

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr Dorothy Roberts



Town Clerk
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WELLINGTON CLIMATE EMERGENCY STEERING GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held online via Zoom, on 2nd March 2023 commencing at 6.00pm.

Present	Apologies
Cllr Paul Davis	None
Linda Devey (Wrekin Soroptimists)	
Keli King (Little Green Pantry)	
Jane Bundy (Climate Action Hub)	
Cllr John Latter	
Dave Taylor (Saturday Cycles)	
Paola Armstrong	

1. Welcome and Introductory remarks

Cllr Davis welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. Through everyone's hard work and dedication we have had confirmation that we achieved Plastic Free Status for Wellington. PD said it would be good to keep the legacy going and to encourage all new businesses to continue in this way.

2. Declarations of Interest: None

3. Apologies for absence: None

4. To confirm the minutes of the last meeting 3rd February 2023

JL proposed and KK seconded.

5. Matter arising from those minutes

JL met with Friends of Wellington Station and has sent the photo to PA/KK
AL met Wellington Cycle Delivery Service and sent photo to PA/KK
PA went to see Damian at The Orbit on 7/2/23 and has sent details to KK
PA went to see Jess at Morrisons on 8/2/23 and has sent details to KK
PA received details from St Patrick's School and KK uploaded

LD wanted to confirm the time of the Battlefield Energy (9:45am)

6. Save our Shropshire Workshop

PA met with Allan and Michelle Wilson (7/2/23), from Save Our Shropshire. They have received funding from Telford and Wrekin Climate Change Fund to put on educational workshops in the borough. They will be coming to Wellington on 17th May. It's free but you do need to book via Eventbrite. PA has sent details through to the group (2/3/23) and will share on social media.

LD happy to share but mentioned that some of the text drops off when printed out. PD offered to screen shot it for her and said that the email should be okay.

JB has done the SOS 3 week course and was very good. It's user friendly and easy to follow so she felt it would be good eye opener for some people and would be good to take friends and family.

7. Plastic Free Update

On 22nd February we achieved 100% for plastic free community status for Wellington.

PA circulated the press release to all members. Shropshire Star (1/3/23).

PD would like to congratulate everyone and is proud of everyone's commitment to the initiative. He then asked for opinions about how it had gone.

KK said she found that it had raised awareness in Wellington. She found it frustrating getting businesses to do the legwork when it was actually only a 5 minute task to get it done. A lot of businesses were already doing a lot of initiatives. It was great seeing so many community groups involved and she is still getting people asking her if they can join. PD said they could, but it's getting round the administration side of things. KK has her silver award. PD would like to make sure that businesses coming to the town follow suit.

JB agreed with KK on the frustration with some of the businesses doing the final push to get the information on the system. KK said going forward if people wanted to do it, she could signpost them to the site to upload their own details. JB said it would be good to encourage businesses to also go for silver. JB suggested we try and have some sort of incentive behind it in case going plastic free is not enough for them. PD asked how we sustain it, now that we've achieved it. Secondly, if we have to how do we incentivise it. PD's proposal for the CESG is that as we are about to go into elections some may not be returning as councillors. PD mentioned that PA's contribution has been significant but we do need to see how the process continues and how we get more businesses signed up. If there is a change in councillors, it is whether those councillors are in a position to push it.

JB's observation was that Bridgnorth was one of the first Plastic Free towns but she was disappointed that there was still so much single use plastic in the town. She felt that it's important to push the initiative and keep going with it. PD agreed and said it was more than just a tick in a box – but it is about how we go about this. He was aware that we had the support of the council and couldn't say that it would continue in this shape and form (e.g. with council officers time).

PD would like to continue with 1-2 pages in the magazine.

JL asked what the criteria was when the group was first set up. PD said the plastic free initiative unified the group and gave a focus.

8. Any other business

PD proposed that we don't meet until the end of May, as elections will be over and new councillors will be in position. He suggested we all look at what we could do for Wellington. He gave some examples and also suggested we look at what direction we should go to. JL suggested we try and get to a bigger audience and LD agreed. PD said there were lots of community groups already out there that have their own agenda with excellent ideas. He suggested we take a moment to reflect on what we've achieved, and then come back at end of May to decide on how we move forward.

JB mentioned that as part of the Wellington Festival, we will be having our first Wellington Green Festival on Saturday 5th August. The first meeting was last week. Looking at having the Market Square and the grounds at All Saints. JB has set up a Gmail account. There is a lot of work to do, but it's very exciting. This event, will be a great opportunity for the community to come together and see what's happening and to give people a chance to engage.

9. Date and time of next meeting to be agreed.

PD has suggested 18th May 2023 at 6pm. PD will circulate a zoom link, if there is any change to the set up. PA asked permission to pass on email addresses to PD and everyone agreed. PD thanked PA for all her hard work.