

HEBDEN ROYD TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting of the CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
Held WEDNESDAY 28TH JUNE 2023

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillors: Fenton, Harvey, Hayes, Howes, Morse & Needham

Co-opted Members: N Diment,

Officers: R Lightbird

HRTC Deputy Clerk: E Green

70. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE 2023/24

It was Moved by Cllr Needham

Seconded by Cllr Howes

RESOLVED: That Cllr Harvey be Chair of the Climate Emergency & Environment Committee for 2023/24.

It was moved by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by Cllr Needham and

RESOLVED: That Cllr Morse be Deputy Chair of the Climate Emergency & Environment Committee 2023/24.

Cllr Fenton Abstained from the vote. The reason for the abstention was that she disapproved of the method of nomination of the Deputy Chair

71. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANY SUBSTITUTIONS.

Apologies were received from Cllr Bampton Smith.

72. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS' INTERESTS RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS FOR THIS MEETING.

No interests were declared.

73. CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Membership of non-councillors was considered.

It was moved by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by Cllr Fenton

RESOLVED: that Neil Diment be co-opted to the committee and that Anthony Rae should also be invited.

- 74. FORMATION OF THE NEW CLIMATE EMERGENCY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**
A brief overview of the reasons for the joining of the two committees was given and discussion had about the allocation of projects.
It was Moved by Cllr Harvey
Seconded by Cllr Needham
RESOLVED: That the clerk should divide the tasks of the Environment & Allotments budget based on the basis of the natural environment and short term public realm projects. This should be presented for approval at the next meeting of this committee.
- 75. MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 3RD APRIL 2023 and ENVIRONMENT & ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE HELD 12TH APRIL 2023 NOT ITEMISED ON THIS AGENDA.**
There were no matters arising from either set of minutes.
- 76. BUDGET UPDATE**
The budget available for the work of this committee was outlined.
- a. Climate Emergency Budget
An overview of the budget was given with just over £20k left in the budget.
It was Moved by Cllr Harvey
Seconded by Cllr Howes
RESOLVED: to note the information.
- b. Environment & Allotments Budget
It was Moved by Cllr Needham
Seconded by Cllr Harvey
RESOLVED: That the budget should be split in accordance with the appropriate project outlined above and brought to the next meeting of this committee for approval.
- 77. EVENT FEEDBACK & UPDATE**
Feedback, updates and any associated budget requests were discussed for the following events.
- a. High Hirst Celebration and the opening of the access path. There was a focus on the new interpretation boards and signage. Children from Riverside Junior School also attended following the inclusion of their artwork on the panels.
It was Moved by Harvey
Seconded by Fenton
RESOLVED: To thank N Diment for the hard work on the interpretation boards and signage.
- b. Climate Café & including a proposal from Cllr Howes
Seven schools attended with 75 Children. All schools gave presentations excellent opportunity to share information and inspire each other. Five

workshops linked to the Climate Action Plan. Northern Rail provided free rail travel for the schools in Mytholmroyd.

Cllr Howes presented an idea of a schools action group for Hebden Royd where schools are invited termly or half termly to share ideas.

It was Moved by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by Cllr Fenton

RESOLVED: That the Climate Emergency Officer shall work up a proposal based on a once termly meeting, with a budget of up to £500 for the initial meeting. This will be approved by the chair to enable progress on this project to be made before the next meeting.

c. Green New Deal Stall

Brought retrofitted dolls house to the climate café. Generated lots of interest in energy efficiency event

d. Meadows Day

Will run on Saturday 1st July, with eight different events and workshops with a range of activities and people being involved. Partnership with

Dodnaze Community Centre, who are providing a workshop and refreshments.

e. Haymaking Event – Budget Request

A quote was brought forward for N Diment to provide a ‘Haymaking Event Week’. N Diment is a local professional who has been extremely helpful and given lots of support to the project.

It was Moved by Harvey

Seconded by Howes

RESOLVED: to approve the quotation of £500.00.

f. Scything Event

Eight places have been booked already with a £15 contribution per person.

It was Moved by Harvey

Seconded by Needham

RESOLVED: to approve up to £600 for a Scything event

g. Energy Efficiency Event (enc)

Event to be held on 16th September at Hebden Bridge Town Hall. 10 people signed up already. If this is successful, then maybe run more specific workshops in the future.

78. PROJECT UPDATE

Updates were received on the following projects.

a. A Boards

The idea of including Fair Share and reduction of food waste was suggested.

Further Comments to be sent to R Lightbird by Wednesday 5th July.

b. NALC

Press Release will be sent about the work of the Climate Emergency Committee once the new communications officer is in post.

c. Hanging Baskets

Baskets are blooming nicely in peat free compost. A total of 148 retailer baskets plus 100 additional on Bridge Gate and New Road/Market Street/Burnley Road.

d. Spring Clean

Over 100 participants were involved from school children to the WI

e. Calder Holmes Park

Walk around scheduled with senior CMBC officers and councillors to consider the issues and look at opportunities to enhance the park.

f. High Hirst Woodmeadow

The Statement of Use was considered. This will outline what potential groups may be able to do on site. Slight amendment to be made to include - grazing with sheep and/cattle and introducing additional mowing using scythes and haymaking.

