

Climate Change Forum

Minutes

7th January 2025, 7.30 pm at Gardiner Memorial Hall, Burwell

Present: Clive Leach, Jim Perry, Paul Webb, Alina Adams, Lea Dodds, Liz Swift, Martin O'Leary, Geraldine Tate, Nicola Hallows

Guest: Peter Bates

1. Apologies for absence

Ian Woodroofe and Michael Swift

2. Approval of the minutes of 5th November 2024

The minutes were amended to include Michael Swift as an attendee and to add the following statement to item 3: Martin O'Leary questioned whether it is Climate Change Forum matter and it was confirmed it is not, this was an update.

Following these changes the minutes of 5th November 2024 were approved as a true and accurate record. This was proposed by Paul Webb and seconded by Jim Perry and agreed by all.

3. Speaker: Peter Bates 'Think Global - Act Local'

Update from East Cambridgeshire Climate Action Network and discussion re. Earth cafes. Peter introduced himself as Chair and talked about their structure, activities and events – all details on <https://eastcambscan.org/>

They have become a CIC and they are keen to inspire, educate and persuade others to take action in their own lives around climate action. They are also keen to broaden activities from a core Ely base to a wider East Anglia region. They hope to operate in a more systematic way and encourage volunteers, more activities and events.

The main tools to do this will be:

Council Climate Action Scorecards - consisting of the answers to 91 questions that were presented to councils

Locally Determined Contributions - being developed by Hughes Hall, Cambridge with Cambridgeshire County Council - based upon Nationally Determined Contributions

Parish Online - an online place-based mapping tool that could engage local communities to carefully map in detail indicators of adapting to climate change and increasing biodiversity (This can also be used as Asset Management Software for Parish Councils)

At the moment anyone can be a member as an individual or as an organisation. There are no costs to join. The group asked Peter Bates a number of questions about their plans, their focus and target audience and how they can provide a hierarchy of advice – i.e. what would make the most difference. Paul Webb is has joined the organisation as a Director but they are looking for more. They are keen for Burwell to run an Earth Café- the first one to focus on home energy ideally.

4. Updates from previous meeting and action points

Item	Action	Who
Earth Cafes	Organise an open meeting through BEG to find volunteers to run Earth Cafes	Paul Webb/Clive Leach

Wildlife counts	Nicola Hallows has started work on this and will update on progress	Nicola Hallows
Biodiversity Plan	Comments were sent from Lea Dodds and a document from Katherine Hyett, based on the SLCC model. Jenny Moss is updating the Pauline Swamp and Spring Close vision plans which can be incorporated.	Nicola Hallows to update and Katherine Hyett to support with Parish Council input.
Pollution Plan	To be created	Await terms of reference to be reviewed
Name of group	Terms of reference to be reviewed and proposal made	Clive Leach and Katherine Hyett to review original terms of reference before considering name.
Update on Swish and Repair Café's	9 th repair café on 2 nd march at Mandeville 3 rd swish on 16 th March at GMH There is funding that can be distributed to benefit projects supporting climate action. The Repair Café website is open for bookings.	Nicola Hallows to provide advice to Geraldine Tate on seeds that could be given to children to encourage biodiversity.
Net Zero fund	Funding applications have gone in for the Parish Council. Peter Bates suggested Lorna Dupre as a good contact for lobbying for more funding - Chair of climate and emergency committee	No action required.
Wildlife Corridor	Nicola Hallows made an approach to the woodland trust which she will pursue, The farmer will be contacted.	

5. Updates from Repair and Swish Cafes

Updated above

6. Reports

a) The Council's Environment & Green Investment Committee on 28th November voted unanimously to adopt a County Council Action Plan for supporting communities to develop Community Energy project.

The Chair suggested that the committee take time to read and digest this. Useful to use as template. Paul Webb raised that sections 7.3 and 7.4 were useful.

7. EN010165 - Kingsway Solar Farm - EIA Scoping Consultation and Notification

Please see attached correspondence on the proposed Kingsway Solar Farm.

The Applicant for the Proposed Development intends to make an application for Development Consent under the Planning Act 2008. The Applicant has sought a Scoping Opinion from the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, as to the scope and level of detail of the information to be provided within the Environmental Statement that will accompany its future application. The Planning Inspectorate has identified you as a consultation body to inform the Scoping Opinion and is therefore inviting you to submit comments by **14 January 2025**. The deadline is a statutory requirement that cannot be extended.

This was referred back to full Council to be discussed on email and response to be submitted on the 14th.

8. Any Other Business

Nicola Hallows asked for an overview of the changes that has been made to GMH. Paul Webb to provide.

9. Date of the next meeting – 4th March 2025

Meeting closed 8:53

Signed

Date