



Minutes of Credition Town Council's Climate Emergency Committee held on Tuesday 08 July 2021 at 19.00 at Old Landscore School, Greenway, Credition

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

Apologies: Cllr J Ross

In Attendance: Rachel Avery, Town Clerk

22. To receive and accept apologies

It was **resolved** to accept apologies from Cllr Ross. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).

23. 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.

24. Public Question Time

No members of the public were present.

25. Order of Business

It was **resolved** to change the order of business so that agenda item 7 was taken at item 5. (Proposed by Cllr Vincent).

26. Chairman's and Clerk's Announcements

Cllr Vincent's Chairman statement forms part of the minutes.

27. Climate Change and Sustainability Committee Minutes – To approve and sign the minutes of the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee Meeting held on 13 May 2021, as a correct record

It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee meeting held on 13 May 2021. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).

28. To invite each member of the Climate Emergency Committee to outline an issue, relevant to the work of the committee, arising from their own appraisal of the committee's role or representing a relevant issue raised by a local resident or other stakeholder and where possible to propose a course of action for the committee to pursue, with a view to its adoption by Full Council (Agenda item was requested by Cllr Vincent)

Cllr Vincent explained that the purpose of this agenda item was to establish a common understanding of the committee's general goals and for councillors to raise any particular proposals that they are keen to progress. As a general rule, he asked councillors to be supportive of ideas and to assist in building a case for proposals rather than voicing objections. He highlighted the importance of informal discussions between meetings.

The following suggestions were made:

- Cllr Cochran – the importance of ensuring the Town Council is undertaking best practices relating to the climate emergency when caring for open spaces that it owns
- Cllr Brookes-Hocking – the importance of planting trees and the creation of a dedicated space for climate emergency information on the Town Council’s website, alongside working with existing community groups within the town, exploration of a ‘hub’ to provide face to face opportunities
- Cllr Downes – increased use of electric bikes, increased number of bike racks and a public drinking water facility on the Town Square
- Cllr Huxtable – the importance of community support and participation in the town’s open spaces and the investigation of a volunteer and reward scheme to appreciate efforts.

The role of costs and budgets were considered. It was agreed that any associated costs of delivering proposals should be fully researched before submitting motions to Full Council. Cllr Vincent stated that this committee, in its various forms, had delivered nothing since 2018. Whilst Cllr Brookes-Hocking stated that this may be a good point, there had been a lot of activity which had been cancelled due to various issues including Covid-19.

Cllr Vincent requested that all councillors bring forward their proposals, in the form of a specific motion and accompanying relevant information to the next meeting of this committee.

29. To discuss further the following broad headings and ways in which the committee can progress any agreed actions:

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

There was no further discussion relating to the broad headings.

30. To receive an update regarding the use of weed killers and the current grounds maintenance contract

Cllr Cochran reported that the current contract is ambiguous and investigation into the costs of amending the contract is required. It was **agreed** that the Town Council should avoid the use of herbicides where possible, whilst accepting that it has its uses in some places (such as cobbled areas). Cllr Cochran would liaise on this issue with the appropriate officer. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran).

Cllr Huxtable advised that a cost analysis would be required to enable the relevant committee to discuss the issue. It was noted that the Climate Emergency does not have its own budget.

31. To consider an initiative to make Crediton a plastic-free town

It was noted that this issue had been brought to the Town Clerk by a member of the public, wishing to reduce the amount of plastic within the town. There was a general discussion around the use of plastic glasses due to the pandemic, and how it was important to involve the whole community in reducing plastic use. Cllr Downes suggested that his suggestion on a public water facility may reduce the use of plastic bottles, and this should be investigated.

32. To note the date of the next meeting – Thursday 09 September 2021

The date of the next meeting was noted. The meeting was closed at 20.30

Signed.....
(Chairman)

Date:.....