



Battle Town Council



Minutes of the CLIMATE & ECOLOGY SUB-COMMITTEE
held on THURSDAY, 23rd MARCH 2023 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 2pm

Present: Cllrs A Barton, S Burton, V Cook, D Wheeler.

In attendance: S Bannon (resident of Netherfield), L Bolton (Rother District Council Environment Strategy Officer), A Koop (Wild about Battle), E Murray (St Mary's Church), D Wilson (U3A), C Harris (Town Clerk)

1. Election of Chairman

Cllr A Barton proposed Cllr S Burton. This was seconded by Cllr Wheeler and agreed unanimously.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman

Cllr S Burton proposed Cllr A Barton. This was seconded by Cllr Cook and agreed unanimously.

3. Apologies for absence - None.

4. Disclosure of Interest – None.

5. Welcome, introductions and brief background

Those present provided a self-introduction.

Cllr Burton reported that:

- this Sub-Committee(SC) will report to the Finance & General Purposes Committee; which meets every two months;
- only members elected to the SC will have voting rights;
- the Action Plan had been formed by a Working Group and agreed by Council;
- Terms of Reference had also been formally agreed;
- meetings may be held by Zoom, if preferred;
- a public question time at the beginning of each meeting will be published.

6. Discussions at this meeting

Members agreed unanimously to invite all invited attendees to contribute at this meeting without the requirement to suspend Standing Orders.

7. Starting points (baselines) document

A draft document had been circulated. It was agreed that the Town Council must take a lead. It was noted that data collation is important for reporting progress. It was noted that the Greenhouse Gas Accounting tool would be a good starting point for benchmarking. L Bolton suggested that RDC could assist with this.

It was agreed that residents' commitments should focus the priorities and that the pledges completed at the Parish Assembly could inform this. AK agreed to circulate the Crowhurst Climate & Ecology Working Group's Clean Energy Project presentation for information. It was agreed that Battle Town Council should set the example with its practices and progress.

L Bolton confirmed that a Battle Civil Parish Carbon Footprint Report is available and will be attached.

First actions will be discussed at the next meeting.



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Good communication via groups, organisations, schools and Council must be consistent. The Clerk was asked to add a Climate & Ecology page to the website to provide links to carbon footprint calculators and relevant information including the availability of Energise Sussex Coast, who offer energy advice, in the Almonry on Wednesday afternoons.

Potential funding sources were identified, including National Lottery Nature & Climate and Sussex Lund.

Cllr Burton agreed to produce a report on data that is already known and green spaces in the Parish.

8. Community involvement

Cllr Burton invited all people interested in formally joining the membership of this Sub Committee to email the Clerk. These will be considered at the next meeting.

9. Rother District Council support for Battle's Action Plan

It was highlighted that there is a Community Infrastructure Levy fund for green projects that should be promoted to all groups.

LB confirmed that RDC's own C&E strategy is ongoing and that a funding bid for twelve electric vehicle charging points for the car parks has been submitted. She reported that volunteers to be trained Champions to provide home visits for energy advice are required.

10. Action Plan

This was agreed, as attached, and will be considered in more detail at the next meeting to agree the Sub-Committee's targets.

11. Terms of Reference

There was some discussion on the frequency of meetings to balance time commitment with momentum and progress. It was highlighted that additional volunteers to push forward action would be needed.

The Clerk confirmed that Working Groups could be agreed to take forward specific tasks and these can meet informally, with no Officer required; although notes to present to the SC are best practice.

The Clerk was asked to arrange for the Council's carbon footprint analysis to be obtained. LB offered to assist, if possible.

It was agreed to discuss meeting frequency further at the next meeting.

12. Next steps

As agreed above.

13. Matters for information / future agenda items

- To consider applications for independent members

14. Date of next meeting: Monday, 15th May 2023 at 2pm in The Almonry.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 15.30.

Cllr S Burton
Chairman