It was Moved by Cllr Needham

Seconded by Cllr Howes

RESOLVED: To approve the Statement of Use with the above amendments

The idea of a working group was tabled to support with the High Hirst Woodmeadow during busy periods and with the acquisition of the extension to the site.

Cllr Needham suggested a Heads of Terms be produced to allow management of the site to take place without the lease being in place.

Cllr Fenton reminded the committee that it must be cautious with regard to resources expended on the extension, when the climate emergency is about reducing carbon.

It was discussed that the Working Group is just to formalise the process and that all recommendations will come to committee for approval.

It was Moved by Cllr Needham

Seconded by Cllr Harvey

RESOLVED: To approve the working groups as outlined in the report. All decisions and expenditure must be tabled at the committee for approval.

g. New Environmental Projects – ideas invited.

Cllr Hayes raised the Brearley Fields Project and if there was scope for HRTC to be involved.

It was Moved by Cllr Needham

Seconded by Cllr Harvey and

RESOLVED: Cllr Hayes to follow this up with the appropriate Calderdale Councillor

The Climate Emergency Officer suggested the idea of an Eco Fair. And will bring a proposal to the next meeting.

The Deputy Clerk shared that the Pumpkin Trail to be held on 14th & 15th October would have a climate and habitat theme and that at this stage ideas for climate projects that tie in with this are welcomed.

79. CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

The action plan was considered.

There needs to be further discussion and work done on the protection and restoration of peat following on from the work already undertaken. This will be considered at the next meeting.

A letter was tabled from a member of the community which outlined concerns about stationary traffic, traffic at schools and safe routes to schools.

It was Moved by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by by Cllr Needham

RESOLVED: The Climate Emergency Officer will consider how these concerns fit with the Climate Action Plan and what HRTC may be able to do to address these where appropriate and will present the ideas at the next meeting of this committee. The clerk will write to thank them for raising the issue and that it will be considered at the next meeting. Councillor's are also invited to input.

80. ALLOTMENTS UPDATE

An update was given on the current activities of the allotments.

- a. Banksfield Allotments - to include the water butts initiative
- b. High Hirst Allotments - to include a request for facilities for children.

It was Moved by Cllr Needham

Seconded by Cllr Harvey

RESOLVED: That the Climate Emergency and Biodiversity Coordinator create a project outline including estimated costs, for the inclusion of children

facilities at High Hirst be brought to the next meeting of this committee for consideration.

HEBDEN ROYD TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting of the CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
Held WEDNESDAY 9TH AUGUST 2023

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillors: Morse (Chair), Boden, Hayes, Howes, Guilfoyle.

Co-opted Members: N Diment,

Officers: R Lightbird

HRTC Deputy Clerk: E Green

143. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANY SUBSTITUTIONS.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Bampton Smith, Harvey. Fenton & Needham with Cllrs Boden and Guilfoyle acting as substitutes.

144. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS' INTERESTS RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS FOR THIS MEETING.

None were declared.

145. MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 28TH JUNE 2023 NOT ITEMISED ON THIS AGENDA.

There were no matters arising.

146. BUDGET UPDATE

The budget available for the work of this committee was presented.

a. Climate Emergency Budget – the committee were advised that there was almost £20k available in this budget for the projects as outlined to end of March 24.

b. Environment & Allotments Budget - the committee were advised that there is currently £12,459 allocated in the budget for environment & biodiversity projects.

147. EVENT FEEDBACK & UPDATE

To receive feedback, updates, and any associated budget request regarding the following events and to decide on actions as appropriate.

a. Meadows Day

An update was given regarding Meadows Day and the unfortunate inclement weather. However, visitors enjoyed the Moth Breakfast and Bug Hunts along with biodiversity walks. The dry-stone walling event had to be cancelled due to the weather. There was successful joint working with Dodnaze community Centre and CMBC. Feedback from the evaluation forms was excellent.

It was moved by Cllr Morse
Seconded by Cllr Matthias and
RESOLVED: to thank Rachel and all those involved in delivering the event.

b. Scything Refresher and Haymaking Week
An overview of the event was given. Mowing with scythes in the traditional way is essential to recreating and restoring the meadow to its original state. It reduces the nutrient level which encourages growth of the less vigorous plants creating more biodiversity the following year. This is the second year of mowing in this way, and despite the weather the event was a success.

About half of the meadow has been mown including the top section, about three times more, of the meadow was mowed than last year as the techniques have improved. The event covered nine days to including two weekends with more scythes out each day. The groups learnt how to sharpen the scythes and also attended a peening day earlier in the year.

The haymaking itself was excellent with 18 people in total attending, very much a family event and 28 bales of hay were made.

A Traditional Hay Time Tea was held on the last Sunday, important in reviving the cultural and traditional events.

The sheep were brought in on the Monday, following the mowing and sheep watch is now operational. 14 volunteers are engaged in this.

Next year the weather should be considered, and alternative dates announced in case of inclement weather. Use of Allotment Container for activities.

