

CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting held at Syresham Village Hall meeting room

7.30pm, Tuesday 17th May 2022

Present: Cllrs D Cranwell, D Dunkley, C Munsey and S Hosking (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence
Cllr S Earl Davies
2. Minutes of the previous meeting
Nothing raised.
3. Matters arising
Nothing raised.
4. Review of slides from Buckinghamshire Council's rewilding verges project
In order to rewild verges the conclusions from the trial indicate that soils need to be low in nitrogen and one way to do this is to remove grass cuttings. Grass prevents wildflowers from growing.
Aim would be to cut less frequently.
The Parish Council would need to engage with local landowners/farmers to discuss not spraying fertilisers too close to verges and encourage them to leave large areas of verge uncut. This will need to be done in conjunction with WNC who pay farmers to manage their local verges. We will still need to cut junction splays. Need to consider corridors for wildlife. Can also have wildflowers in Swingfield bank and invite school to be involved.
Action: DC to nominate areas that might be suitable for a rewilding trial in Syresham.
If trial takes place, there will need to be notices put up to inform residents why areas have not been mown, to avoid complaints.
Action: SH to invite a representative from the Bucks verge rewilding project to visit Syresham and give advice. (Before 9th June or after 10th July)
Slides were also shown from NACRE Grow Green Together parish meeting held on 30th March 2022.
Action: Committee members to review following parish action points ideas to consider:
<https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/reports/20-actions-parish-and-town-councils-can-take-climate-and-nature-emergency>
5. Further actions to be considered:
 - We need a climate change action plan.
 - CM proposed that Sustainable West Northants and RSPB etc are invited to have stalls at the Scarecrow Festival.
 - DC proposed that Syresham consider declaring a Climate Emergency.
Action: SH to find out what WNC's position on this is and what other Parish Councils are doing.
 - Encourage local bee keeping.
Action: CM to invite Bee Keepers Association to the Scarecrow festival
 - Need to look at encouraging people to plant trees. Also need to look into protecting the trees we have by making trees a Community Asset even though they may not currently have TPOs.

Action: SH to ask David Green for information and his report on the WNC tree meeting he attended on this subject.

- Committee members should consider attending the NACRE Environmental Conference and Workshop on 12th September

- There is a shared prosperity fund that might be available for environmental projects.

Action: CM to keep an eye on this.

- Improve communications and get younger generations involved in climate change and environment actions.

- Electric car charging points

- Solar fields and community sustainable energy production

Action: DC & SH Find out more information from Gawcot Solar and Turweston Solar projects

- Find out what senior schools in Brackley are doing with relation to Climate Change and the Environment.

Action: SH to ask Paul Wiltshire, (the new Brackley Mayor) for information on this.

Action: SH to ask Cllr Dermot Bambridge for any advice he can offer, with his background in waste management.

- Hold a Syresham Climate Fair

Environmental exhibition. Whole day event to be held in the autumn. Invite environmental organisations and businesses providing heating alternatives, insulation, solar panels etc.

Action: SH to put this idea to the Parish Council for approval.

6. Any other business

None.

7. Date of next meeting – **10.30 am Monday 18th July**, Village Hall Meeting Room

S Hosking

25th May 2022