

MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 19th JULY 2021

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr R Hogley

Councillors: M Blacka, M Bustard, P Davies, A Wilson

Co-opted Members: F Bennett, G Bradley, A Colwill, J Queening, M Tulley

Climate Emergency Co-ordinator: Michelle Brown

Officer: R McGill, Deputy Clerk

Welcome

Public Question Time

Councillor Hogley welcomed Councillors and members of the public to this first meeting of the Holme Valley Parish Council Climate Emergency Standing Committee 2021-22. Councillor Hogley introduced herself as the new Chair of the Committee, thanked Councillors for her election, and welcomed Cllr Mark Bustard (Holmfirth Central), Cllr Andy Wilson (Upperthong) and Cllr Mary Blacka (Scholes) as new Members of the Committee. Councillor Bustard and Councillor Wilson, as recently elected Members of the Council, introduced themselves to the Committee.

Five members of the public were present at the meeting. All had been co-opted Members of the Climate Emergency Standing Committee 2020-21.

2122 12 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 audio format for upload to the Council's YouTube channel. No-one else present wanted additional provision to record the meeting.

2122 13 To accept apologies for absence

Apologies were tendered by Cllr Gould.

RESOLVED: Cllr Gould's apology was approved by the Committee.

Co-opted Members from 2020-21, - Steve Barker, Cath O'Halloran and Caroline Anstey, - sent apologies and expressed an interest in continuing to be co-opted Members of the Committee. Cllr Sheard was not present.

2122 14 To receive Members' and Officer's personal and disclosable pecuniary interests in items on the agenda

None were received.

2122 15 To consider written requests for new DPI dispensations

None had been received.

2122 16 To consider whether items on the agenda should be discussed in private session

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RESOLVED: No items to be heard in private session.

2122 17 To confirm the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: The Minutes of the Climate Emergency Standing Committee meeting held on 24 May 2021, numbered 2122 01 – 2122 11 inclusive were approved.

2122 18 To elect a new Vice Chair of the Committee

RESOLVED: Cllr Mary Blacka was elected as Vice Chair of the Standing Committee.

2122 19 To elect co-opted Members to the Committee, up to a maximum of ten

RESOLVED: Caroline Anstey, Steve Barker, Andrew Colwill, Frances Bennett, Greta Bradley, Alison Morgan, Cath O'Halloran, John Queening, Matthew Tulley were co-opted onto the Climate Emergency Standing Committee for the year 2021-22.

There is one further place still open for a member of the public to become a co-opted Member. Any candidates should attend subsequent meetings of the Committee.

2122 20 Climate Emergency Standing Committee Expenditure Against Budget

- (1) The Deputy Clerk/RFO reported on the expenditure against budget by the Committee for the year to date. The Deputy Clerk/RFO 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 year-to-date.

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.

NOTED: The Committee noted that there was some expenditure that was pending for ongoing projects.

- (2) The Climate Emergency Co-ordinator asked Councillors to consider approving expenditure of £600 on a carbon calculator for the Holme Valley Climate Action website.

RESOLVED: The Committee approved expenditure of £600 on a carbon calculator for the Holme Valley Climate Action website.

- (3) The Climate Emergency Co-ordinator reported on plans for a Great Big Green Week Pop-up Event, and asked Members to approve expenditure of £950 on the event, - in part, for the Fair and Funky smoothie-maker bike hire, design of posters, events licence and insurance as required.

RESOLVED: Expenditure up to £1000 was approved for the event.

RESOLVED: It was resolved that Saturday 25th September would be the date for the event.

The Climate Emergency Co-ordinator would be engaging with local businesses, especially the Co-op, and community groups like the Tech to develop the event. She was also applying for the temporary events licence.

2122 21 Mobilisation Sub-Group

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

- The water-fountain had been covered by a report in the Holme Valley Review.
- Repair Cafés had been held successfully.
- Co-working on an active transport campaign with Art Week had taken place.
- The website now had more and more content including a climate quiz, videos from members about electric vehicles, information about land use and the energy audits.
- The group had greater social media presence across Facebook and Twitter.
- The energy booklet was available to download.

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

2122 22 Climate Emergency Sub-groups to feed back

Energy, Housing, Buildings

Frances Bennett reported that the building audits of Holmfirth Civic Hall and Honley Library were complete, and a meeting was taking place to review the findings.

Mmbr Steve Barker had sent in an email report on this subgroup's work. Steve reported that the Civic Hall and Honley Library were both fully engaged in the process. These documents could be uploaded to the website to allow local people to gauge the level of depth and detail in the audit. The Chair reported that other community facilities, like village halls, might benefit from reviewing the audits, and engaging with recommendations, so sharing the reports would be a good idea.

RESOLVED: Ward Councillors would share the audits as they see fit with community facilities within their own wards. This would help Councillors to connect better to their communities.

