

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr P Fairclough
B.A (Hons)



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WELLINGTON CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held online via Zoom, on **15th October 2020** commencing at 6.00pm.

Present

Cllr Anthony Lowe (Chairman)	Cllr Giles Luter
Cllr Paul Davis (Deputy)	Paola Armstrong
Cllr John Latter	Apologies: Cllr John Alvey

1. **Welcome and Introductory remarks**

Cllr Lowe welcomed everyone to the meeting
Cllr Davis nominated Cllr Lowe as Chair
Cllr Luter seconded

Cllr Davis nominated himself as Deputy, as did Cllr Alvey (via telephone)
A Lowe seconded Cllr Davis
Unanimous vote for Cllr Davis

Cllr Lowe is already involved in 2 Climate Change groups and gave a brief summary of each. These being;

- Sustainable Telford & Wrekin (parish and town councils within T&W only) They have had 2 meetings already and the next is scheduled for 18th November 2020.
- SCAP Shropshire Climate Action Partnership – professional group with 5 sub committees covering the entire County of Shropshire including T&W.

SCAP want to address the whole council – Cllr Lowe is in favour of this, to avoid possible duplication of effort and to sensitize all Councillors to the strategic approach that is being taken towards Carbon Neutrality by 2030 for Shropshire. Allan Wilson is interim Chair and is eager to address WTC at earliest opportunity.

PA – mentioned Town Clerk said it wasn't for full council just yet.

2. **Declaration of Interest**

None received

3. **Apologies for absence:** John Alvey

Apologies accepted.

4. **To confirm the 'notes' from the last meeting 24th August 2020**

AL briefly went through a summary of the last meeting. He noted that Kevin Tanner of LA21 had attended this initial meeting but had not been invited this evening as it is too early to be including non-Councillors in our meetings.

5. **Other business**

A general discussion was had around identifying key things that we need to achieve and to ensure we are aligned to what the borough is also doing.

Cllr Davis said he would be happy to take the lead from the borough.

Cllr Latter suggested that as Cllr Carolyn Healy (Cllr for Ironbridge) is qualified in this area and moved the motion at T&W to declare a climate change emergency in 2019, it was decided that:

ACTION: PA to invite Carolyn Healy to the next meeting, for an information discussion for about an hour. Maybe necessary to schedule a special meeting to fit in with Cllr Healy's availability.

LED Lights

Cllr Davis suggested that all Councillors, when they do their walk round check whether there are any outstanding bulbs that are not LED

ACTION: PA to ask Andrew Roberts to ask the Borough to identify all non LED lights throughout the 7 wards of Wellington and to find out how many lights remain to be done and what is the timing for works to be completed.

Office Arrangements

Cllr Lowe went through the Town Council office arrangements covering:

- All staff still working from home (with occasional visits to the office, as and when required)
- Printing has been drastically reduced and only done when absolutely necessary. Printing default is set to double sided and to print in black and white
- There is no need for printing of Agendas or Minutes
- Discussion re Shropshire County Pension Fund (worth seeing what SCAP are doing and perhaps follow their lead)
- The excess stationery has now been repurposed

Dothill Nature Reserve

General discussion was had about how to promote its importance. Suggestions to go through schools etc to highlight its importance. Cllr Pierce joined at this point to inform that there are regular working groups

Communication

Cllr Davis said he would like to see a section on the Wellington Town Council website, devoted to communicating to Wellington residents, with links to various eco-friendly websites etc and links to what the borough are doing etc. All WTC social media platforms should also be used for communication of climate emergency actions and milestones reached as well as communication of agreed objectives.

Cllr Davis then continued to go through his list of concepts and ideas for this group.

ACTION: Cllr Davis to circulate this document to all members of this committee

Cllr Davis – appreciate there's lots of things we can do but we do need to remain focussed. Maybe we pick 10-12 things and plan the events. GANT chart, project plan etc.

Cllr Luter said we should think about what we need to address and see what the borough council are doing to make sure we don't overlap. Suggested looking at cycling.

Cllr Lowe suggested posting on Love Wellington – to get the message across to residents: eg re-cycling best practice, elimination of single use plastic, plastic bags

ACTION: PA to liaise with ST that having declared a climate emergency, we would like to post on LW

Love Wellington/WTC activities

PA – went through the latest LW campaign Shop Local for Christmas and discussed the environmentally friendly Christmas Tree decorations ideas

PA also suggested a short paragraph on the Climate Emergency Committee could go in the next edition of This Is Our Wellington. AL to do 1st draft for checking and modification by CC Committee, ST and PA.

ACTION: All members to attend The Peace Garden on Saturday 24th October at 11am (to bring a plant) for a photo to be taken

ACTION: PA to let Cllr Alvey know

Cllr Latter suggested we find some way of engaging with people about environmental issues. Perhaps to an Action Day in the Summer – possibly in the Market Square

Cllr Davis – can we get some info from the Recycling Borough – to get some stats for Wellington. Could Veolia provide these details?

A general discussion was then had about how to promote what we are doing and have already done.

ACTION: PA to speak with Town Clerk to identify the jobs we have already ticked off e.g. stop use of single use plastic, reduced printing, repurposed unused stationery etc

Cllr Lowe suggested that we each choose 5 areas to look at for the next meeting.

ACTION: Each member to choose 5 areas to look at for the next meeting. These 5 areas to be circulated among CC Committee members and Paola prior to next meeting so we can focus on the priorities that we have identified to make for a tighter meeting.

6. **Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 29th October at 6pm via Zoom**

Action Points:

ACTION: PA to invite Carolyn Healy to the next meeting, for an information discussion for about an hour

ACTION: PA to ask Andrew Roberts to ask the Borough to identify all non LED lights throughout the 7 wards of Wellington and to find out how many lights remain to be done and what is the timing for works to be completed.

ACTION: Cllr Davis to circulate his document to all members of this committee

ACTION: PA to liaise with ST that having declared a climate emergency, we would like to post on LW

ACTION: All members to attend The Peace Garden on Saturday 24th October at 11am (to bring a plant) for a photo to be taken

ACTION: PA to let Cllr Alvey know

ACTION: PA to speak with Town Clerk to identify the jobs we have already ticked off e.g. stop use of single use plastic, reduced printing, repurposed unused stationery etc

ACTION: Each member to choose 5 areas to look at for the next meeting and these 25 areas to be circulated between committee members before next meeting (to allow list to be “distilled”)