

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr Paul Davis



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WELLINGTON CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held online via Zoom, on **13th May 2021** commencing at 6.00pm.

Present

Cllr Anthony Lowe (Chairman)	Cllr John Latter
Cllr Paul Davis	Cllr Joan Gorse (in part)
Cllr Giles Luter	Cllr Angela McClements (in part)
Cllr John Alvey	Jocelyn Lewis (in part)
Cllr Dorothy Roberts (ex officio)	Adam Dring (in part)
	Paola Armstrong

1. **Welcome and Introductory remarks**

Cllr Lowe welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced JL and AD and explained that they had been invited to talk about the solar farm proposed at Steeraway.

2. **Proposed solar farm at Steeraway, Little Wenlock**

JL gave a background of how the project came about and the negative connotations it would have in Wellington. Included in the discussion were concerns about access to the site, deer fencing, footpaths that currently go through the site, it's one of the designated walking routes etc. A FB campaign group was launched (400 followers in one week) – there is lots of support. It hasn't gone to full planning as yet but they are trying to raise awareness now.

AD also spoke and concurred with JL. He also mentioned that there is a lot of wildlife on this site and that many people use this site and there is much value gained. There is no opposition to the solar panels themselves, it is just the location.

Cllr Roberts: reminded the group that the site is a conservation area so she's not sure that the borough would grant planning permission. Also that Wellington is a WWAW town so to place a solar farm at the entrance of one of the areas would be a disaster.

Cllr Alvey: asked if they'd made any formal opposition but as it's not gone to planning yet there are no comments that can be made to T&W

Cllr McClements: feels very strongly as it will greatly impact her ward of Arleston, who benefit greatly from this site – it is used often for dog walkers, families etc. She also raised the fact that it is Mental Health Awareness week and also green spaces. She agrees with JL about the importance of raising awareness.

Cllr Davis: thanked JL and AD for presenting their case. He supports what JL and AD are doing and asked if they'd had support from other councils. He is aware of how much disruption a solar farm can cause.

Cllr Gorse: is totally against it. Not the right place. The green space that they have there, is even more precious and is the only place that's left for Arlestone residents to use.

Cllr Latter: Very biodiverse old woodland. Cllr Jackie Seymour is the borough councillor for this area. Cllr Roberts has spoken with this lady and she is totally against it. He talked about the status of the land. Asked what the development status of the land was (is it protected) and this would be quite important in

Cllr Luter: is in agreement with all the above and fully supports their objections.

Cllr Lowe summed up and thanked JL and AD for attending. The vote is entirely unanimous against the proposal of the solar farm.

Cllr Davis suggested they reach out to various community groups to get more support.

3. Election of Chair 2021-22

Cllr Davis would like to propose Cllr Latter for Chair. Cllr Alvey seconded.

Cllr Latter is now chair of the working group.

Cllr Alvey proposed to have a Deputy Chair.

Cllr Latter proposed Cllr Luter. Accepted.

4. Declarations of Interest: None

5. Apologies for absence: None

6. To confirm the minutes of the last meeting 1st April 2021

Cllr Lowe proposed and Cllr Davis seconded

7. Matter arising from those minutes

All members have kept their ears and eyes open for potential members for the plastic free steering group and will keep talking about it to people to see if they wish to be involved.

AL has put together some content for the WTC Climate Page.

ACTION: PD will put some words together for the Refill section on the WTC Climate Page. PD to do this tomorrow.

AL proposed the estimated costs for the solar panels at Policy and Resources Committee meeting

8. Update on Plastic Free Community status

A discussion was had about the fact that the wording on the resolution was slightly different and therefore the appropriate resolution wasn't passed at the last full council meeting.

PD explained about the re-wording and suggested that the council agree to put a member on the steering committee. PD would like the Chair to put the motion forward again.

ACTION: JL to put forward the resolution again at the next full council meeting

ACTION: PD to get the exact wording to PA

9. Great British Spring Clean, Wellington

The event is on June 12th at 10am (about half a day). AL has had a list of areas that need looking at. Support has been given from All Saints Church but we need volunteers. There is a risk assessment in place. Equipment will be provided by the borough – they just need to know numbers and a few other details. A discussion was had about the publicity for the event.

It was hoped that at least 15-20 volunteers would attend.

AL has offered to be the coordinator of the event.

ACTION: PD will create the ad for the digital board and the social media and PA to promote on Love Wellington and WTC FB pages

ACTION: PA to send details to PD about the event

ACTION: PA to check hi viz vests and litter pickers from WTC office

10. Climate Page on WTC Website update

AL has submitted some information. PD will send more information about the Refill.

PD has strong ideas on what content should go on and would like it put on the agenda at the next meeting. AL will write a short summary of what's been achieved and PD will write something as Mayor.

ACTION: PD's suggested content for website to be added as an agenda item at the next meeting.

ACTION: AL and PD to write some content for the Climate Page on the WTC website.

11. Content for climate pages for next edition of This Is Our Wellington

Content is required on an ongoing basis.

ACTION: PD and PA to put some content together for the magazine

12. Update: Solar panels on the Toilet Block at Wellington

WTC have put in for a £5K grant with the borough based on budgeted costs. Should be hearing around the 20th May whether the application has been successful.

Not yet had the 3 tenders in (from alternative contractors).

A decision will have to be taken by the working group, on which tender to accept.

There are anti-theft devices that can be incorporated and there are CCTV cameras there too. The payback should be about 18 months.

Alternative locations were discussed.

13. Any other business

JL gave an update on Repair Café – they haven't got any further forward.

AL to present the climate centre proposal at the Regen meeting next week.

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

It was agreed that the next meeting would be at 6pm on Tuesday 8th June 2021. This meeting began at 18:00pm and concluded at 19:35pm.

LIST OF ACTIONS

ACTION: JL to put forward the resolution again at the next full council meeting

ACTION: PD to get the exact wording of the resolution to PA

ACTION: PD will create the ad for the digital board and the social media and PA to promote on Love Wellington and WTC FB pages

ACTION: PA to send details to PD about the event

ACTION: PA to check hi viz vests and litter pickers from WTC office

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