

HEBDEN ROYD TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting of the CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE held 22ND AUGUST 2022

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillors: Harvey, Bampton Smith, Fenton, Needham, Patient, Stevens.

Also: N Diment

Clerk: E Green

121. To receive apologies for absence and any substitutions.

Apologies were received from Cllr Hoyle.

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

No Interests were declared.

122. To report on matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held 27th June 2022 not itemised on this agenda.

Cllr Harvey advised the meeting that the Climate Emergency and Biodiversity Officer J Kedwards had resigned from their post. The committee thanked him for his contribution to the work of the Climate Emergency Committee. The Committee were advised that the role had been discussed at the recent Staffing Committee and that if ratified at Full Council the recruitment process would commence in September.

123. HIGH HIRST PROJECT UPDATE

Cllr Harvey provided a comprehensive update about the High Hirst Woodmeadow site. This included the Meadows Day event, the Scything Course and Haymaking, all of which received fantastic feedback from attendees. N Diment noted that these activities were important in meadow restoration, in recreating the farming systems that historically created the meadow, given that 97% of meadows had been lost this is essential to help recreate meadows and biodiversity. It was recommended to continue this regime for 6-7 years before introducing additional seeds. A haymaking festival was suggested for 2023.

It was reported that the key priorities now include access and the spending of the remainder of the lottery grant award which must be spent by March 2023. The interpretation boards are also a priority and at the very least some signage on the gates to say that this is now a designated local wildlife site, and to warn against the dangers of fire should be installed.

J Kedwards had met with Slow the Flow and the site is not suitable for an attenuation pond, however, there is still a desire to create a pond which will

support biodiversity and the Fresh Water Habitats Trust have been contacted for advice.

It was reported that the sheep will be back in site from early September for a six-week graze.

Moved by Cllr Needham

Seconded by Cllr Bampton Smith and

RESOLVED: to note the information with interest and to thank both Cllr Harvey and N Diment for their continued efforts and commitment in creating fantastic events at the Woodmeadow and progressing the work on it thus far.

In respect of the access, it was agreed that there should be full consideration given to the requirements and costings of provision, and that quotes be sought in line with this. It must show value for money as well as satisfying the requirements for accessibility.

124.

ACTIVE TRAVEL

It was reported that the E-Bike 'Um Festival was very well received attracting a diverse range of people and highlighting partnership work.

In regard to the Cycle hub, the meetings are now bi-monthly, Todmorden are developing a cycle hub and Sowerby Bridge is developing a Pump Track, this is being delivered via the Town Development Grants. Cllr Patient updated that CMBC is now a pilot area for Mobility Hubs, connecting modes of transport

across the area. It was also noted that there needs to be a strategic directing on this from the Town Board.

ACTION - Cllr Patient will forward the most recent report and Active Travel in Calderdale for consideration as to how Hebden Royd may link effectively with this.

125. BUDGET AND EXPENSES UPDATE

Cllr Harvey reported on the budget drawing attention to the key areas of the recent events.

It was moved by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by Cllr Needham and

RESOLVED: to thank the Friends of Calderdale Countryside for their donation which allowed the purchase of rakes and scythes.

The committee gave approval to the following requests to fund:

Sheep drinking trough and equipment £220

Fungi walk and survey £500

Advisory visit from Freshwater Habitats Trust (awaiting quote)

126. CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

Cllr Harvey reported that an indicative Peat Map in relation to burning had been created and shared but that the more detailed survey from Moors for the Future was awaited.

Under the action on disposable BBQ's it was noted that the Co-Op whilst not selling BBQs in locations which are need to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty they do still sell them in Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd and this could be an area to lobby.

Whilst the proposed Youth Engagement Project had not come to fruition it is important to consider how to work with young people. It was shared that Hebden Royd School was working on being an Eco School and could the become an example of best practice through the development of a toolkit.

It was also suggested that people should be informed about the small changes that they are able to make to impact climate change, it was shared that the Pumpkin Festival could provide the opportunity for this type of messaging.