

Climate Change Forum

Minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2023, 7.30 pm at Gardiner Memorial Hall, Burwell

Present: Clive Leach (Chair), Jim Perry, Liz Swift, Michael Swift, Sara Phipps, Lea Dodds, Paul Webb, Nicola Hallows, Martin O'Leary.

1. Apologies for absence
Apologies for absence had been received from Ian Woodroofe, Geraldine Tate, and Helen McMenamin-Smith
2. Approval of the minutes of 3rd October 2023
The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2023 were approved and signed as a true record.
3. Election of Vice Chair following resignation from Jenny Moss
Lea Dodds was elected as Vice Chair of the Climate Change Forum. Proposed by Liz Swift and seconded by Paul Webb.
4. Climate Change Action Sheet – Consideration of items and updates to the Climate Change Action Sheet
The following updates were noted:

Item	
Climate Action Policy	<p>Lea Dodds reported that he is in the process of compiling the second draft of the Climate Change Policy. When completed this will be shared with the forum, prior to going to Full Council for approval. The document is a base to work from and will include an action plan up to 2030. It will be in the region of 2000 words and focus on carbon reduction. The document will be aimed at members of the public. Members of Wild Burwell felt that it is important that biodiversity plays an equal part in the document as biodiversity runs in parallel with carbon reduction. Paul Webb expressed that work to our own buildings will be focussed on within the document. Martin O'Leary reminded all that the Parish Council assets include areas of land. It was noted that food and agriculture had been included in the original document but are not mentioned in the new draft. Clive Leach agreed that some biodiversity should be included to encourage residents. It was agreed that further discussion should be had once the document was ready to share with the forum. Lea Dodds commented that the Council needs to know its existing carbon footprint. Focusing on the document at a single item meeting may be necessary. This could be at the next Climate Change Forum on 16th January 2024.</p>
Energy usage and sources	No further update
Transport and travel	<p>The 20 mph Traffic Survey has now closed. The results are due to be discussed at the next Safety Group meeting on 9th November 2023.</p> <p>Liz Swift reported that the A to B1102 Group, looking to improve transport along the B1102 route, are in the process of running a survey. Paper copies are available from the Jubilee Reading Room. It is not known yet if there is to be an online version.</p>

Agriculture and food	<p>There has been no luck with trying to get someone from the farming sector to join the forum. Paul Webb informed the forum that a representative from Wicken Fen had recently attended a Parish Council meeting giving a presentation on the proposal for the management of some of their land situated in Burwell and Reach. The National Trust has also recently purchased land between Walton and Holme Fen, near Huntingdon and is this due to be managed as wet land.</p> <p>An email asking for an update on Strategies and Policies for the County Council and County Farms was approved to be sent by Nicola Hallows.</p>
Housing and infrastructure	<p>Planning consent has now been given for phase 1 and 2a of the Newmarket Road Development.</p>
Local business	<p>No further update.</p>
Waste and resources	<p>No further update</p>
Environment and land use	<p>BEG is aiming to hold its AGM at the end of November. Clive Leach will contact Jeremy Lander and Paul Pickles about the Lodes. Hopefully following the AGM BEG will be able to move forward. It was noted that drainage and overflow discharge records are available on the Anglian Water website. Jim Perry reported that the Lode water level is good at the moment. Lea Dodds reported that particulates from car tyres travel down the drainage system causing issues in the water course. Sara Phipps asked that if there are drainage issues in the village then the group should take action. Lobbying may be an option.</p> <p>Lea Dodds reported that a meeting of the Assets and Environment Group is due to be held to discuss the details for the grass cutting contract.</p> <p>Nicola Hallows advertised an opportunity to get a tree from the Tree Nursery on 18th November 2023. Tree experts will be available .</p>
Village Survey	<p>The draft survey has been completed. Martin O’Leary asked for the BEG AGM to be advertised by means other than Facebook. It was accepted that no one advertising method reaches the whole community. The aim of the survey is to ascertain residents’ attitudes towards climate change. Sara Phipps felt that the current time may not be the right time for doing a survey.</p>
Fossil Fuels	<p>No further update</p>
Education	<p>No further update</p>

5. Any Other Business

Martin O’Leary reported that he had recently attended a South Cambridgeshire Community Energy Event on behalf of the Reach Community Solar Farm. The event had been quite inspiring and very well run with speakers from a range of organisations. There is an aim to get more solar panels on commercial and industrial buildings. Ethany George from the County Council had attended, along with members from the Grantchester Heat Project.

The option of having a Community Energy Project in Burwell could be explored but would need to have suitable land available, technical, legal, and financial expertise available. Reach Community Solar Farm was established in 2015 and with shareholders from the community. Martin O'Leary did not know if it would be possible to create such a set up now. Solar Panels on the Sports Centre roof could be an option. Lea Dodds pointed out that with commercial and industrial buildings, leaseholds may be an issue and also what the building is being used for. Paul Webb reported that he and the Chair of the Parish Council had met with the Land Agents for the Exning Estate who would like to be kept informed about any community project considered by the council. Clive Leach reminded all that Emma Fletcher from Swaffham Prior works for Octopus and is a useful contact to have. The National Grid would need to be able to accommodate the supply from any project. Jim Perry reported that the Babraham Road Park and Ride now has overhead solar panels. Jim Perry continued to say that he felt that properties being developed by Vistry (Newmarket Road Development) should utilise solar roof tiles. However, it was felt that this would not be the case as there is no legal requirement to do so. New standards for insulation will mean that the properties will be well insulated.

Lea Dodds reported that the next Repair Café is to be held on 10th December 2023. More repairers are still needed. In future a Swishing event may be included in conjunction with the Café. Paul Webb reminded all that there is the Community Food Table at the Day Centre on Wednesdays and Fridays.

6. Date of the next meeting – 16th January 2024.

Clive Leach thanked all present for their hard work. The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Signed

Dated