Need to give more thought as to where the Haybales will be distributed.

It was moved by Cllr Morse
Seconded by Cllr Howes and
RESOLVED: Thanks for all the work that has gone into the events including the volunteers.

148. PROJECT UPDATE

An update on the following projects was received,

a. Retrofit Community Champions Project (enc)
A proposal for a Retrofit Community Champions project was tabled. Members were informed that 68 tickets have been booked for the September 16th Introduction to Retrofit event. Part of the purpose of this is to gauge interest in further events, this new project includes four free workshops and purchase of a thermal imaging camera. To be delivered in the New Year there is an opportunity to engage with community about what individuals are already doing, such sharing retrofit projects on social media. To be delivered by Carbon Coop, need to consider what might be possible in terms of making the workshops even more accessible?

It was moved by Cllr Morse
Seconded by Cllr Howes and

RESOLVED: approve the proposal with a budget of up to £4000.00, bring revised budget to the next meeting.

b. High Hirst Wood Meadow – Working group feedback

The first meeting of the working group met on 21st July, and the minutes were highlighted. A management strategy for the wood meadow was discussed. The tree guards that a need to be removed will be, and the trees will also be coppiced.

A lease has been agreed with CMBC to graze the field next door but the fencing need to be improved, and hedges planted in order to ensure that the area is stockproof. There is also the opportunity to graze some National Trust Ponies. Bid has been submitted to National Flood Management, to include the development of attenuation ponds.

The path has been closed temporarily to ensure safety of the sheep whilst they are being grazed. The sheep are unfortunately eating the apple trees, however this has been addressed and additional protection is being put in place. Attention was given to an article regarding the issues regarding pet dogs and conservation. This is something to be considered.

Neil will draw up a plan of the items discussed.

It was moved by Cllr Morse
Seconded by Cllr Howes and

RESOLVED: To allocated up to £500 for the further protection of the apple trees.

c. Schools Climate Group

This is an ongoing project, aiming for the first group to be held at the end of the first half term. Cllr Howes will contact schools directly and encourage them to form their own eco-group. Could potentially link with Cop 28 end of November. Further details to be presented at the next meeting.

d. A-Boards

The finished designs were circulated for information. These will be available to be taken to community groups as discussion points. They could be used to facilitate an informal discussion about the councils action plan.

e. Meeting with CMBC Biodiversity Officer

Cllr Harvey and R Lightbird met with the CMBC Biodiversity Officer, new in post at High Hirst. They explained the history and hopes for the future. The CMBC Officer is looking at land based solutions, and may be able to help with fencing. They are working with multiple landowners and this was a good general introduction.

f. Wildflowers in Hebden Royd

The committee is open to suggestions for sites and spaces to increase in which to increase wildflower planting. Space at the end of Old Gate, pockets around Fairfield (although mostly owned by Together Housing) were suggested.

There are concerns about invasive species and what can be done to support this.

It was moved by Cllr Morse

Seconded by Cllr Guilfoyle and

RESOLVED: To circulate maps of the areas highlighting land owned by CMBC which councillors can use to help identify suitable sites and also mark areas where there is concern about invasive species.

g. Brearley Fields

Success story! This has been development for the past four years and is expected to be complete for spring 2024. The wetland is working and doing exactly what it should do, with flows from the canal and from the hillside in high rain. Planting was undertaken on Saturday the 5th August with volunteers working to do the planting. Three benches are due to be installed and there are seven more days of activities planned.

It was moved by Cllr Hayes

Seconded by Cllr and

RESOLVED: to thank CMBC for their work on this project. Councillors were advised of the Friends of Brearley Fields group should they wish to be more involved.

h. Suggestions for biodiversity projects in Hebden Royd

Councillors were invited to contact the Climate emergency Officer with any ideas for new biodiversity projects.

i. Pumpkin Trail – Eco Fair

Members were advised that an Eco Fair will be delivered at the Pumpkin Trail and that suggestions are welcome.

149.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

The letter was considered and following discussion regarding the CMBC Active Travel Officer, various initiatives and schools individual travel plans.

It was moved by Cllr Howes

Seconded by Cllr Hayes and

RESOLVED: That the town council is unlikely to have the power or resources to significantly contribute further to what is already done, however this could be a topic at school council with a poster competition around the subject as a means of further engaging children.

- 150. CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN**
The Climate Emergency Officer will review the action plan and update it to reflect actions achieved and will also consider of process of community engagement to enable suitable additions to the action plan. ND suggested that Food Waste should be included.
- 151. CARBON LITERACY TRAINING FOR ALL COUNCILLORS**
Day of carbon literacy training to be delivered, Rachel will suggest a date and it was noted that Friday is the most suitable for a majority members.
- 152. ALLOTMENTS UPDATE**
To receive an update on the current activities of the allotments and any proposals for new ideas, and to decide on actions.
- a. Banksfield Allotments
Councillors were updated that water butts had now been ordered for plot holders.
 - b. High Hirst Allotments
Inspections will take place on Friday, there is currently no waiting list and consideration will be given as to how to promote the site and suitable projects to be undertaken.