

CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting held at Syresham Village Hall meeting room

10.30pm, Monday 18th July 2022

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

1. Apologies for absence

None.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Accepted.

3. Matters arising

Rewilding – Thank you to DC who has identified areas as potential rewilding sites around the village. There are a couple of areas in the village confines where verges have been rewilded. The Committee would need to liaise with Bucks Highways/local farmers for permission/cooperation on Highways verges. The Swingfield bank could be rewilded without permissions, as this is maintained by the Parish Council, and this is something that can be done straight away.

Action: DC to ask Highways what procedures Syresham PC should follow if it wishes to rewild highways verges.

JH raised the issue of preventing Ragwort from growing in rewilded verges, as it poses a health risk to animals and people. The Code of Practice for spread of Ragwort needs to be considered, landowners have to follow this.

Action: The Committee will need to consult landowners of adjacent fields.

CM expressed concern that residents need to be informed and consulted on rewilding verges within the village. And that any plans should be implemented gradually, to keep residents on-side. DC mentioned that it was agreed in the previous committee meeting that we could add signage to let residents know what was happening with sections of verge left to grow wild. CM was concerned that the verges could be encroached by unwelcome weeds, so needs further consideration.

The committee can gauge public opinion at the planned Climate Change Fayre.

SH reported that the Bucks Verge Rewilding declined an invite to visit Syresham to advise the committee, instead they have given details of other Northants organisations and a toolkit pack with advice and resources.

The RSPB came to the Scarecrow Festival and have been invited to the Climate Change Fayre. Consideration of Parish Council declaring a Climate Emergency. This will be revisited after the fayre, when it can be determined if it's necessary e.g. if special funding is available once an emergency is declared. CM felt that declaring an emergency could panic residents.

Local beekeepers – none came to the Scarecrow festival. DD and JH mentioned that there was a beekeeper in Pimlico who supplies the PO with honey, they should be invited to the fayre. Encouraging tree planting - difficult to plant trees in Syresham streets as pavements not wide enough and will have problem of roots damaging pavements. Private gardens could have more 'suitable' trees. The Woodland Trust should be invited to the fayre. The Scouts have planted a copse and trees around perimeter of the Syresham Sports Field.

CM to keep an eye on the Shared Prosperity Fund.

Encourage younger generations – CM to discuss under item 5.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points – Village Hall has two spaces reserved and wiring in place for superfast charging points. There is debate within Village Hall Committee as to whether this is

Village Hall or Parish Council responsibility to provide them, as they will be used by whole village. Bradbery Close have their own wiring for EV charge points already installed as a planning requirement.

DC reported that some villages have had problems with electricity distribution network capacity when installing EV charge points.

Action: SH to contact Western Power to find out if Syresham has sufficient capacity.

Community solar power projects – SH reported that Turweston Solar Farm was landowner led and rents land to INRG solar. The village benefits from a Community fund given by INRG. DC reported that there is more information available from Gawcott Fields Community Project. This is a community led project.

Action: SH to find out more info on behalf of the Committee. N.B. It was decided later in the meeting that **DC** would contact the Community Project to request more information on behalf of the Committee and to invite them to the Climate Change Fayre

4. Arrangements for Climate Change Fayre

The fayre will be held on **Friday 23rd September, 11am - 8.30pm in the Village Hall.**

A large banner will be ordered for outside the Village Hall and a smaller one for the School railings, (permissions pending). **Action: CM** to arrange.

A leaflet will also go out to each household (not tucked into the Syresham Times).

Primary School children have been invited and have been asked to produce their own posters both to advertise the event and to create a display at the event.

Secondary School have been contacted and invited – SH awaiting reply.

Action: The following organisations will be invited and alongside are the initials of the person who will invite them:

CM	Friends of the Earth
DD	WNC Sustainable West Northants
CM	Clothes recycling – Air ambulance
DD	Volunteer Bureau, Towcester
CM	RSPB
JH	Wildlife Trust
JH	Beekeeping Association
SH	Carbon Trust
PC Meeting	ABILITY
DD	Garden Centre, Chris Day – Plants for insects/bees
CM	EV Charging points
SH	Action for Insects
SH	Wind turbines individual properties
DD	WNC Recycling demonstration
DD	Composting – see if we can show proposed subsidised compost bins
SH	Solar Panels individual properties
DC	Cycling/Walking Infrastructure team
DD	Insulation/Solar grants information
DC	NCALC Climate Change forum
CM	CES (??)
CM/SH	Primary and secondary Schools
DC	Gawcott Fields Community Solar Project
DD	Northants ACRE
SH	Woodland Trust
SH	Andrea Leadsom (MP) and Dermot Bambridge (Ward Cllr)

The Committee needs to create a special Facebook page for the event.
A board will be in the Village Hall for residents to add their suggestions/comments.
A list will be kept of who has attended and who is interested.
Refreshments will be offered – tea, coffee, squash & biscuits. Rota, ask all Parish Councillors to be involved.

Action: Committee to decide on name of the Fayre.

5. Things the PC can do now.

Action: CM Promote Carbon Footprint Calculator – in The Syresham Times and on Website.

Action: CM Advertise Climate Change Fayre in The Syresham Times.

Referring to Friends of the Earth 20 actions parish and town councils can take on the climate and nature emergency

Formation of Climate Action group – Done. PC Environment Committee.

Support Local Plan policies that help to tackle climate change and boost Nature -

Action: Committee members to look up WNC local plan to see what environmental measures in planning can be supported by the PC and incorporated into Village Design Statement.

Bring together groups of people for bulk purchases

Action: Committee members to look into options for bulk village purchase deliveries to help reduce carbon footprint. Reduce costs for renewable technologies.

Demonstrate leadership through your own practical actions

Action: Committee members to advise PC on good environmental practices, reduce carbon footprint, pesticide use, etc. Encourage PC to lead by good example.

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>

The Committee needs to consider any actions taken do not inadvertently cause further harm. As the committee takes on actions, it needs to look at evidence of what other people have done already and any lessons from that.

6. Any other business

None.

7. Date of next meeting – **10.30am Monday 8th August**, Village Hall Meeting Room

S Hosking

19th July 2022