

Climate Change Forum Minutes

5th November 2024, 7.30 pm at Gardiner Memorial Hall, Burwell

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

1) Apologies for absence

None received. The Chair informed the group that Jenny Moss has resigned from the Parish Council.

2) Approval of the minutes of 2nd July 2024.

The minutes were amended to correct a surname in item 3 and change Environment Group to Climate Change Forum in item 5. Following these changes the minutes of 2nd July 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) Updates from previous meeting

Clive Leach confirmed that the Parish Council had agreed to fund the website for The Burwell Environment Group for the first year. Development of the website on hold until the bank account is set up which has taken longer than expected. Also as being the Chair of BEG, the Chair of the Forum wishes to ensure that payments for BEG go through the appropriate bank account.

Ian Woodroofe and Clive Leach continue to work on resolving issues at the Weirs. They are involved from an environmental, community and support role for local residents. This has also been raised to both District and County Council level. Martin O'Leary questioned whether it is Climate Change Forum matter and it was confirmed it is not, this was an update.

The Chair explained that improvements and development for the Lode and Weirs had been identified in the ECDC Master Plan for Burwell in 2015 Accordingly, the Parish Council will endeavour to facilitate development and improvements in this area for the benefit of the community, and it is likely that this will be achieved by both volunteer groups and by the Parish Council.

Lea Dodds explained that he is still working on assessing electricity and gas usage but this is difficult due to changes in meters and suppliers. Ian Woodroofe asked that figures should be fed back into the design model for Gardiner Memorial Hall.

Emma Danielsson from East Cambridgeshire District Council was due to attend a meeting but it was confirmed that she has left the Council. Paul Webb confirmed that Peter Bates will be asked to speak at the January meeting about Earth Cafes.

It was requested that an action plan update be added to the minutes going forward.

4) Biodiversity and Pollution Plan

The Chair thanked Nicky Hallows for sending through a biodiversity plan. Nicky Hallows asked for feedback on content and structure. It was agreed that members would provide feedback to Nicky prior to the next forum. Paul Webb suggested Nicky also looks at the vision plans for Pauline's swamp nature reserve and Spring Close as well as the East Cambridge District Council Website. He is also shared that there was an Imaginarium

meeting the following night at Gardiner Memorial Hall. Most attendees were not aware of this.

It was suggested that a request goes out in Clunch for residents to share past animal and plant surveys with the Parish Council.

Nicola Hallows stated that she feels a Pollution plan would be better as a standalone document.

5) Climate Change Forum – Possible change of name and constitution to include Environmental matters such as waterways

There was a brief discussion about names and then it was suggested to go around the table.

Paul Webb suggested no name change but can include waterways, agreed by Jim Perry and Geraldine Tate. Jim suggested Climate Change and cultural conditions.

Lea Dodd highlighted the terms of reference of Assets and Environment. This group focuses on our properties, more local issues rather than the environmental issues the Climate Change Forum addresses. Lea Dodds suggested: Climate change, Biodiversity and Pollution form. Liz Swift feels Climate change covers everything. Mike Swift agreed but also stated that Burwell Environmental Group should form a pressure group on the Weirs “there is funding available from ECDC”. Ian Woodroffe agreed with Lea Dodds.

Clive Leach suggested that he and Vice chair review the terms of reference. Mike Swift is concerned that there are action groups set to progress change. Martin O’Leary highlighted that the groups priority should be on climate matter. Clive Leach highlighted that the inclusion of waterways is about clearing the waterways and improving the area. Geraldine Tate said that swish and repair cafes were not mentioned and could this be added to action points. Nicky Hallows was in agreement with Lea Dodds about the name.

6) Development of Climate Change/Environment Web Site

As per previous update, Clive Leach will take this forward when possible. Nicky Hallows raised that there is a new Wild Burwell website.

7) Net Zero Villages East Cambridgeshire Fund

Grants available to support rural communities to deliver capital projects that deliver reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. The total funding available is £150,000 and bids will need to be submitted ideally by the 31 December 2024 and can cover 100% of the project.

The Parish Council has submitted an expression of interest for Mandeville hall, up to £30k for solar panels, insulation and air source heat pumps.

8) Battery energy storage system (BESS) development located off Hightown Drove, Burwell, Cambridgeshire.

The Parish Council received document about an additional battery storage unit, in addition the whole village received a document about Kingsway solar. It was decided to refer this back to Parish Council to develop a policy regarding our approach to renewable energy projects.

9) Wildlife corridor between Spring Close and Priory Woods proposed by Nicola Hallows

It was noted that the relevant farmer had been approached previously about a different parcel of land to create a wildlife corridor between Pauline’s Swamp and Spring Close and refused this. It was discussed that the whole financial landscape has changed, and this is a

different parcel of land so it would be worth creating a new proposal to be discussed and presented to the farmer. Jim Perry asked about the land adjacent to Pauline's Swamp.

10) Any Other Business

None raised. Chair gave thanks to the members for supporting the group throughout 2024.

Date of the next meeting – 7th January 2025

Actions Log

Item	Action	Who
Earth Cafes	Peter Bates to be invited to January Climate Change Forum	Paul Webb (cc Parish Clerk)
Wildlife counts	Request previous survey's from residents via Clunch	Wild Burwell?
Biodiversity Plan	Feedback to Nicola Hallows	All
Pollution Plan	To be created	?
Name of group	Terms of reference to be reviewed and proposal made	Chair and Vice Chair
Update on Swish and Repair Café's	Include on agenda	Parish Clerk
Net Zero fund	Await follow up of expression of interest	Paul Webb/Parish Clerk
Renewable energy projects	Clerk to include on Council meeting agenda	Parish Clerk
Wildlife Corridor	Research and develop proposal to farmer	?

Signed:

Dated: