

**HEBDEN ROYD TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Meeting of the CLIMATE EMERGENCY**  
**AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
**Held WEDNESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: Fraser, Harvey, McNicholas and Woodhead

**Co-opted Members:** N Diment

**Officer:** R Lightbird

**HRTC Acting Clerk:** E Green

**Administrator:** R Cox (Minutes)

**34. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE 2024/25**

It was Moved by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by Cllr McNicholas and

**RESOLVED:** That Cllr Woodhead be Chair of the Climate Emergency & Environment Committee for 2024/25.

It was moved by Cllr McNicholas

Seconded by Cllr Woodhead and

**RESOLVED:** That Cllr Morse be Deputy Chair of the Climate Emergency & Environment Committee 2024/25.

**35. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANY SUBSTITUTIONS.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Matthias, Morse (with McNicholas substituting) and Needham.

**36. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS` INTERESTS RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS FOR THIS MEETING.**

No interests were declared.

**37. CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

Membership of non-councillors was considered.

It was moved by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by Cllr Woodhead and

**RESOLVED:** that Neil Diment be co-opted to the committee.

**38. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 24 APRIL 24**

Neil Diment asked for clarification on the following items:

469 – confirmation that that fencing is around Law Field.

471 – confirmation that it is a longterm lease by HRTC.

It was moved by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by Cllr Woodhead and  
**RESOLVED:** To note the minutes as a correct record.

**39. BUDGET UPDATE**

The budget available for the work of this committee was outlined. Rachel Lightbird gave an overview of the budget reporting a spend of £2k on climate café project by next meeting. Skips will also be provided for community clean ups in the near future.

It was Moved by Cllr Harvey  
Seconded by Cllr Woodhead and

**RESOLVED:** to note the information and that the budget would be shared at each meeting for information.

**40. COMMITTEE REVIEW**

Rachel Lightbird reported that the Climate Action Plan for 2024/25 will be circulated to committee members and gave an overview of the past year's activities.

Cllr Nikki Harvey confirmed that we have come a long way since 2018, starting with High Hirst Allotments and now the Woodmeadow.

The Climate Emergency Committee merged with the Environment and Allotments Committee last year, with environmental improvements including such as public realm improvements and wildflower planting. Councillors are encouraged to highlight any areas that are in need of action within their ward.

Cllr Pat Fraser mentioned the reporting of graffiti around the town. Emma Green reported that the former Calderdale Council Neighbourhood Co-ordinator Jae Campbell had retired, and Catherine Bann is now the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator on a one day per week basis for Hebden Royd area. Councillors are encouraged to report any graffiti to Catherine Bann. Emma Green also reported that the graffiti wall in park is due to be replaced.

Cllr Nikki Harvey reported that the Schools Climate Café has been a great success and has been received well by the students. Well done to Rachel Lightbird for all her hard work co-ordinating this with Cllr Howes. The Climate Café Finale will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> June all are welcome.

It was moved by Cllr Harvey  
Seconded by Cllr Woodhead and

**RESOLVED:** to note a vote of thanks to Rachel Lightbird for work over the past year.

**41. ALLOTMENTS UPDATE**

Rachel Lightbird reported that over the last year access to Law Field was gained for conservation through grazing. Shelving and storage have been installed in the container and a community composting system is in place. Also, a natural play park for children of allotment holders to use has been created.

Emma Green gave credit to Rachel Lightbird in completing many outstanding jobs that needed to be carried including major improvements such as the pond and access. Now that all the work has been carried out it would be the time to review rent costs which were last reviewed in 2014.

Rachel Lightbird reported that Banksfield could be self-managing in the future. There is some general maintenance work to be undertaken including trees and hedges to be cut back. There is an agreement in principle with regards to water harvesting. The community there are engaged and proactive.

It was moved by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by Cllr Woodhead and

**RESOLVED:** That consideration of Allotment Tenancy Agreements and fees should be considered at the next meeting. The officer will prepare a report.

#### **42. HIGH HIRST WOODMEADOW**

Cllr Nikki Harvey was pleased to report that we have over 80 heritage fruit trees. Events that have been held have been successful.

Rachel Lightbird reported that volunteers had kindly taken it upon themselves to re-fence the field and would like to express thanks to Neil Diment and Steve Hindle for carrying out this fantastic work.

Neil Diment confirmed that a scything refresher course would be held on 20<sup>th</sup> July with 2 weeks of haymaking to follow, finishing with a Hay-time tea on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August. It is important to keep the grass levels down and we have seen an increase in biodiversity already with work previously carried out.

It was suggested that funding for filming of project be sourced which could be used on social media. A five-minute video would be beneficial to highlight the benefits of the project.

Neil Diment shared the High Hirst Management Plan which highlights work that would need to be carried out on the upper field border.

Rachel Lightbird report that National Trust ponies and cattle will be grazing in near future.

Rachel Lightbird asked for allocation of £1k to be paid to the Friends of High Hirst in full for them to use as they see fit, this has been previously agreed.

Emma Green questioned access to scythe for Health and Safety reasons. Rachel Lightbird confirm that all equipment is stored safely under lock and key.

The next Meadows Day will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> July and Halifax Scientific Society are supporting this. The Friends will carry out a scything demonstration.

Cllr Nikki Harvey shared that there is a High Hirst Woodmeadow Working Group with Rachel Lightbird, Neil Diment, Steve Hindle, Mark Simmons and the Chair of Climate Emergency and Environment Committee. All other committee members are also welcome. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> June at 1.30pm in the Greenwood Room.

It was moved by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by Cllr Woodhead and  
**RESOLVED:** to note the information

#### **43. EVENTS UPDATE**

RL gave an update:

- a) School Climate Café Finale - (Thursday, 13 June) There will be a moth breakfast night before. Halifax Scientific Society will be involved. Two Handmade Parade artists will be involved making puppets. Children will meet in the park and march along Bridge Gate to the Town Hall where a series of workshops will take place.
- b) The Eco Fair (Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August) has received lots of bookings so far. We are in the basic planning process at moment.

It was moved by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by Cllr Woodhead and

**RESOLVED:** to note for information and that suggestions of businesses/ organisations that maybe appropriate for the eco fair to be passed on to Rachel Lightbird.

#### **44. PROJECTS UPDATE**

RL gave an update:

- a) Cycle Hoop – still awaiting confirmation on the location from CMBC – Cllr Patient is supporting this. There have been positive survey results - 202 responses are awaiting full analysis.
- b) Mobility Hub – plans are ongoing by WYCA to develop a mobility hub at the Market Place Car Park. The issue of the Taxi Electric Charging point has been reported again. There had been suggestions that the disused toilet could be renovated to provide a bike hangar fixing/ storage and that HRTC could take this on. However, this would require significant resources and would need to be very carefully considered.

It was moved by Cllr Havey

Seconded by Cllr Woodhead and

**RESOLVED:** noted for information.

The meeting finished at 8.45pm.