

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING PARTY MEETING HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2024

PRESENT: Councillors: Morris
Non-Councillors – Nina Shields (Chair), Al Braithwaite (Minute Taker), Beverley Kinnaird and Paul Kinnard

ALSO PRESENT: Julia Lawrence, Deputy Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Chowns and David Wood-Robinson.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. TO ELECT NON-COUNCIL MEMBERS

Nina Shields was elected to be Chairman of the Working Party. This was proposed by Al Braithwaite and seconded by Cllr Morris.

RESOLVED:

That Nina Shields be elected as Chairman.

4. TO APPROVE AND SIGN, AS A CORRECT RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING PARTY MEETING HELD ON 23 APRIL 2024.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Climate Change Working Party meeting held on 23 April 2024 be approved as a correct record.

5. COUNCIL STRUCTURE.

It was noted that there will be a change to the Council operating structure due to a low number of councillors and leading to the number of committees being under resourced. The Group was advised that there would be Full Council meetings to transact business on a fortnightly basis, so improving delivery of actions.

The Chairman advised the Working Party that Cllr Sinclair would be proposing a motion at the next Full Council meeting that "CCCWP be disbanded due to lack of achievement and the cost to the Council".

The Working Party discussed this motion and noted several key facts that did not support Cllr Sinclair's motion, namely:

- The Working Party does not have any spending power. Indeed, it makes recommendations to the appropriate committee for potential spending decisions.
- The Working Party has supported the Council in delivering a number actions to meet the challenges of Climate Change.

The Working Party agreed it was important that a statement be provided to the Full Council meeting (19 September 2024), setting out the achievements and the relevant facts relating the Working Party's delivery and those not progressed by the Council.

It was noted that the Working Party would welcome direction and guidance on the priorities that the Working Party should be focused on, recognising the capacity within the Council.

RESOLVED:

That a statement would be drafted and submitted by the Chairman to the Clerk in line with the committee deadlines, which would be presented/read out to Full Council on 19 September 2024.

6. FEEDBACK FROM THE EVENTS WORKING PARTY ON THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK (GBGW)

The report on the GBGW events was presented.

The many and varied events were a great success. Thanks go to the Council staff for their hard work, along with the many volunteers who got involved in raising awareness of Climate Change, as well as litter picks and events being taken by many. A budget of £800 had been allocated to the GBGW and had been spent in line with the approvals given.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the GBGW report be noted.
- b) The Working Party would want the Council to support a programme of events for 2025.

7. WORKING WITH NMITE

NMITE are still willing to work with the Council on projects that support the students achieving their degrees. Projects that the Council would wish to pursue would need to be identified and discussed with NMITE.

As previously discussed, the opportunity for the Council to be involved with Ledbury Places to develop a Heritage Master Plan, is supported and has approval. A project brief has been created and signed off by Ledbury Places, with a view to it coming before the appropriate Council meeting in the next few months. It was noted that the development of the Heritage Master Plan would be co-ordinated through Ledbury Places.

RESOLVED:

That Al Braithwaite would liaise with the Council and arrange for the project brief for the creation of a Heritage Asset Master Plan to be presented to the appropriate Committee.

8. FEEDBACK FROM TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT WORKING PARTY IN RESPECT OF WORKING WITH JOHN MASEFIELD AND LEDBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Discussions with the schools are being undertaken, through the work that Professor Whitelegg is doing with Herefordshire Council. It is important for the Town Council to encourage the schools to create travel plans which seek to improve the environmental conditions across the Town. There was a willingness within the Working Party to be involved in activities that were not in the direct control of the Town Council but were still within Climate Change Emergency priorities.

RESOLVED:

That CCWP supported the need for school travel plans or something similar which would lead to an improvement in the local environment.

9. COUNCIL'S CARBON FOOTPRINT

It is now 12 months since the Council undertook an analysis of its carbon footprint. The Working Party would like to receive an update on any actions taken; to review the energy spending levels whether the Council would benefit from an update review of its carbon footprint. Updating the carbon footprint and associated actions for the Council will improve both the working conditions for staff as well as help to maintain the building and potentially lead to cost savings.

RESOLVED:

Through the Clerk, Paul Kinnaid, on behalf of CCWP, would discuss the opportunity to pursue and update carbon footprint.

10. LITTER AND WASTE

10.1 Litter Picking:

Litter picks form a strong part of GBGW, but also occur by volunteers outside of this week. As a tourist destination it is important that the Town is kept smart and litter free, as much as possible. It is noted that the County Council has

previously been asked to co-ordinate this activity, but it was rejected, with no evidence given. It was agreed that the County Council should be approached again.

10.2 Pedicargo:

Pedicargo provide recycling services to Hereford Town Centre. It was suggested that the organisation be approached again to potentially provide a similar service to Ledbury Town Centre and its traders.

10.3 Litter Bins/Recycle Bins (Street furniture)

Clarity was sought on a) when the bins were due to be replaced and b) whether consideration would be given to a combined double bin for waste and recycling materials.

RESOLVED:

10.1 The Council be approached through the next appropriate committee meeting to consider co-ordinating litter picks for the Town.

10.2 Al Braithwaite to approach Pedicargo about waste removal in the Town.

10.3 The Council to be approached through the ward Councillor, Liz Harvey, to identify a date for replacement street bins and ask for consideration to be given to a feasibility study of combined bins.

11. LEDBURY HEALTH PARTNERSHIP (LHP)

It was noted that the link to LHP remains and would continue to form part of the agenda for the Working Party.

An item for the next meeting will be a discussion about the air pollution levels at Top Cross, which is an increasing concern. It was noted that there was evidence that introducing speed limits at 20mph elsewhere has reduced the level of pollution.

RESOLVED:

That regular engagement with the Practice Manager would continue. The next meeting would discuss the topic of air pollution at Top Cross.

12. WARM SPACES FOR WINTER 2024/25

It was noted that LTC would co-ordinate the rooms across the Town, assuming that there was a cold winter. Advertising and promotion would be undertaken by the Council.

RESOLVED:

That the warm spaces programme would be coordinated by LTC

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the Climate Change Working party will be held on Tuesday, 15 October 2024 at 6.00pm in Ledbury Town Council Offices.