- Access & Movement Study. Discussions had taken place with Dorset Council and a brief had been prepared. There was a need to decide how to proceed.

Members discussed:

- Welcome progress with the projects outlined.
- The need to engage on employment and economy in the context of COVID-19, and to stimulate employment through the action plan.
- The opportunities for use of Vearse Farm for the Raise the Roof project. Although space was available, there was little provision in the S106 agreement and progress would be dependent on the developer. RIBA were noted as being interested in working with Raise the Roof.

RESOLVED: that the report of the Project Manager be noted.

6. CUTTING EMISSIONS DIRECTLY

The Chair noted that this item had in part been discussed under the previous agenda item, and invited members to comment in more detail on the development of solar generation capacity, and the pros and cons of solar canopies and ground mounted solar arrays.

The Project Manager advised that the return on investment was longer for canopies than for ground mounted.

Members discussed:

- Whether supermarkets could be engaged in the idea of solar canopies in their car parks.
- Reservations about the use of green space for ground mounting unless dual use could be achieved.
- Allocation of brownfield sites as a priority.

RESOLVED: that the report of the Project Manager be noted, and that a further report be provided at the next meeting.

7. MAKING THINGS HAPPEN INTERNALLY

The Project Manager reported that there was a need for a dedicated resource in the Council's Outdoor Team to ensure that climate-related commitments were met. The Town Clerk advised that members should also consider the capacity required for administration, community engagement, and technical support aspects of the Action Plan.

Members considered these issues and

RESOLVED: that a dedicated resource in the Outdoor Team be pursued and that the Town Clerk and Leader should meet to consider other capacity requirements.

8. BUILDING COMMUNITY LINKS

The Chair introduced a discussion to establish which groups should be engaged in the delivery of the Action Plan, and how.

The Project Manager advised that the Food Group, Alan Heeks and others had aimed to have a dedicated local food presence at the Food Festival. He further reminded members of three engagement themes identified in the Action Plan, which were Food, Housing and Transport.

Members considered the following:

- That Food Security and Food Poverty should be the first theme pursued.
- That the following be considered for engagement: Land Workers Alliance, Bridport Food Group, Friends of the Earth, landowners, the NFU, the CLA, Symondsburry Estate, Food Bank, Incredible Edible, Robert Golden, Amanda Streatfeild's group, Washingpool Farm.
- That this work should include community reflections on COVID-19 as a means of engagement.

RESOLVED: that the list of groups considered be narrowed to fit with the Action Plan, and that such groups be invited for an informal discussion at the July or August 2020 meeting of the sub committee.

9. POST-COVID-19 TRANSPORT

RESOLVED: that this item be deferred.

10. BUDGET

The Town Clerk reported that the Town Council Five Year Plan was to be reviewed in light of the COVID-19 crisis to prioritise actions in line with the crisis, and with available funding.

RESOLVED: that the report of the Town Clerk be noted.

11. COMMUNICATIONS AND UPDATES ON OTHER ISSUES

Cllr Clayton reported that Dorset Council had committed to the production of a draft Climate Emergency Action Plan. This would be tabled for consideration at the next meeting if available.

12. DATE OF NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS

The next Sub Committee meeting will take place on Thursday 30 July at 11am.

The meeting closed at 12.57pm.