

# HOLME VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## CLIMATE EMERGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 4 OCTOBER 2022

PRESENT: Cllr Hogley (Chair), Cllr Gould, Cllr Sheard, Cllr Wilson

ABSENT: Mbr Bennett, Mbr A Colwill

APOLOGIES/REASONS APPROVED: Cllr T Bellamy, Cllr M Blacka, Cllr P Davies, Mbr Bradley

OFFICERS PRESENT: Jen McIntosh (Clerk), Michelle Brown (CEC)

## DRAFT MINUTES

### WELCOME AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chair welcomed two members of the public present, applying to be co-opted to the CLIMATE EMERGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE.

The members of the public shared their experience as local business owners who are part of the Climate Action Network and Yorkshire and Humber Citizens' Climate Lobby.

The Chair gave a summary of the history of the CLIMATE EMERGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE.

Other Committee members present introduced themselves.

### PROCEDURAL MATTERS

#### 2223 15 Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 amended by the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 on 6 August 2014

The meeting was recorded by the Clerk in video format for the [HOLME VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL YouTube Channel](#).

No other requests for recordings to be made of the meeting were received.

#### 2223 15a Apologies and reasons for absence

**APPROVED:** apologies and reasons received from Cllr T Bellamy, Cllr M Blacka, Cllr P Davies and Mbr Bradley

Clerk reported that Cllr Gould was running late due to work.

#### 2223 16 Election of members of the Climate Emergency Standing Committee 2022-23

The two members of the public present were asked to leave the room whilst their applications to join the COMMITTEE were considered.

**APPROVED:** Pamela Charlesworth and Darrin Charlesworth were appointed members of the Committee.

*Cllr Gould arrived at 7.15pm.*

#### 2223 17 Members' and Officers' personal and disclosable pecuniary interests in items on the agenda

No disclosable personal or pecuniary interests in items on the agenda were declared.

## 2223 18 **Written requests for new DPI dispensations**

There were no written requests for new DPI dispensations to consider.

## 2223 19 **Items on the agenda to be discussed in private session**

No items on the agenda were to be discussed in private session.

## 2223 20 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**APPROVED:** The Minutes of the CLIMATE EMERGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE (CLIMATE EMERGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE) meeting held on 27 June 2022 items 2223 01 to 2223 14.

## **PROGRESS AND ACTIONS**

## 2223 21 **Jubilee seed and tree-planting project**

The Chair gave a verbal update on the 'Planting trees to save the bees' project.

The tree-planting will commence in November combined with presentation of winning posters. Native trees have been ordered from the Woodland Trust. Posters were being collected this week, with a framed copy to each school and an unframed copy for each winner.

Each tree will be accompanied by a Queen's Green Canopy plaque plus a plaque from HVPC.

Cllrs Wilson and Sheard volunteered to take part in the tree-planting.

CEC to write a piece for local magazines (Hade Edge Breeze, Honley Flyer, Hepworth Focus) and TITO November/December on the project, accompanied by photos.

The information could be displayed on the screen in Holmfirth Library.

## 2223 22 ***If it's Not Far, Leave the Car Campaign***

The COMMITTEE heard that there is an Earmarked Reserve of £1,000 for the further rollout of the campaign, including possible creation of a distance-to-walk map focused on Honley.

The Climate Emergency Coordinator reported that she has asked a member of Honley Business Association to suggest walks centred on Honley and is waiting for a response. A Honley map displaying walks and steps/distance to Honley centre would then be developed by the Hollywood Agency and the funds available utilised for this purpose. As the £1,000 is currently in an earmarked reserve, approval would need to be sought from FULL COUNCIL to draw down the monies.

A query was raised regarding the current status of the completed Holmfirth map. The publishing of the completed Holmfirth map had been delayed due to the pandemic. The CEC now planned to publish the two maps together to maximise the impact of the publicity opportunities.

Cllr Wilson and CEC were at an early stage of planning for a cycling event to be held in the Spring. Queries were raised as to the aims of the event. It was confirmed that the closure of Hollowgate to traffic apart from bikes was a possibility that remained under consideration. The objective of the 'If it's not far, leave the car' campaign was to encourage consideration of alternative means of

transport for a functional journey. Part of the function of the maps was to raise awareness of shortcuts, pathways that people might not have known about that could encourage walking and cycling for everyday journeys.

