

HEBDEN ROYD TOWN COUNCIL
Meeting of the CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
Held WEDNESDAY 24 APRIL 2024

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillors: Harvey (Chair), Howes, Morse, Woodhead.

Also: Neil Diment – Co-opted Member

Climate Emergency & Biodiversity Co-ordinator: R Lightbird

HRTC Deputy Clerk: E Green

465. To receive apologies for absence and any substitutions.

Apologies were received from Cllr Needham,

466. To receive members` interests relating to agenda items for this meeting.

None

467. To report on matters arising from the minutes of meeting held 21st February 2024 not itemised on this agenda.

No matters arising.

468. BUDGET UPDATE

The current budget for 2024-25 was presented. Despite a 40% reduction on the previous budget the committee is looking forward to delivering the projects for the year ahead. The merge of the Climate Emergency and Environment & Allotments Committee was explained.

It was move by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by Cllr Woodhead and

RESOLVED: To note the information and budget of £33,275 for the year 2024-25

469. EVENTS UPDATE

Feedback, updates and any associated budget requests were presented on the following events.

a) Fencing Course

National Trust fencing expert delivered a four-day course training volunteers to build and repair fencing. Excellent day with new skills learnt. Still need to fence along the top, trees from woodland trust to create a hedgerow, White

Rose Forest may instal the fencing, then field can be grazed this year. If funding not obtained, a contractor or volunteers could undertake the work.

b) International Peening Day

Neil explained the purpose of peening and gave an overview event held at the Fox and Goose, which was a great success.

c) Todmorden Climate Assembly

Rachel attended and reported that it was a very good event and that it showed how a Climate Forum might work.

It was moved by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by Cllr Woodhead and

RESOLVED: to establish links with Todmorden Town Council.

d) Moth Breakfast Series

Moth Breakfasts are being held in partnership with Halifax Scientific Society, next one is Sunday 28th May. This will build a baseline of the moths that live in the habitat. The event has a £5 suggested donation for adults and is free for children, there is a maximum of 25 people. One of the moth breakfasts could be targeted at schools.

Request of £450 for the three, moth breakfasts.

It was moved by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by Cllr Morse and

RESOLVED: to approve the request of £450 for the Halifax Scientific Society.

e) Bird Box Location

Halifax Scientific Society are working in partnership to host a community event to find appropriate locations for bird and owl boxes.

f) School Climate Café

Rachel gave an overview of the Climate Cafés, which have been happening on a termly basis. Current café is based on activism. Also looking to provide workshops on Curlews and other ground nesting birds, to include habitats and food chains.

g) Schools Climate Café Finale

On 13th June, there will be a large-scale Climate Café as part of Big Green Week. Request of up to £2000 to deliver this event.

It was moved by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by Cllr Howes and

RESOLVED: to approve the request

h) Meadows Day

Saturday 6th July, to include a variety of workshops building on previous years.

i) Eco Fair

First eco fair ran alongside the Pumpkin Festival, an excellent event which will stand alone this year. This will run independently on 17th August 2024.

470.

PROJECTS UPDATE

An update on the following projects was received.

a) Allotment Work

An update on works undertaken to create access to Law Field was presented.

This has improved access and looks better and includes a new stock gate.

There are issues with the pond, not sure that it is now deep enough, this will continue to be assessed over the coming months. Composting course to be run on installation of the new compost bays.

Request of £200 for a petrol strimmer/brush cutter. It must be stored in a separate locked cupboard, with a request of up to £400.

It was moved by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by Cllr Morse and

RESOLVED: to approve £600 for equipment.

b) Lease/Management Plan – Law Field (Enc)

The plan was presented. Rachel to chase CMBC legal regarding the lease.

Thanks to Rachel and Neil and Steve for their work in writing the plan.

c) Access Issues – Law Field

Covered under allotment works.

d) Biodiversity projects – Wildflowers and bulbs (enc)

Update was given on works undertaken at Mytholmroyd Community Centre with a very quick turnaround to create a wildflower area. There is an ongoing biodiversity project at High Hirst. Positive feedback from the Spring Bulbs project.

e) Big Spring Clean

Annual spring clean a huge success with 22 teams taking part.

f) Cycle Hoop

Updated on trial and commissioned survey. There have been 120 responses to date. Currently awaiting confirmation from CMBC for permission to install the storage on the highway.

471.

NEWS

Information was presented on current news stories.

a) Brand new Fanvault Fungi found at High Hirst – This qualifies the site as suitable to apply for SSI

Rachael has also approached Calendar News about this, although there are no fungi at the moment they may be interested in the Moth Breakfast. Ensure that

in press it is explicit that the site is owned and managed by Hebden Royd Town Council.

472. PARTNERSHIP WORK

Information of work with partners was provided.

a) Wilder Calderdale

High Hirst Wood Meadow is now part of the Wilder Calderdale Partnership, they are likely getting funding to restore ancient grass lands and if successful there will be funding forthcoming, as well as providing grazing animals.

b) Mobility Hub

Rachel has met with a representative from WYCA to create the first mobility hub in the area. This will be in Hebden Bridge, potentially at the Marketplace Car Park site and include a rack of electric bikes, cargo bike, electric information screens for public transport updates, bench to rest, and hourly car rental and electric car charging. The Marina could provide an alternative location, Rachel to feed this back.

c) Green Community Hub

Meeting in Halifax on Friday – First meeting all welcome

d) Retrofit – WYCA have funded Green Doctor to engage with hard-to-reach demographics. Cllrs to recommend people, or organisations from within their wards who may benefit. Also, free retrofit surveys can also point people in the direction of funding streams and give practical advice. There will also be training in community retrofit.

ACTION – Rachel to provide upcoming dates of events which are appropriate for councillors to attend.

473. PACING OF PROJECTS

A discussion was had about how the committee can work collaboratively with officers to consider the timescales for the delivery of projects over the council year 24/25. Consideration will be given to budget expenditure, scale of projects and officer capacity, ensuring that the projects are delivered in accordance with the key priorities of the council.