

HEBDEN ROYD TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting of the CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE held 5th DECEMBER 2022

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillors: Harvey (Chair), Fenton, Hoyle, Needham, Stevens.

Town Clerk: Jason Boom.

Clerk: E Green.

Co-opted Member: Neil Diment.

Climate Emergency & Biodiversity Coordinator: Rachel Lightbird.

- 274. To receive apologies for absence and any substitutions.**
Apologies were received from Cllrs Bampton Smith, Patient & Anthony Rae.
- 275. To receive members' interests relating to agenda items for this meeting.**
None were declared at this time.
- 276. To report on matters arising from the minutes of meeting held 24th October 2022 not itemised on this agenda.**
Brearley Fields was raised under minute 213 at the last meeting, with clarification being sought on the current status of the site. The Clerk has subsequently researched this matter and information has been circulated to councillors. The project is still live but there currently is no CMBC officer allocated to this project to enable progression. There is an understanding that CMBC would like to work with the Town Council once they are in a position to progress the project.
- It was moved by Cllr Harvey
Seconded by Cllr Needham and
RESOLVED: That the Climate Emergency coordinator contacts CMBC and keeps communication open with regard to this project, to ensure involvement as appropriate.
- 277. INTRODUCTION OF NEW CLIMATE EMERGENCY & BIODIVERSITY COORDINATOR.**
Cllr Harvey introduced Rachel Lightbird as the new Climate Emergency & Biodiversity Officer. Rachel gave an overview of her role and previous experience. Councillors welcomed Rachel to the role and are looking forward to working with her.
- 278. HIGH HIRST WOODMEADOW UPDATE**

Cllr Harvey gave an update of the recent activities at High Hirst. These include the recent fungi survey which was undertaken with volunteers. Thanks to Neil Diment for organising the sessions. Five different types of clubs (indicator species) were found as such, the Woodmeadow meets the criteria for Designated Local Wildlife site, and registration can be applied for.

A volunteer afternoon has taken place to remove the fence which was put up when the trees were planted, as these are now established and not at risk from sheep. The sheep have been on the field for a two month hard graze.

Future priorities; all the planned events have been undertaken but there are funds allocated for signage, wheelchair accessible path and a pond. The focus will be on the path, interpretation boards and signage with quotes and specifications due to be returned from potential contractors.

Met CMBC on the site, they have committed to improve their section of the path with HRTC extending the path for improved access.

It was moved by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by Needham and

RESOLVED: That if an appropriate quote is received that the Chair with Cllrs Needham and Fenton and Clerk to may approve under delegation the authorisation of works so as to limit further delay.

Neil Diment suggested that an additional 'layby' is included in the path to accommodate a lectern style interpretation board with space for a person who may or may not be using a wheelchair to stop and read it with obstructing the path for other users.

Neil Diment reported on the recent visit to Three Hagges Woodmeadow and that a return visit for their staff is planned for the new year.

A scything refresher course has been booked for late July 2023.

Neil Diment updated on the process for acquiring the interpretation boards. A brief was circulated and a number of contractors approached. Three contractors responded and these were considered by Cllrs Harvey, Needham and Neil Diment. The quotes were considered against cost, experience of past work and guarantee of quality. Marcus Byron was selected as the recommended preferred contractor.

Cllr Fenton questioned the sustainability of materials used for the boards. Neil Diment agreed that this was important and that the timber frames would be sustainable, but that the signs also needed to be durable and as such there may need to be a compromise. Longevity means that they do not need to be replaced frequently. The signage includes fire risk signs and a memorial plaque for Dongria Khond.

It was moved by Cllr Harvey

Seconded by Cllr Needham and

RESOLVED: to select Marcus Byron as the contractor and agree a sum of £2900 to progress the works. Cllrs Harvey, Needham and Neil Diment will now work to finalise the content of the boards. Consideration should be given to how QR codes can be used and link to additional information included. The clerk will advise the successful and unsuccessful contractors, and request reassurance that sustainable materials will be used.

279.

ACTION PLAN ACTIVITIES

Mobility Hub consultation has been held. These sites are about linking modes of travel and active travel. WYCA will be developing these in the region and CMBC will be facilitating this. A consultation is currently live which can be completed by members of the public. Rachel will make contact with the CMBC officer responsible for this project. Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd may both be potential sites for mobility hubs. Consider issues on limited mobility and issues caused by such as the long ramp to the Manchester bound platform.

Energy efficiency remains a priority and it is hoped that some actions can be undertaken to address this soon. The Picture House as a key asset could be a main starting point for this type of work.

What has the committee achieved this year?

National Lottery funding for works at High Hirst

Energy efficiency stall

Peat map – now online

High Hirst Woodmeadow development – thank to Neil for all the work on this project.

Climate Emergency and Biodiversity Coordinator is now a permanent post

Additional cycle parking in Hebden Bridge

Newsletters about green events and initiatives

It was moved by Cllr Stevens

Seconded by Cllr Fenton and

RESOLVED: to add these achievements to the website to highlight the work of this committee.

280.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE BUDGET REQUEST

2023-24

Cllr Harvey presented the budget request which sees £4000 being added to the overall budget to take this to £25,000. Cllr Needham highlighted that there must be flexibility concerning the budget and that the priority of engagement with children and young people remains important and should projects be

identified then this can be included. There are opportunities in to February to make changes to the request.

Cllr Fenton suggested an educational event aimed at adults focusing on one change, relatively cheap to do but has the potential to make large change. This would be included in a Green Event as per the budget request.

Retrofitting was discussed. It was suggested that there could be information circulated either via flyers or talks presented different organisations with energy saving tips but also contractors that may be able to provide the service. Costs benefit is of great concern to most individuals.

281. CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE CURRENT BUDGET UPDATE

There is just short of £9000 available in the budget. The chair in consultation with the clerk may approve spend that supports the work of the committee as per the action plan.