Some of the initial interest-raising activities had lost momentum due to the ongoing impact of Covid and the associated lockdowns and one challenge was to rekindle this interest.

A concern was raised as to the small membership of the COMMITTEE compared to when it was first set up and the conclusion to be drawn from this that there were relatively few people to take an active role. There was a need to discuss how to generate interest and involvement, with the suggestion that more meetings might resolve this. A concern was expressed by some members that the later item regarding the future of the COMMITTEE needed to review what the objectives of the COMMITTEE were.

Committee members were asked to get involved in making the cycling initiative a success and to translate the initial ideas into tangible actions. A commitment to work outside of the COMMITTEE meetings was needed to further these objectives. No members of the COMMITTEE came forward to join Cllr Wilson and the CEC. Members were encouraged to contact the CEC directly if they did wish to become involved.

## **2223 23 Business & Community Group Database update**

There was some discussion as to whether the continuing building of the database should be completed by the CEC or reassigned as a general COUNCIL task, with the FULL COUNCIL assigning resources to it.

The origins of the project were explained in that a key challenge for the COMMITTEE was to communicate the work that was being done in order to get a wider circle of individuals and organisations involved in and aware of the climate emergency. It was anticipated that the database would support the COMMITTEE in expanding its influence and communicating with stakeholders directly. It would be a way to contact people to get things moving. It would enable HVPC to champion news stories of climate emergency successes within the wider community and also projects instigated by the CESC, such as the Energy Efficiency Booklet. Use of the database could help to avoid eco-unfriendly printing of information as a means of communication.

There was a rationale in the CEC undertaking this work as she felt that it would be difficult to fulfil her role further without having a means such as the database to share information. Physical events tended to attract those already aware of and proactively involved in climate emergency issues whereas the database would help to communicate the many developments to a wider range of individuals and community groups.

The Climate Emergency Coordinator gave a verbal report on progress towards completing a database of businesses and community groups. There were now 420 contacts listed as opposed to the 35 original contacts and the CEC was working to a deadline of completing the database by the end of November 2022. One member offered to host within their business premises a list for potential subscribers to add themselves to as a way of expanding the database further. There is the facility to do this via the website.

The COMMITTEE heard that the time for the first communication with entries was approaching – it was vital that the first communication had impact as it would include an option for database entries to unsubscribe.

The CEC invited all COMMITTEE members to assist in deciding this.

## 2223 24 Reviewing the content of the Holme Valley Climate Action Partnership website

Feedback was invited on the current content of [www.holmevalleyclimateaction.co.uk](http://www.holmevalleyclimateaction.co.uk) and Members had been asked to look at this prior to the meeting.

The HVPC Climate Action website had grown out of the HVPC Climate Action Plan. It was originally set up with links and pages corresponding to sections within the HVPC Climate Action Plan but has grown from just being an online version of the brochure. There is a link to the HVPCAP Facebook Page and also an Instagram page.

The new Members were asked to look at the website with fresh eyes and give feedback to the CEC.

Clerk to share CEC email address with new members.

Members were asked to share relevant content with Michelle for posting to the website and social media.

It was commented that topical information – for example, cost-free means of saving energy – would be most likely to not only reach those already interested in the climate emergency but a wider audience and so would be particularly welcome.

## 2223 25 Report on other initiatives led by members of the Committee

Oral updates on progress on other initiatives were provided by members as follows.

### Disposal of trade waste

The Clerk reported that there was nothing to report as yet – bins would be ordered as per earlier minutes to aid recycling. It was commented that it is important for the COUNCIL to lead by example.

### Community engagement / attendance at festivals

One way the Committee seeks community engagement with climate emergency issues is through establishing a presence through community events.

There had been a CEC presence at *The Great Big Green Get-together* - Holmfirth Tech (28-9-22) and also at *Holmfirth Festival of Folk* in May 2022 which utilised re-usable cups supported by HVPC.

A positive contact with the Co-op had led to a grant to pay for the eventual location of a fridge to store excess produce managed by HOTT Edibles.

