

# Holme Valley Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 24<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr P Davies

Councillors: R Hogley, S Sheard

Co-opted Members: C Anstey, S Barker, G Bradley, C O'Halloran, J Queening, M Tulley

Climate Emergency Co-ordinator: Michelle Brown

Officer: R McGill, Deputy Clerk

### Welcome

### Public Question Time

One Councillor was present for the Public Session as a member of the public but chose not to speak. One Councillor, who is a Member of the Committee, joined the meeting virtually as a member of the public later in the course of the meeting.

#### **2122 01 Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 amended by the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 on 6 August 2014**

Local (Parish and Town) Council meetings can now be recorded. The Officer was recording the meeting in video format through Zoom for upload to the Council's YouTube channel. This was a hybrid meeting with Councillors and the Officer in the Council chamber and others (co-opted Members, the member of the public and the Climate Emergency Co-ordinator) attending by Zoom.

#### **2122 02 To accept apologies for absence**

Apologies were tendered by Cllr Bellamy, Cllr Firth, Cllr Gould and Cllr Roberts.

**RESOLVED:** Apologies were approved by the Committee.

*Cllr Sheard attended the meeting but was a few minutes late. Until Cllr Sheard arrived, the meeting was not quorate. Because the meeting was not quorate some of the early agenda items were moved until it became quorate. Cllr Gould, who gave apologies for not attending the in-person meeting, did later join the virtual meeting.*

#### **2122 07 Climate Emergency Standing Committee Expenditure Against Budget**

The Deputy Clerk/RFO reported on the expenditure against budget by the Committee for Council year 2019-20, noting that the Committee had significantly underspent due to the pandemic. The Deputy Clerk/RFO also reported that the Committee might need to reshuffle its budgets over the year with virements between the budget lines as the Community Mobilisation budget is potentially too low if the Climate Emergency Co-ordinator role is re-commissioned.

**NOTED:** The Committee noted the Expenditure Against Budget report for the full year ending March 31st, 2021 and that, in addition, £1600 was paid out in the current financial year for the Home Energy Savings brochure which needs to be factored into last year's figures as that was when expenditure was approved.

**NOTED:** The Committee further noted the Deputy Clerk/RFO's report that virements might be needed later in the year to better reflect the expenditure split of the Committee's budget.

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2122 08

## Mobilisation Sub-Group

The Chairman reported that he feels that we are beginning to see the fruits of Members' labour now, and sub-groups were beginning to meet outcomes agreed last year.

The Climate Emergency Co-ordinator reported on aspects of her work co-ordinating the ongoing action planning:

- A draft Summary Document in the form of an A3 poster was shared. This outlined the various work strands and projects the Committee has been developing with the overarching aim of making the Holme Valley carbon-neutral by 2030. These posters would be posted on Council notice-boards and online.
- Also shared was the new in-development Climate Emergency Action Planning website. This was positively received by Members and Officers as an attractive site with lots of potential for pushing the climate emergency agenda. The Climate Emergency Co-ordinator asked for content from Members to start to populate the site.
- The Holme Valley Climate Emergency YouTube channel was referenced. Shortened bite-size videos have been created for the channel which summarise aspects of the ongoing work.
- The Holme Valley Review was sharing stories on local environmental initiatives like the Repair Café.

The Climate Emergency Co-ordinator was keen to credit group Members for their hard work pursuing outcomes of the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

The Committee Chair reported that his role in the Kirklees Cabinet had changed. He was no longer the Cabinet Member for Culture and Greener Kirklees; he had moved to Corporate. This meant he was a little more removed from mainstream of environmental issues than hitherto.

At this point, the Chairman raised the issue of the pending Yorkshire Motorsport Festival which is to take place the weekend of 25<sup>th</sup> June. The Festival was likely to go ahead. Kirklees was reviewing the safety of the event. *[1929hrs Cllr Sheard arrived at this point]* It was suggested that the Festival organisers were undertaking a variety of approaches to minimise the environmental impact including a stated intent to offset the carbon footprint of the event. Cllr Sheard felt that a classic car converted to an e-vehicle would be a good thing for organisers to display.

There was discussion as to whether the Committee should have a stall at the event to promote the climate emergency agenda.

**RESOLVED:** It was decided that the Parish Council would not have a stall at the event this year but we would consider working with the organisers and attendees at future events, and to review this event.

**RESOLVED:** Mmbr Matthew Tulley would communicate with the Chairman about how the Festival could achieve an accurate and truthful calculation of its carbon footprint. The Chairman would use this in discussions within Kirklees Council on the Festival.

**RESOLVED:** The Chair of Council would work with the Committee Chairman, Officers and the Climate Emergency Co-ordinator to draw a formal email to send to Festival organisers stating that the Parish Council does not want to hold a stall this year at the event, but want to review the Festival's own findings with regard to its environmental impact and carbon footprint.

**RESOLVED:** The Committee would put together a statement detailing how the Parish Council is petitioning the Yorkshire Motorsport Festival to offset the negative impact of the event for display on the Climate Emergency website.

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*Now, that the meeting was quorate, the Chairman returned to the agenda items that had been bypassed at the start.*

**2122 03**      **To receive Members' and Officer's personal and disclosable pecuniary interests in items on the agenda**

None were received.

**2122 04**      **To consider written requests for new DPI dispensations**

None had been received.

**2122 05**      **To consider whether items on the agenda should be discussed in private session**

**RESOLVED:** No items to be heard in private session.

**2122 06**      **To confirm the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED:** The Minutes of the Climate Emergency Standing Committee meeting held on 15 March 2021, numbered 2021 51 – 2021 63 inclusive were approved.

*The Chairman returned to the previous running order at this point.*

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## 2122 09 Climate Emergency Sub-Groups Feedback

### Energy, Housing, Buildings

Mmbr Steve Barker reported that a lot of work had been done by Members and the Climate Emergency Co-ordinator on the Home Energy Savings Booklet; it was almost complete except for the final design. This would be an e-document and would be the starting point for a series of publications. The energy audit of Parish Council buildings (Civic Hall and Honley Library) was being undertaken 8th June. The results are expected by early July.

Steve opined that the Committee needed to endeavour to get more people involved to share more of the workload on projects.

### Transport/Travel (public transport promotion, electric vehicles, walking, cycling)

Sub-group Members reported on their work about active transport, and electrical vehicle infrastructure. The sub-group meets monthly. There had been no change on the electrical vehicle charging initiatives for the moment. With regard to the bike racks, Kirklees Council was looking into the suggested locations, so that scheme had moved forward. The main work of Members though was on the campaign "If it's not far leave the car," – promoting walking and cycling for short distance journeys. The poster and social media campaign would take place in July, asking people to log their "savings" by not using their car, and hopefully we will have an accumulator to calculate the total carbon savings achieved through the scheme. Members were working with local schools, walkers and footpath groups, cyclists and other community groups to get the message out. A local photographer was getting involved to record aspects of the campaign.

### Waste/Consumption (recycling; minimising waste)

Sub-group Members reported on their prospective work regarding community hub recycling centres. An "upcycling swapshop" was going ahead. The Repair Café had been restarted. A session had taken place on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May and another was planned for the 5<sup>th</sup> of June. There was not yet a significant uptake on the service though a lot of people supported the idea.

### Agriculture, Food, Environment, Land Use, Business Economy (land-use mapping; engaging farmers and landowners)

The Climate Emergency Co-ordinator reported on the work of this sub-group. Land-use mapping Project is going to be undertaken using a drone by members of the University of Huddersfield geography department. Two more local farmers have got involved with the group. A bio-diversity survey was being undertaken on Cuddy's Farm. Members had been in contact with a range of local, regional and national stakeholders.

The Chairman pointed out that this work was undertaken as co-working with the Holme Valley Climate Action Partnership.

## 2122 10 Climate Emergency Co-ordinator Role

The Climate Emergency Co-ordinator began in post 17<sup>th</sup> August 2020 with a one-year contract which would expire 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021. Members considered renewing the contract of the Climate Emergency Co-ordinator for another year from 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021 until 16<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

There was broad support for the continuation of the role and for the current post-holder from Councillors and Co-opted Members.

**RESOLVED:** Voting Members voted to recommend the renewal of the Climate Emergency Co-ordinator's contract to Council for a further year until 16<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

*Cllr Gould joined the meeting during this item as a member of the public over Zoom.*

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## 2122 11 Local Provision of Allotments

At the last Committee meeting, Members resolved that Cllrs Sheard and Gould would work with the Agriculture, Food, Environment, Land Use, Business Economy sub-group on a project plan for Holme Valley allotment and community-growing-area provision.

Cllr Sheard spoke on new initiatives to encourage insect pollinators.

**RESOLVED:** The Climate Emergency Co-ordinator would incorporate initiatives to encourage garden micro-habitats for insect pollinators into the Committee's online information.

**Close 8:45pm**

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Chairman