The final version of the Energy Savings booklet had been published to the website. The Chair spoke very positively about the booklet, its content and tone, and hoped that other Council Committees and Councillors would see wider benefit in its publications. She hoped that there would be opportunities to share such productions more widely.

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

Member Cath O'Halloran was absent and so a report was given by Greta Bradley on the work of the sub-group. The first report was on the Yorkshire Motorsport Festival which some Members had attended. Greta Bradley complimented Matthew Tulley, of Zero Carbon Yorkshire who had hosted a stand at the event, saying that he had had many positive engagements with a number of members of the public in what might have been a hostile environment. The stand had been designed to attract people interested in cars, - showing an electric VW camper and a history of the development of motor vehicles, - but then counterbalanced this with statistics and charts regarding CO₂ production and a prognosis for the earth if things don't change. Matthew reported talking to 83 people and collecting 20+ email addresses. Greta reported that he created a lot of "stop-and- think" moments amongst attendees.

Greta further reported on Art Week, saying that a scheme to encourage people to walk between fringe events during the festival was well-received, and was successful in raising consciousness. Unfortunately, she reported, they did not get a school involved. A Walk to School Day had been

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planned as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Active Transport Award but this did not happen because of the pandemic and lockdown. Nevertheless, students were very receptive and engaged especially with the If It's Not Far, Leave the Car project and took a number of posters. The Climate Emergency Co-ordinator showed the posters which encouraged changes of behaviour, - walking or cycling rather than taking the car. Another aspect of the If It's Not Far Leave the Car scheme was to include the amount of steps between villages and Holmfirth to engage with people keen on fitness. Cllr Bustard said he could share some learning and information regarding his experience promoting active transport in London. Cllr Bustard was asked to join the Transport sub-group.

The Chair asked about the progress of the bike-racks project. Greta Bradley reported that this was not being pursued at the moment because Kirklees were planning to include the project within the Holmfirth road-scheme development plan.

Waste/Consumption (recycling; minimising waste)

Sub-group Member John Queening reported that a waste and recycling group meeting was to be held the day after so there may be more to say following that. The Repair Café was hopefully going to become better utilised once restrictions are lifted. A project with Fair Trader about using the shop as a community hub recycling centre had been compromised by the contact leaving but it was hoped that this might be restarted. Another project with the High School about "upcycling" clothing had been successful and had had a display in the Market Hall. Encouraging engagement from young people was considered very important.

Kirklees Council had recently published its waste strategy, and new initiatives were planned for managing the recycling of food waste and more intensive recycling. John hoped that there was greater engagement with the community in terms of community-based recycling of materials outside of the scope of current household recycling regimes and encouraging a circular economy. Other projects, - like the reusable cups for festivals/events, - had stalled inevitably due to the lockdown. Cllr Davies reported from the perspective of Kirklees Council and emphasised its aim to recycle more waste more effectively and also on a waste-to-energy plan being developed to create district heating systems. Part of the problem for local government was a lack of clarity with regard to the national government's future plans.

The Chair asked about the possibility of reviving online on the group's Committee's website an update of the HOTT Recycling Directory for specialist recycling centres for items like yoghurt pots, foil and so on. The Climate Emergency Co-ordinator said she would be happy to develop the resource once she had an editable copy of the original Directory.

The Chair further asked about a project at Hepworth School for a RIDAN food-waste composter and was told that there was still a funding shortfall and the project had stalled. Cllr Hogley encouraged Members to try and re-start the project, and suggested they come back to the Committee to discuss possible funding.

The Chair also commented on a recycling initiative in the Co-op in Holmfirth, - recycling soft plastics like crisp packets, - and encouraged Committee Members to publicise and promote it and other similar niche recycling centres. Cllr Hogley asked that the Climate Emergency Co-ordinator enquire about the destination of these soft plastics collected at the Co-op. Huddersfield

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

Member Andrew Colwill reported that the land-use survey is still ongoing. A biodiversity survey has been undertaken on Cuddy's Farm which it is hoped will give some fresh ideas. Neighbouring farms have been asked to undertake self-surveys of their land use. University departments were also involved.

The Chair complimented the sub-groups on all their work and encouraged Councillors to get

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involved.

There was discussion of the role of the Climate Emergency Standing Committee in terms of working with aligned community groups, perhaps encouraging the co-working of community groups with similar focuses or at least ensuring they are complementary in their visions.

2122 23 Sharing of Holme Valley Parish Council content on the climate emergency

The Climate Emergency Co-ordinator reported that a number of other local Councils have inquired about using Holme Valley Parish Council-produced content in their own work on the climate emergency. Members considered arrangements for the sharing of Holme Valley Parish Council's content with other local Councils.

RESOLVED: Members resolved that other Councils could rebrand Holme Valley Parish Council-produced content using their own crests and logos. The Parish Council would like an acknowledgment from Councils that they are using content adapted from Holme Valley Parish Council appended to the content. The Climate Emergency Co-ordinator would note on the website where other groups had been assisted by the Holme Valley Parish Council Climate Emergency Committee.

