



**Minutes of Crediton Town Council's Climate Change and Sustainability Committee held on Tuesday 13 May 2021 at 19.00 at Old Landscore School, Greenway, Crediton**

**Present:** Cllrs E Brookes-Hocking, G Cochran, S Huxtable and J Downes

**Apologies:** Cllr J Ross

**Absent:** Cllr P Vincent

**In Attendance:** Rachel Avery, Town Clerk

**10. To receive and accept apologies**

In the absence of the Chairman, it was **resolved** to elect Cllr Brookes-Hocking as Chairman for the duration of the meeting. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable).

It was **resolved** to accept apologies from Cllr Ross. It was **resolved** not to accept apologies from Cllr Vincent because his opinion that the location of the meeting was unsuitable and the arrangements for public participation were inadequate were not considered to be acceptable reasons for failing to attend. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable).

**11. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Downes declared that, as a member of more than one authority, any views or opinions expressed at the meeting would be provisional and would not prejudice any views expressed at a meeting of another authority.

**12. Public Question Time**

No members of the public were present.

**13. Order of Business**

There were no changes to the order of business.

**14. Chairman's and Clerk's Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**15. Climate Change and Sustainability Committee Minutes – To approve and sign the minutes of the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee Meeting held on 08 April 2021, as a correct record**

It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee meeting. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran).

**16. To discuss that in order to address the issues of climate change and sustainability within a local framework, the committee will develop policy under the following broad headings (Agenda item requested by Cllr Vincent):**

- 'Living more locally'
- 'Supporting local food producers'
- 'Improving our parks, gardens and community spaces'

Consideration was given to the proposed headings, with the following points being made:

- Priorities and actions were agreed at the last meeting, with council practice being central
- Query relating to whether these newly proposed headings related to the council or the community
- Recognition that the new headings may include action, engagement, community support, lobbying and consultations.

Further to discussion, it was **resolved** that this committee will develop, as a start, the suggested broad headings, recognising that they are not exclusive. (Proposed by Cllr Downes).

It was noted that areas where the committee can influence decision-making by other authorities should be identified.

**17. To consider recommending to Full Council that it issues a moratorium on chemical-based weed-killers used on council-administered property (Agenda item requested by Cllr Vincent)**

The Town Clerk provided written responses from the council's maintenance contractor and Bert Jewell.

It was agreed that there were appropriate areas when herbicides should be used, and that a review of the current contract and areas within the council's remit should be undertaken in order to reduce the use of herbicides when the contract is renewed. It was agreed that the cost implications would require consideration. It was **resolved** that Cllr Cochran would liaise with the Assistant Clerk regarding the current contract. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable).

**18. To note and consider the following topics discussed informally by the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee (Agenda item requested by Cllr Vincent):**

- **Crediton's relationship with through-traffic on the A377**

- **Poor air quality in the town**

It was **noted** that the existing Urban Realm Traffic Study should be discussed. It was noted that Cllr Downes and the Town Clerk would be attending an Air Quality Monitoring Steering Group meeting in June and would report back on the outcomes.

- **Cycle path to Exeter**

It was **noted** that this issue is being investigated by other bodies, but could be investigated further.

- **Creating a directory of local (sustainable) services**

It was agreed that this was a good idea, but would require a lead councillor to support the required work.

- **Introducing a 20-mph zone for High Street**

It was suggested that this was not likely to be enforceable, however consideration was given to information signs along the High Street and '20 is plenty' wheelie bin/recycling box signs.

- **Introduction of Co-Cars club vehicles to Crediton**

It was **noted** that this initiative was being considered by Sustainable Crediton, and the Town Council would support as required.

- **Greater use of Town Square, including a young people's Clothes Swap event**

It was suggested that a discussion with the Youth Worker regarding this would be beneficial, as this could be a good idea.

- **Installing a collection point for used household batteries**

It was **noted** that collection points already exist within the town.

- **Addressing litter problem of disposable facemasks**

It was agreed that the Town Council could use existing social media platforms and press

releases to increase public information relating to this. It was noted that The Turning Tides Project had created engaging social media posts about litter which could be shared. They had also published artwork in the Crediton Courier regarding issues such as litter.

- **Setting up a not-for-profit company to offer pavement weed clearance, or other local physical maintenance and enhancement (akin to window-cleaning firms)**

It was suggested that there may be an overlap here, as the Town Council has a contract for this sort of work. Volunteers were a huge help to any further work and should be supported.

- **Development of voluntary 'Ward Groups' (Lawrence and Boniface) to care for urban environment/green spaces**
- **Establishment of Friends groups to oversee development at parks and open spaces**

It was **noted** that there are existing groups such as Sustainable Crediton in undertaking work and developing areas within the town, and members present were confident that their members and other volunteers would continue so long as they are willing and able.

It was generally agreed that the current Covid-19 restrictions have made things more difficult, but as summer approaches and restrictions ease, there will be more scope to work with the community.

- 19. To consider supporting an appropriate application to the government's Community Renewal Fund were it to be forthcoming (Agenda item requested by Cllr Vincent)**

It was **noted** that the Town Council was not a prescribed authority to apply, as set out within the application information.

- 20. To consider sending a letter the Mel Stride MP regarding the delivery of Climate Change and Sustainability initiatives at a local level, in line with government directive. Further information had been issued with the agenda.**

It was **resolved** that this committee should make every effort to ensure that it is informed, using existing information that is in the public domain, prior to making any written representation to the MP. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran).

- 21. To agree the date of the next meeting**

It was **resolved** that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 10 June 2021  
The meeting was closed at 20.11.

Signed.....



(Chairman)

Date:.....

12/7/21