

Climate Change Forum

Minutes of the meeting held on

16th January 2024, 7.30 pm at Gardiner Memorial Hall, Burwell

Present: Clive Leach (Chair), Michael Swift, Liz Swift, Geraldine Tate, Jim Perry, Martin O’Leary, Nicola Hallows and Alima Adams.

1.Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Helen McMenamin-Smith, Ian Woodrooffe, Chris O’Neil, Paul Webb, and Charlie Milner. Clive Leach introduced Alima Adams. This was followed by a round of introduction of those present.

2.Approval of the minutes of 7th November 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2023 were approved and signed as a true and correct record.

Nicola Hallows questioned who the email to the County Council that shed has drafted should come from? It was agreed that the email should come from the Chair of the Parish Council in conjunction with the Chair of the Climate Change Forum.

3.Climate Change Action Sheet – Consideration of items and updates to the Climate Change Action Sheet

The following updates were noted:

Item	To be updated
Climate Action Policy	The revised Climate Action Policy is progressing. Lea Dodds, Clive Leach and Paul Webb to continue working on the document. Once the draft document is completed, it will be circulated to the group and comments about the contents can be sent to Clive Leach to collate. Martin O’Leary commented that the first section on buildings should be more about mature trees on parish council land capturing carbon and their role. He asked if the tree inspections carried out by the Parish Council include a carbon capture. Lea Dodds explained that a value is given to each tree which he believes includes the carbon capture rate. Keeping the document simple may give the opportunity in future of the group creating more topic specific detailed leaflets.
Energy usage and sources	Lea Dodds reported that he had checked on how the solar panels were working at the Gardiner Memorial Hall earlier in the day when the sun was out and was pleased to discover that they were bringing in around 5.4 kwh per hour, probably the same sort of amount as the air source heat pump was using. Clive Leach reported that he had been in contact with Char.gy regarding the Electric Vehicle Charging Point installation and unfortunately, they had been unable to help. They had however suggested Instavolt and Clive Leach informed the group that Instavolt would come back to him if they were interested, if not, they may be able to suggest another organisation that may be able to help.
Transport and travel	Discussion as to whether to reduce the speed limit in Burwell is still ongoing. The Cambridgeshire County Council Team had met with members of the Parish Council. It is likely that any change in the speed

	<p>limit will take longer than first thought. A proposal of a one-way system involving Silver Street and North Street had been made by a resident and would be considered at the next Safety Group meeting.</p> <p>Liz Swift informed the Forum that the A to B1102 survey had now closed. There had been just under 1000 responses. They are now imputing the paper responses and analysing results. It is hoped that the survey results can be used to demonstrate the need for a better bus service. It was noted that the new cycleway/footpath along Newmarket Road is a big improvement, giving a feeling of greater safety. Lea Dodds expressed the need for bus shelters to be improved to provide a safe and dry place for those waiting for buses. The Parish Council is responsible for the bus shelters in the village. Lea Dodds continued to report that Soham has some very good bus shelters. These had been provided by developers, although one had been situated in a non-useful location. Liz Swift informed the Forum that the quality of bus shelters had also come up in the survey. It was agreed that bus shelters should be added to the agenda for the next Asset and Environment meeting. Jim Perry suggested that Mitcham's Yard would made a good park and ride bus centre. Geraldine Tate asked Liz Swift if the B1102 Group would support the campaign to try to get a dedicated sixth form bus? Liz Swift responded by saying that the B1102 Group is talking to the Combined Authorities about an improved bus service about other issues and also transport for Post 16 Education, but the group has limited people available and limited time.</p>
Agriculture and food	No updates
Housing and infrastructure	It is hoped that work on the Newmarket Road development will start soon.
Local business	No updates
Waste and resources	No updates
Environment and land use	<p>Clive Leach reported that the Burwell Environment Group had held a meeting which had been well attended. Concern had been raised by Jeremy Lander about the condition of the Weirs and drains. Nicola Hallows had written to Anglian Water. Their response had been circulated. Nicola Hallows had written again to Anglian Water and asked for more detailed information regarding some of their responses. She agreed to summarise the information once received. It was suggested that a small group, probably under the remit of Burwell Environment Group, could focus on the waterways. Liz Swift commented that it is difficult to understand who is responsible for, and deals with what, between Anglian Water and the Environment Agency. Geraldine Tate reported that the 2024 WI Resolution is Clear Water and that they are having a talk at the end of February from Friends of the River Cam. Michael Swift reminded the Forum that the Spring Close Management Committee looks after the chalk stream in Spring Close. The stream has been awarded a Geological Special Status. Nicola Hallows has looked at the site with the Lead Officer for Chalk Streams in the area. It was noted that with letters being sent to those with a responsibility for the Weirs and drains, the organisations will be aware that there is local interest in what work is being carried out. It has been a number of years since the Weirs have been dredged and a group of volunteers could be established</p>

	<p>to help clear some of the river, but the volunteers would need to be insured to carry out the work.</p> <p>Clive Leach then explained that Council had discussed the grass cutting contract for 2024 and that Nicola Hallows had attended the Council meeting at which the discussion took place. Her views on some of the issues were sought at the meeting. It was felt that a sensible decision had been made. The world is changing, and a lot of educational work is still required to help people understand what is needed to help prevent climate changes happening. Jim Perry asked if set aside land could be allowed to rewild and also be used for the planting of trees. Michael Swift responded by saying that land would need to be available and cheap in order to proceed. Lea Dodds who had been part of the group creating Priory Wood explained that initially the cost to purchase the land for Priory Wood had been scary. Local businesses were keen to contribute towards the cost and some had been covered by a match funded Lottery Grant. It was noted that Jenny Moss had already approached the County Council to see if they had any land available. It was suggested that it may be worth contacting the Land Agents for Exning Estates.</p> <p>Nicola Hallows gave a brief update on the work that Wild Burwell has carried out. The Tree Giveaway Day was very successful. Nicola Hallows thanked the Parish Council for printing the leaflets. Lots of the trees were given out to families. Wild Burwell is now working with Burwell House. Around 50 people attended the Wassail Event in Priory Meadow in January. Wild Burwell now has a Duke of Edinburgh volunteer working with them. The group has successfully applied for a grant for bird nesting boxes. These will be going up soon, with some on parish council owned land.</p>
Village Survey	No update on the survey, although the revised questions have been drafted. BEG now has a member who is a web designer and who is willing to set up a website for BEG.
Fossil Fuels	<p>No fossil fuel updates.</p> <p>It was noted that the Sunnica Solar Project decision has been delayed until March. Lea Dodds explained that the actual project uses only 0.5% of available agricultural land in East Anglia. Martin O’Leary reported that wildlife is flourishing at the Solar Farm in Factory Road. Jim Perry commented on the solar panels installed over the parking spaces at the Babraham Road Park and Ride site.</p>
Education	No updates but it is hoped that Alima Adams will be able to be involved in the future.

4. Any Other Business

Geraldine Tate informed the group that some of the members of the Repair Café Team were planning on holding a ‘Swish’ event on the 23rd March.

Martin O’Leary asked if the agenda could be amended in some way to reflect more relevant live topics.

Clive Leach to write an article for Clunch about the Climate Change Forum.

Jim Perry suggested that items people no longer required could be donated to the Repair Café, repaired if necessary, and then sold. It was felt that Cambridge Carbon Footprint Group would be a more suitable organisation to move this on.

5.Date of the next meeting

The next meeting to be held on the 5th March 2024, 7.30 pm at the Gardiner Memorial Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed

Dated