

HEBDEN ROYD TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting of the CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE held 6th February 2023

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillors: Harvey (Chair), Bampton Smith, Hoyle, Needham.

Also: Anthony Rae

Deputy Clerk: E Green.

Climate Emergency & Biodiversity Coordinator: Rachel Lightbird.

- 356. To receive apologies for absence and any substitutions.**
Apologies were received from Cllr Fenton, Stevens. Apologies were also received from Neil Diment.
- 357. To receive members` interests relating to agenda items for this meeting.**
There were no interests declared.
- 358. To report on matters arising from the minutes of meeting held 5th December 2022 not itemised on this agenda.**
Item 278 – it was confirmed that the materials for the boards are boards are fully recyclable material and FSC timber.
Item 279 – Summary of the CECs committees progress in 2022 will be completed by Cllr Harvey in the next couple of weeks.
- 359. UPDATE FROM THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY & BIODIVERSITY OFFICER**
The Climate Emergency & Biodiversity Officer gave an update of their activities, which included meeting a range of people involved in climate action projects. There are three main projects that are being researched as follows:
- a) **Climate Café**
Pupils from each of the schools in the area (years 5 – 7) will be invited to the Town Hall to learn about climate change and to present their own thoughts. This is an opportunity to inspire each other and take part in specialist workshops such as sphagnum moss, sustainable fashion, sustainable transport. Provisional date of 21st April ties in with World Earth Day. The schools have expressed an interest and the proposal will be presented at the next schools liaison meeting. The potential for funding through CFFC was highlighted? This is a positive action to enable children to feel empowered about climate.
It was moved by Cllr Harvey
Seconded by Cllr Needham and
RESOLVED: to allocate £2000 for this project.
 - b) **Retrofit Housing Scheme**

The information was presented regarding Eclipse who have been providing fully funded attic room insulation for those on benefits or on an income of under £31,000 per annum. 40 rooms are being insulated in the Hebden Royd area. A new scheme starts in April which is broader looking at a whole house approach – Eco4. This has the same eligibility criteria but must increase the EPC to level C or above. There is the potential for a public meeting regarding retrofit with Carbon CoOp and BEAT. Community Land Trust delivered a similar meeting so there needs to be a differentiation to maximise impact. Data is available with postcodes and EPC ratings.

It was moved by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by Cllr Bampton Smith and

RESOLVED: That further work will be undertaken to progress the concept of a public meeting and that information, and a budget request will be brought to the next meeting. Further links will be established with the Climate College in Todmorden and the works that are being undertaken regarding retrofit.

c) Living Greener A-Boards

The idea is that these boards tell people about the small/simple actions that they can take to reduce their own carbon output, reduce energy and save money. These are a functional community engagement tool and can be taken into various organisations. They are a prompt for conversation and exchange of ideas. It was noted that it is important to have a list of places where the boards can be used.

It was moved by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by Cllr Needham and

RESOLVED: To allocate £2000 for this project to enable a local artist to be used in the design and delivery of this.

359

LOCAL UPLANDS AND PEAT

A verbal update was received from Anthony Rae regarding the findings of the recently published report on the condition of our local uplands. This is an important document because of the connection of the uplands with the valley bottoms in terms of natural flood management, which was identified following the 2015 floods. In early 2022 Moors for the Future were commissioned by CMBC and the EA to undertake a survey of the health of the peat bogs. Despite being outside Hebden Royd it is part of the potential solution to flooding and carbon sequestration. The report shows that 79% of the peatlands is damaged but may be improving. As a consequence, the peat is not sequestering carbon, but is actually releasing it. The UK peatlands have billions of tonnes are carbon sequestered and are an extremely important asset for the absorption of flood waters etc. The costs to restore these peatlands would be in the region of £12m. This particular report was commissioned in order to assess the fire risk, not flood or carbon and there is more research to be undertaken to fully understand the impact. Now the facts have been established, the Town Council needs to understand what happens next. There is a forthcoming meeting of the Calderdale Flood Board which is an opportunity to ask questions as to what they are going to do next? The same question needs to be asked of Calderdale Climate Action Partnership. There

needs to be pressure on these organisations to find the money to fund further research and ultimately work to restoration. Raising public awareness adds pressure to landowners, from discussion and debate.

It was moved by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by Cllr and

RESOLVED: The Climate Emergency Officer shall liaise with Calderdale Flood Management Board and Calderdale Climate Action Partnership and urge them to make a positive response to the report. They will also write a press release that we welcome the report and look forward to further work as a means of highlighting the issue. The Town Council will also raise the issue Cllr Patient as a Calderdale Councillor.

360.HIGH HIRST WOODMEADOW

To receive a report on the progress of works at High Hirst Woodmeadow to include:

a) Path and pond works

It was updated that the path works have been started, funded through the award made by the lottery and the level access path almost completed. A series of four ponds have dug to create a wetland habitat.

b) Interpretation boards

Drafts are completed and looking excellent, in addition the Dongria Khond memorial signs have been designed and the wording sent for agreement from the family. Signage for fire and safety needs to be

considered, these need to be informative but not over prescriptive - consideration to be given to the list of do's & do not's.

It was moved by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by Cllr Needham

RESOLVED: To note thanks to Neil for his excellent work on the boards and to approve the spend of up to £300 to host a small unveiling to acknowledge and thank partners that have been involved in the project.

c) Site extension

It was moved by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by Cllr Needham and

RESOLVED: That HRTC progress dialogue with Calderdale Council estates to explore how to best proceed with leasing the field next to High Hirst Woodmeadow

d) South Pennine Park Awards (enc)

It was moved by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by Cllr Bampton Smith and

RESOLVED: To nominate High Hirst Woodmeadow for the award.

361.

BUDGET UPDATE

An overview of the budget was presented.

It was moved by Cllr Needham

Seconded by Cllr Bampton Smith and

RESOLVED: to note the information.