At the *Holmfirth Food and Drink Festival* (17/18 September 2022) it was positive that the water bottle refiller was being promoted by the Festival. Unfortunately the Holmfirth Community Box – the K6 red telephone kiosk adjacent to Holmfirth Post Office – was not ready by the time of the Festival to utilise as a means of community engagement when the Festival was held.

Other initiatives included the sponsoring of the Cargo-bike and links established with schools through the Jubilee project – a good way of introducing eco-friendly practices into homes through awareness-raising amongst youngsters.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## 2223 26 Seeking input and views from the local community

The Chair has reached out to Honley and Holmfirth High Schools to invite up to 2 student representatives from each school to come and speak to the COMMITTEE on whatever aspect of the climate emergency they wish to. This will be taken forward later in the school year with the intention for this to happen at the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 meeting.

A comment was made that the COMMITTEE was not in the right position to seek input from the local community until members understood and could therefore communicate how close the COMMITTEE was to meeting the 8 targets it devised at its inception. A key tension was whether the focus should be on communicating an aspirational climate emergency message and lobby for change at a national level or on taking on achievable concrete actions within the Holme Valley. The relatively small number of members was seen as an issue in terms of the time and energy resources available for utilisation by the COMMITTEE. Because the COMMITTEE was, in fact, a small group of volunteers, the emphasis would need to be on facilitating and enabling Holme Valley residents to take action regarding their personal behaviours. Reaching 27,000 residents and changing behaviours remained a challenge. HVPC's two main tools remained communicating information to its residents and also using monies available to it through grants to address climate-emergency related issues. There was not the resource to try and change national policy.

Another perspective expressed was that the relatively small number of COMMITTEE members was due to a drop off in interest and indicated that the initial engagement events that accompanied the COMMITTEE'S installation needed to be repeated and perhaps a change in the objectives consulted upon. It was commented that many more people got involved with the COMMITTEE at its inception which produced an energy and excitement that needed to be recaptured – perhaps through targeting a number of residents in each age group. It was observed that there was a discernible pattern of people gradually disconnecting from community goals now that Covid was receding and people were free to pursue their own individual concerns. Perhaps what was needed was to tap into actions that clearly connected to people's personal current concerns.

More than actions, a message that mattered to local people was needed. It was suggested that the COMMITTEE should move away from its reducing carbon usage target to assisting residents with making their transport greener and their homes warmer. It was questioned as to whether meeting such objectives lay within the scope of HVPC's power.

## BUDGETARY MATTERS

### 2223 27 CLIMATE EMERGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE Budget and Ear-marked Reserves 2022-23 Year-to-Date

**NOTED:** the contents of the CLIMATE EMERGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE Budget and Earmarked Reserves 2022-23 Year-to-Date report.

## REFERRALS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

### 2223 28 Referral from Service Provision Committee

The COMMITTEE heard that the SERVICE PROVISION COMMITTEE meeting on 19 September 2022 members had considered a motion to install a (free) bike repair station and tamper-proof bike rack to be situated next to Holmfirth Public Toilets where the bike lockers had stood. The matter had been referred to the CLIMATE EMERGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE which currently manages

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budget line 4815 Transport Strategy with funds of £972.50 available.

**RESOLVED:** to give approval in principle of funding up to £500 the installation of a Bike Repair Station and to look into the cost of tamper-proof simple bicycle racks adjacent to Holmfirth Public Toilets subject to obtaining any permissions needed.

Clerk to research further suitable bike racking, preference to be given to the Sheffield Steel type bike rails to be found at the side of the bus station. Feedback from Cllr T Bellamy received prior to the meeting and earlier work completed by the Transport Strategy action group suggested the price for suitable racking might be more in the region of £1400. If so, the proposal to install a suitable bike rack to be revisited at a later date.

Clerk to clarify that the bike repair station itself is free of charge.

## 2223 29 **Matters to consider arising from grant applications received by the Finance and Management Committee**

A number of grant applications to be considered by the FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE had objectives in line with those of the CLIMATE EMERGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE. Whilst the CLIMATE EMERGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE had no power to give grants it could consider approving expenditure from its budget lines where available.

