

# CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting held at 10.30am, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023

## MINUTES

**Present:** Christina Munsey, Dorothy Dunkley, Jennifer Haycock

1. Apologies for absence: Ian Draper
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
3. Matters arising -  
The committee's proposed 2023-24 budget of £750 was approved by full council.

4. Consideration of suggestions from Climate Fair

### Soft plastics and crisp packet recycling

**Action:** The committee will research companies that offer soft plastics recycling collection service. If available a recycling bin could be placed in the VH bin compound, for use by the community. Residents would be informed of rules of recycling soft plastics e.g. what type of plastic, washing packaging etc.

If not possible to host a soft plastics recycling bin, then the community can be informed of where there already local soft plastic recycling bins.

### Lobby WNC to make it a planning requirement for new industry to have solar panels installed

**Action:** Committee members to examine WNC local plan.

**Action:** Recommend to VDS committee that this and housing renewable energy is included in VDS update for new developments.

### Car charging points

**Action:** The Committee members to examine the WNC local plan to check if new houses have to have car charging points installed.

**Action:** Recommend to VDS committee that policy on car charging points is included in the update.

Noted that the VH committee is still looking at including car charging points in the VH car park. There are a number of concerns to take into consideration.

The Parish Council did consider roadside charging points, but there are no suitable locations in the village, particularly in the centre of the village, where no or narrow pavements and where parking is difficult.

### Plant More

School is aware of environmental issues and planted pollinating plants.

The Pound is owned by Grand Union Housing association, so the PC/residents cannot plant anything without permission.

PC does not own much land to plant additional trees, hedgerows etc.

Rewilding verges is on this agenda.

**Action:** The Committee will approach Grand Union Housing to see if they would consider a planting scheme/improvements to biodiversity in The Pound and the installation of any car-charging points as well.

Lobby WNC to ensure new-industry is carbon neutral and includes shared access pathways.

**Action:** Committee members to check WNC local plan to see what is already included first.

CA-WN homes monitoring kit initiative

**Action:** The Committee will get in touch with CA-WN to find out more and decide at the next meeting if we want to purchase or borrow equipment.

The Community can then be made aware by advertising in the ST, PC website and Facebook page.

Village Hall Hedge – Too costly and time consuming for volunteers to maintain. One of the main selling points of the hall is its open views of the countryside. However, it can be reconsidered again in the future.

Wind turbines and Solar Panels

**Action:** Committee members to check the WNC local plan to see what is encouraged and will make recommendations to the VDS committee for policy update based on local plan information.

Wind farms are very contentious issues, lots of negative comments about them.

However, it might be possible to encourage single turbines. The PC would need to wait for a landowner to apply for planning permission for one. Would need to be considered by PC during planning consultation.

Flexible bus service

more support for the ABILITY bus service – in hand by ST Committee, who are looking for existing members to promote the service and the trips they go on through the ST.

**Action:** Committee to suggest to ST editor that there is a double page spread to make the service more visible.

**Action:** Clerk to ask ABILITY for email they send to Syresham members, so we can help spread the word about the places they regularly go to and the trips etc.

#### 5. Plan of action for forthcoming year

- Above actions.

- Climate Fair 2023 has been booked for 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 11am-6pm (shorter time).

Look at people who were invited last time, but could not make the date, see if we can find different stalls e.g. providers of insulation. Need to make more of the cars.

Need to avoid wasting time on trying to get big organisations and firms to come along.

Most success was had with smaller local organisations and companies.

**Action:** All committee members draft a list of people to invite ready for next meeting.

**Action:** SH to resend minutes containing final list of attendees.

6. Plans for rewilding verges in Syresham Parish  
**Action:** Trial a wildflower verge on Swingfield bank, add to next Parish Council meeting agenda. Ask for volunteers to help manage it. The area will need to be fenced off and a sign included to explain the trial.
7. CA-WN latest report  
CA-WN have new website for information.  
**Action:** Contact them for more ideas about who to invite to another fair.
8. Suggestions for environmental speakers for 2023 Parish meeting  
Janet Jackson from Northampton University  
**Action:** DD to give SH contact details so she can make contact with Janet. To be added to next Parish Council meeting agenda.
9. Any other business – None.
10. Date of next meeting 10.30am, 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023 in the Village Hall meeting room.  
*(CM booked the room with the booking clerk at the meeting.)*