

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

To receive an update on the budget available for the work of this committee.

a. Climate Emergency Budget – the committee were advised that there was almost £20k available in this budget

b. Environment & Allotments Budget the committee were advised that there £12,459 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. 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. Joint working with Dodnaze community Centre and CMBC. Feedback 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 scythe in the traditional way is essential to recreating the meadow and restoring it to the way that it would have been. It reduces the nutrient level which encourages the less vigorous plants a chance to grow the following year. This is the second year, and despite the weather the event was a success.

About half of the meadow has been mown including the top section as the techniques have improved. The event covered nine days 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.

Traditional Haytime Tea was held on the last Sunday. Reviving the cultural and traditional events.

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 hay bales 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 project 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 is being considered 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 allocate up to £500 for the further protection of the apple

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 council's 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 of 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.