

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE TASK AND FINISH GROUP
HELD ON 21st OCTOBER 2019 AT THE TOWN HALL, LEAMINGTON SPA**

Present: Councillors Janet Alty, Will Bryce, Mubarik Chowdry, Jennifer McAllister, Susan Rasmussen and Sarah Boad

Katherine Geddes (Democratic Support Officer - KG)

14. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor David Brunson

15. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations at this time.

16. **GREEN BUSINESS RECOGNITION SCHEME**

Angela Owen was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting as planned and sent apologies as she is unwell. Members sent their best wishes and asked that she be invited to attend the next scheduled meeting.

Action: Town Clerk

17. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Climate Change Task and Finish Group held on 25th September 2019 are confirmed as a correct record, subject to alteration of date for Air Quality Summit under item 11 to 11th October, not 11th November.

18. **FOLLOW UP ON ACTIONS ARISING**

The following actions arising from the last meeting were discussed:-

Local Planting schemes/Biodiversity

Councillor Bryce confirmed that he had researched the practices employed by Rotherham Borough Council and would circulate details to all Group members. Group members confirmed they had not as yet received these and Cllr Bryce agreed to resend the links to KG to send on to all members.

Action: Cllr Bryce

Allotments

It was noted that the next meeting of the Council's Allotment Sub-Committee was on 11th November. Councillor Rasmussen would like to add an item to the agenda for that meeting regarding encouraging allotment users not to use glycosulphates and to use non-peat compost. Councillor Rasmussen to send this item to the Town Clerk by 4th November.

Action: Town Clerk (Agenda)/Cllr Rasmussen

Energy Efficiency

Further to the reply received by the Town Clerk from Warwick District Council (WDC) with regard to possible energy conserving measures, the figures for consumption of water at the Town Hall had been sought from Chris Makasis, Estates Manager (WDC), and a response is awaited. An update on how WDC plans to reduce its Carbon output and achieve a positive impact on climate change is also awaited.

The Town Clerk had been in touch with Rachel Jones at Act on Energy about the availability of finance and advice for householders and she had responded with the following points:

- Currently there is very limited funding available for home insulation and energy improvements.
- Funding is being channelled through the Energy Obligation Fund. This is targeted to low income families – those in fuel poverty.
- Act on Energy is working across the County with a variety of authorities and information providers to roll out access to the limited sources of funding available. These tend to be directed at relatively inexpensive solutions such as boiler upgrades. Whilst more environmentally considerate solutions are under consideration, these are expensive alternatives for existing homes - many of which are built to a traditional construction technique that requires additional internal and external insulation.

Rachel had offered to attend a meeting of the Climate Change Task and Finish Group – members accepted this offer and Rachel to be invited to the next meeting.

Action: Town Clerk

Members discussed the energy-saving benefits of dual flush lavatories and the possibility of having these devices fitted to the Town Hall lavatories to improve the rates of water usage. This to be raised with Chris Makasis.

Action: Town Clerk

Discussion also took place around Warwickshire County Council's current focus on incineration of waste using incinerators in Staffordshire and Coventry with the energy being produced being used to heat houses. Councillor Rasmussen raised a query regarding carbon capture and Councillor Boad agreed to check if all the carbon is burnt off during the incineration process.

Action: Councillor Boad

19. **CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN**

The Action Plan agreed at the last meeting was circulated with the Agenda.

Observations included:

- Under "Leamington in Bloom" Follow up actions – 'Rewilding to be encouraged in appropriate public locations such as grassed areas around blocks of flats'.
- Councillor Andrew Day has stated that a tree will be planted across the District for each resident during this term of office. What sort of trees and can the Town Council have input into the locations for Leamington? Jon Holmes initial contact for this? **Town Clerk to investigate in the first instance**
- Criteria for review of community grants 2020/21 to include where proposed projects will demonstrate energy efficiency/minimising carbon footprint. Adjust scoring matrix to reflect this. Refer to Cultural & Community Committee 7th November 2019. **Action: Town Clerk**

20. **CLIMATE CHANGE AS A SOCIAL ISSUE**

Climate change impacts and how they can be addressed by Leamington residents was discussed in detail. This included tackling fuel poverty, recycling, changing habits and accessing information.

It was agreed that all members would contribute ideas as to what the town council can do practically to support those in Leamington's super output areas/more deprived

wards make changes and improvements to reduce everyday impacts of climate change, and ideas as to how the town council could most effectively communicate with residents in these areas about this such as attendance at community forums and mother and baby groups.

These ideas to be sent into KG by the next meeting.

Action: All Members

21. **FUTURE MEETINGS**

Wednesday 20th November 2019 commencing at 6.30 pm.

Action: All Members to note.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and ended at 7.50 pm.