**RESOLVED:** to approve monies from budget line 4810 energy (£10,000 available) to fund £5,000 towards solar batteries to support those solar panels already installed and also equipment to allow excess solar power to provide hot water for Hepworth United Football Club, thus reducing dependence on LPG (bottled) gas.

CEC to source a 'green plaque' to publicise that the project was funded by HVPC CESC.

**RESOLVED:** approving monies from budget line 4810 energy (£10,000 available) to fund £5,000 towards 2 new boilers for Wooldale Community Centre, replacing 30 year old boilers.

## **FORWARD-PLANNING FOR COUNCIL YEAR 2023-24**

### 2223 30 **Future role of the Climate Emergency Standing Committee within the Parish Council.**

A Discussion Paper was presented for consideration by the Chair that set out in the first instance the history of the COMMITTEE, its Terms of Reference, Scheme of Delegation, work to date and the progress of HVPC towards delivering the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

The Chair also referred to the Terms of Reference for the PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE and its work. The Chair outlined the need to expand the Clerking Team, giving the flexibility to have a permanent communications-focused post. There was some duplication of work between the COMMITTEES and, in acknowledgement of the commitment and resource required for each COMMITTEE meeting to operate successfully, she outlined her proposal that the two committees merge.

Concern was expressed that such a merger would dilute the perceived commitment to and focus on the climate emergency.

Members were reminded that recent meetings had demonstrated how difficult it had become to achieve quorate meetings recently for both COMMITTEES. There was a possibility that a merger would capitalise on the synergy created, with the publications and communications function of the

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new COMMITTEE aiding the ability to get out the message of the climate emergency.

Other issues raised were that a lack of viable projects being brought forward at CESC meetings for the CEC to co-ordinate. The achievable aspects of the Climate Emergency Action Plan were largely completed and the database due to be finished shortly. There were likely to be some significant underspends in the CESC budget for 2022-23. These factors favoured a merger to ensure best use of resources.

There continued to be a wide divergence of views on the topic, indicating that any vote would be split, given that there were four Councillor Members present with voting rights. The Clerk reminded the COMMITTEE that Standing Orders stated that all Councillors would have an initial vote; in the event of a split vote the Chair could choose to use a casting vote.

**RESOLVED:** that the proposals below be taken to the FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE on Monday 21 November 2022 for further consideration prior to taking forward to FULL COUNCIL.

- i. That from the start of the Council Year 2023-4 the CLIMATE EMERGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE and the PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE merge to form a Communications and Climate Action Committee.
- ii. That from the start of the Council Year 2023-4 the new Communications and Climate Action Committee be supported by a Communications and Climate Action Officer who would be a third member of the clerk team, replacing the existing Climate Emergency Coordinator role.

Members of the CLIMATE EMERGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE are to be invited to attend the meeting of the FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE to present their views on the matter.

The motion was carried on the casting vote of the Chair.

Clerk to receive any further motions and supporting papers on this issue to put to the FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

## **2223 31 Climate Emergency Standing Committee Budget 2023-24**

Members considered the monies desired to achieve the COMMITTEE'S aims, assisted by a Projected Budget from the Deputy Clerk/RFO.

One view was that any underspend in the 2022-23 budget should be reflected in the budget requested for 2023-24. This could be discussed at the FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE meeting on 21 November 2022 when it considers its budget recommendation to FULL COUNCIL.

However, the project-based nature of the COMMITTEE'S work meant that it was quite difficult to anticipate what monies might be needed. It was important that the COMMITTEE should have funds available in the first instance to facilitate its current and potential future work.

The CEC shared that the nature of her role and the way the COUNCIL operated financially meant that she had had to outlay monies from her personal account and claim them back at a later point. Monies would need to be available to see current projects through to conclusion.

**RESOLVED:** to recommend to the FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE that the CESC budget requirement for 2023-24 replicates the 2022-23 budget requirement.

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## PUBLICISING THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

### 2223 32 Items for publicity

Suggested items to publicise via the printed press, website and Facebook were the Database launch and the Jubilee tree-planting project.

*The meeting ended at 9.35pm.*