

HEBDEN ROYD TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting of the CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE Held WEDNESDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2024

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillors: Woodhead (Chair), Harvey and Guilfoyle

Co-opted Members: N Diment

HRTC Acting Clerk: E Green

Administrator: R Cox (Minutes)

212. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANY SUBSTITUTIONS.

Apologies were received from Cammack, Matthias, Morse with Cllr Guilfoyle substituting.

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

There were no interests reported at this meeting.

214. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 5 JUNE 2024

The Acting Clerk reported that we are still waiting to hear back from Calderdale Council with regards to where the Cycle Hoop will be located. The Cycle Hoop will then be ordered once this has been confirmed.

It was moved by Cllr Woodhead

Seconded by Cllr Harvey and

RESOLVED: to note for information.

215. COMMUNICATIONS

Friends of Hebden Bridge Station

Letter of Thanks

Mayroyd Moorings

Letter of Thanks

It was moved by Cllr Woodhead

Seconded by Cllr Harvey and

RESOLVED: noted that the Daffodil bulbs provided to local groups/ organisations were received well and help to improve the look of the area.

216. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Cllr Cammack has withdrawn from the committee – therefore there is a vacancy on this committee. This will be filled at next Full Council meeting.

It was moved by Cllr Woodhead

Seconded by Cllr Harvey and

RESOLVED: to be considered at Full Council and to take the opportunity to remind all councillors to give apologies in advance of meetings due to recent meetings not being quorate.

217. HIGH HIRST WOODMEADOW

Cllr Harvey reported that:

- With no longer having a Climate Officer in post has meant some gaps in the duties of this position.
- Thanks were given to both Neil and Steve and volunteers who erected fencing at the ready for the arrival of the grazing ponies. There was an unfortunate timing of a delivery of mulch that was left by the gate –this was quickly rectified by Steve, to enable a clear and safe access for the ponies. There was another unfortunate event where children had left the Lawfield gate open therefore, causing ponies access to the woodmeadow. This was also rectified by putting new locks on the gate. The gate must be locked at all times during grazing season.
- The lease from Calderdale is still in progress.
- Sheep are due to arrive to the field, they will be grazing for up to 6 weeks. Susan from Friends of High Hirst Working Group is currently writing up a rota for ‘Sheep watch’ which will consist of counting the sheep and making sure all sheep are in good health. This helps the farmer having to check on flock every day.
- Mark from Friends of High Hirst Woodmeadow Working Group has asked if there are any future pruning needs and can provide a workshop with volunteers. The workshops cost £250 each. It was suggested that a Winter prune and a Spring prune workshop be offered to volunteers and councillors.
- That the hay making was incredible and was well attended. Thank you to Neil and Steve for providing this.

Neil Diment reported that:

- The goal to scythe the whole field from dry stone over 16 days was a success. With 36 people over the 16 days, including 9 children. On average there was 6 people per day. It was a great opportunity for scythors to gain more experience. Susan’s husband, Steve and Hannah were there 14 days out of the 16 days. There was a total of 169 bales in the end. Steve had made a hay bale press machine which worked and helped a great deal. The local animal rescue sanctuary took the majority, forming a good partnership.

- Involvement of CROWS was appreciated as they made the path accessible by weeding and cutting away brambles. It was suggested that a brush cutter be purchased and stored in the container. This could be used by CROWS and volunteers to keep the paths maintained and accessible.
- Steve has requested a motored scythe.
- Working Group to look into what equipment is required.
- CROWS have offered to put steps in to viewing area – this was received well.
- Steve Tomlin will offer 2 days scything course and is already aware that there are 3 Friends of High Hirst, keen to take part. 2-day course would cost £445 for 6 people or £600 for 8 people. Scything kit would cost £240 each. Friends of Calder Countryside Group would fund 50%. Participants would be asked to contribute. Haymaking costs to be looked at for next year's budget.

Cllr Harvey asked for people to join the High Hirst Working Group. This group can make recommendations. Cllr Woodhead would like to join.

It was moved by Cllr Harvey
 Seconded by Cllr Woodhead and
RESOLVED: noted for information.

218. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Cllr Woodhead reported that on page 21 - High Hirst Woodmeadow, most items on that plan had been achieved and that the flood management with Slow the Flow is still ongoing progress.

Neil Diment made comment that present management scheme must continue to maintain the good work that has already been carried out.

The Acting Clerk reported that this is not a finished document and would need to be amended. A focused plan is needed, looking at where we can make most difference with a clear understanding of what is required of the new 'Climate Emergency Officer' or 'Environment Officer'.

Cllr Guilfoyle commented that it has previously been mostly focused climate emergency, not as much on the environment. It needs to be more localised considering environmental aspects e.g. wild planting, dog waste bags but more needs to be done.

The Acting Clerk reported that Council have declared a climate emergency, and this needs to be underpinned throughout all Council activities, not just the focus of one committee.

Cllr Woodhead suggested that a defined person spec be put together that could give new opportunities to improve.

Cllr Woodhead wanted to raise a suggestion by Cllr Holly Morse – recycling household wires/ cabling. Collection points could be made available. Cllr Morse would be happy to lead on this and had found an organisation that allocates grants to support this. This will encourage people to recycle. Cllr Woodhead would share an article from the Guardian re: recycling wires and cables.

Cllr Woodhead suggested that the Action Plan be worked on in sections. Some sections are not as relevant to HRTC as other section e.g. landlords, landowners etc. Partnership work is essential and key areas must be considered such as consumption and waste, engaging young people, recycling etc. The new officer could drive these areas forward.

Transport could include lobbying for safer roads, and cyclist routes.

Cllr Woodhead has been lobbying for improvements to be made to Carr Lane. Cllr Guilfoyle had previously reported this to the Canal and Rivers Trust

Councillors should be encouraged to carry out work in their wards.

The Acting Clerk reported that at the SLCC Conference Blachere (current lights provider) were promoting fun recycling bins, for plastic bottles which are recycled into Christmas lights.

Cllr Guilfoyle asked The Acting Clerk to cost up recycling bins that could be used in playground and trialled over next summer, a 6-month period.

It was agreed that recycling bins need to be made available in Hebden Royd, this will require partnership work with Calderdale Council.

It was moved by Cllr Guilfoyle
Seconded by Cllr Woodhead and

RESOLVED: propose change of committee title to Local Environment and Climate Emergency and to include Ward Work on the Full Council Agenda.

219. COMMITTEE PRIORITIES & VISION

Discussion took place about the priorities of the committee, what it hopes to achieve and how this aligns with the wider strategy of Hebden Royd Town Council, and what resources its needs to meet those priorities.

Neil Diment commented that the new officer should look at what council is doing and look at residents. Working with neighbours and partners like Calderdale.

Cllr Harvey reported that the Woodmeadow is an excellent outdoor classroom, with the interpretation boards, maps of trees. How they managed meadows etc The Acting Clerk suggested composting toilet facility which only needs to be serviced once a year as a way of making the site more accessible for groups.

Cllr Guilfoyle asked that the Allotments to have a sign to say children must be accompanied by adult.

It was moved by Cllr Woodhead
Seconded by Cllr Harvey and
RESOLVED: noted for information.

220. BUDGET SETTING

Cllr Woodhead said that the committee would need time to focus what priorities should be and then to look at budget setting. Some Figures are known, and some can be based on last year's budget. Cllr Woodhead and Acting Clerk to go through budget. Committee are asked to submit any views before next meeting. Cllr Woodhead asked that due to the vacant officer post that expertise be called in as and when required.

Cllr Harvey reported that she had a meeting at tennis court looking at area to be renovated. A small working group has been created and is at its early stages. Calderdale to be invited in to work in that area. Cllr Harvey and Cllr Woodhead would lead on this.

It was moved by Cllr Harvey
Seconded by Cllr Woodhead and
RESOLVED: that where required expertise is contracted to deliver priorities of this committee whilst the post is vacant.

A note of thanks to Cllr Guilfoyle for joining meeting at such short notice, this enabled meeting to be quorate.

The meeting finished at 9.05pm.