

Climate Change Forum

Minutes of Meeting held on 5th March 2024, 7.30 pm at Gardiner Memorial Hall, Burwell

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

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Ian Woodroffe, Helen McMenamin-Smith, Paul Webb, and Michael Swift.

2. Approval of the minutes of 16th January 2024

Clive Leach informed the group that he has not yet done the article for Clunch. He continued to inform Council that he is due to make a request to the Parish Council for some initial funding to get the Burwell Environment Group (BEG) website up and running.

Lea Dodds informed the group that he was present the previous meeting and Martin O'Leary explained that the Solar Farm discussed is between High Drove and Newnham Drove and not the one of Factory Road. The minutes were amended accordingly and following a proposal from Liz Swift, which was seconded by Lea Dodds, were approved, and signed by the Chair.

3. Consideration of the Climate Change Plan

Clive Leach thanked Lea Dodds for the work that he had carried out in order to revise the Climate Change Plan. He also thanked Paul Webb for his contribution. Lea Dodds explained that he had received some very useful comments from the forum when he had shared earlier versions of the document and that he agreed with many of the comments. He felt that it was important to keep the length of the document fairly short, and having had a discussion with some of the members of the forum it was agreed that the length of the document should not be increased. It could be decided on having a further, more detailed document for biodiversity and pollution in the future. Clive Leach reminded the group that a small group of BEG members with an interest in the village waterways is starting to form and water pollution could be moved forward by BEG. A Burwell Parish Council Biodiversity and Pollution Plan was suggested. Nicola Hallows expressed that she felt that biodiversity and pollution plan should be on the same basis as the Climate Change Plan and of equal importance. It was agreed that this should be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Clive Leach raised concern about the section relating to what we know about Burwell's carbon footprint, which shows flights and cars as being the top contributors to the carbon footprint and how this would come over to those who do not fly or on a car. However, in general the Forum believed that due to the statement that many residents never travel by air, this was not an issue. Martin O'Leary spoke about his concern over the number of flights taken unnecessarily. Geraldine Tate added that ideally individuals will give the necessity of flying some thought about flights that they take and be aware of the contribution to the carbon footprint that the flight makes.

Jim Perry questioned the sections relating to the Gardiner Memorial Hall when there is concern about the cost of energy for the hall. The Clerk explained that the amount of energy used is far lower than prior to the refurbishment, but the cost per KWH for the energy had risen sharply creating significantly higher bills. Jim Perry also raised concern about the saving of 13 tones of carbon emissions and where this figure had come from. Lea Dodds responded that it came from information from the National Grid, but he would check this out and include a reference in the document. It was

suggested that a sentence should be added saying that the Gardiner Memorial Hall is now heated by an air source heat pump.

Martin O'Leary explained that he felt that the Parish Council needs to work out on what it intends to do and then share this with the village. The Parish Council can not tell the village what to do but can make sure that information is available when it is needed. Martin O'Leary further asked how can progress be measured. Lea Dodds stated that the Climate Change Forum has is responsible and should set aside a meeting where plans can be discussed and prioritising actions. Clive Leach added that he already considers that the Parish Council has made a start by having sustainable heating installed at the Gardiner Memorial Hall, lobbying MP's. BEG can help develop.

Martin O'Leary asked how what is being done involving other people? Clive Leach responded by saying that we can only involve the people who already have some interest and that BEG is now trying to involve others, by opening up conversations and pulling like minded people together and providing information to hand to those looking for it.

A vote of thanks was given to Lea Dodds for his work and following a proposal from Liz Swift, seconded by Lea Dodds, a unanimous vote it was agreed that the document should be recommended to Full Council for adoption by the Parish Council.

4. Any Other Business

Nicola Hallows explained to the Forum that the Climate and Ecology Bill was first introduced to Parliament 2 years ago, initially as the Climate and Ecology Emergency Bill and that an organisation called Zero Hour is trying to gather support in order to lobby MPs to further the bills journey through Parliament. She believes that the Bill has had one reading so far. Support can be given to signing up on the Zero Hour website and then sending an open letter to the local member, Lucy Frazer. The County Council has already signed, along with Histon Parish Council and a number of others. She asked if Burwell Parish Council would consider giving their support.

The Forum agreed that the Parish Council should be asked to consider giving their support.

Lea Dodds informed the Forum that the first stage of any action plan for the Climate Change Plan would be establishing a baseline carbon footprint for the Parish Council and that he was willing to start working on this.

Liz Swift informed the Forum that the first 'SWISH' event is due to take place on 23rd March 2024. Ecological groups wishing to have a stand at the event are welcome to do so. Both Wild Burwell and BEG said that they were interested to do so.

5. Date of the next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 23rd April 7.30 pm at the Gardiner Memorial Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

Signed

Dated