Cllr Davies also reported that Cllr Greaves was establishing partnership-working with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

Cllr Blacka said that she was very impressed by the work undertaken by the Committee and hoped that there would be more interlinked working within the Parish Council and its other Committees. She suggested a presentation to full Council on progress. She also hoped that there might be more engagement events with the general public where people "signed up" to the action plan. The Climate Co-ordinator wanted to make sure that the underlying materials (website, YouTube, social media, publications) were sufficiently high quality before committing to broadcasting the message more concertedly.

Cllr Hogley suggested holding a stand at Honley Show and the Climate Emergency Co-ordinator said she would look into this.

2122 24 Local Provision of Allotments

Unfortunately, the Members involved in this project were not present.

The Chair reported that Committee members would like the provision of allotments and community growing projects in the Holme Valley to increase which might be achieved through different approaches, for example:

- 1) by petitioning Kirklees Council to allow re-purposing of small parcels of unused recreational land in the Valley.
- 2) by asking landowners to allow repurposing of parcels of land for rental as allotments.
- 3) by the Parish Council purchasing additional land for the purpose of increasing allotments.

Cllr Hogley reported that Cllr Sheard was liaising with another Councillor who has experience of buying land and that Councillor is looking into opportunities for purchasing land for potential allotment sites. Cllr Hogley further reported on Cinderhills Community Garden which is a Kirklees-led initiative to encourage local people to use this public growing space. Local people were invited to an open day at the Garden. The Bright Green Community Trust supported this initiative. There was discussion of a similar community garden in New Mill started with land provided by the church. Member John Queening asked for information on the sort of land that

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was being sought. The need for connective-working with and mutual-support from other similar activist groups was highlighted.

Cllr Blacka suggested that the Committee should work with “less-favoured” parts of the Parish including reaching out to, for example, the populations of larger housing estates.

2122 25

Yorkshire Motorsport Festival 1hr 56mins

NOTED: Members noted the letter sent by the Deputy Clerk on behalf of the Committee to the organisers of the Festival.

NOTED: Members noted that the Parish Council is to hold an Extraordinary Meeting of Council 26 July 2021 to discuss the Motorsport Festival and the Parish Council’s involvement therewith.

Members gave feedback on the Yorkshire Motorsport Festival related to environmental measures outlined by Yorkshire Motorsport Festival organisers. The Climate Emergency Co-ordinator read from a letter from the Motorsport Festival organisers. The organisers reported that the Festival, as held, was a smaller event than planned due to the pandemic. The organisers were still assessing the Festival’s carbon footprint and were to work with the Parish Council about its offsetting. The organisers reported that litter-collection had met Motorsport UK guidelines and the race cars involved in the hill climb were tested to ensure they met legal exhaust-noise limits.

The Chair reminded the Committee of what the Motorsport Festival organisers said they were going to do from an environmental perspective, namely:

- recycle up to 85% waste; litter-pickers leaving the site as it was found;
- active encouragement of vendors using recyclable containers; avoiding single-use products; use of wooden biodegradable cutlery;
- Park-and-ride served by electric buses;
- Low-emission generators to power the festival;
- Use of local contractors and suppliers to support the local economy;
- Traffic-management company to alleviate congestion.

Cllr Bustard reported that none of the targets met industry standards of robustness regarding good practice. He said that an event of this size should be delivered to at least a minimum standard. Given that the planned event for years ahead was expected to be much larger, industry guidelines and standards needed to be met in future.

Mmbr Matthew Tulley reported on his thoughts on the event as he had witnessed it. The litter-picking had been managed well. He reported on a survey that Zero Carbon Yorkshire had done to assess the distance travelled by people attending. This representative sample of 83 people had driven 3000 miles. Matthew said that the carbon footprint of the visitors to the Festival could be calculated from that once the overall number of Festival attendees was known. The organisers had said they intend to offset the carbon footprint. Matthew reported that Zero Carbon Yorkshire, which is a charity, could undertake offsetting the carbon and were available to do so if required. Matthew Tulley would meet with Cllr Bustard to make a calculation of the carbon footprint.

There was a discussion regarding how a similar approach might be needed to all large-scale local events.

The Climate Emergency Co-ordinator said that it was important to remind local people that the Parish Council had little authority to stop or control events such as the Motorsport Festival.

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Cllr Wilson felt that it was important to review practice at the recent Festival to foster better future practice. He felt that two environmental issues stood out in terms of complaints received, - the issues of exhaust noise of the race cars and access/road closures.

The Chair said that it is important that the Parish Council's approach is about trying to make things work better rather than trying to stop events from happening. The Climate Emergency Co-ordinator reported that all locally-held festivals impacted on residents' access.

The Chair thanked Members for their contributions to the discussion.

Close 9:15pm

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Chairman