

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING PARTY HELD ON 7 FEBRUARY 2024

PRESENT: Councillors: Chowns and Sinclair
Non-Councillors – Nina Shields (Chair), Al Braithwaite, Beverley Kinnaird, Paul Kinnaird, County Councillor Justine Peberdy and Catherine Simonini (Ledbury Health Partnership)

ALSO PRESENT: Julia Lawrence, Deputy Clerk

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor McAll and Professor John Whitelegg.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None received.

3. **TO ELECT NON-COUNCIL MEMBERS**

None.

4. **TO APPROVE AND SIGN, AS A CORRECT RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING PARTY MEETING HELD ON 6 DECEMBER 2023**

Since the issuing of the draft minutes of 6 December 2023, Councillor Sinclair had raised a concern that the data contained in Item 7 (Transport) presented by Professional Whitelegg was inaccurate in terms of journeys by car.

This meeting noted that there had been confusion about the definition of “trips”. Professor Whitelegg, since that meeting, had advised the Council and its Members that “trips” related to all forms of movement to and from the School, not just cars. It was also noted that the words “great exaggeration” was not used in the meeting by Councillor Chowns.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Climate Change Working Party (“CCWP”) meeting held on 6 December 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record subject to the amendment that the word “trips” (Item 7) recognises different types of movement to and from the School, not solely cars.

The minutes were proposed by Councillor Chowns and seconded by Nina Shields, then signed as a correct record.

5. LEDBURY HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

The Practice Manager, Catherine Simonini, advised the Working Party that there is no current requirement to track trends or record the impacts of Climate Change on health by the Department of Health or other health bodies.

It could be possible to provide data to support or provide a base line of different health conditions that relate to climate change if there was a project requiring the ability to monitor changes over a period of time.

It was noted that unlike the Council, the Practice does not have a Climate Change Emergency Policy and that it was a challenge to reach Net Zero as some buildings were not within the ownership of the Practice. Where control and influence was possible (St Katherine's), it is well run and is trying to address the challenges. At other locations, there are less obligations on commercial landlords to address the climate change problems.

The Practice Manager was thanked for her insight of the challenges facing the Health Practice.

RESOLVED:

It was proposed that at the next CCWP Meeting consideration should be given as to how the Council could work with the Health Practice in the future.

6. FEEDBACK FROM ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE ("E&L")

The report was noted.

A discussion took place about developing a potential relationship to work together with NMITE. Al Braithwaite advised that NMITE were working with Ledbury Places on a few projects (via an MOU) to better understand what could be done with its historic buildings to improve thermal capacity and overall structure. Councillor Chowns would welcome an opportunity to have a discussion to understand how a relationship could potentially develop.

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that Al Braithwaite would contact NMITE to start the discussion with NMITE about their involvement with the Council. Councillor Chowns confirmed that he would also be pleased to join the meeting.

7. FEEDBACK FROM TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT WORKING PARTY IN RESPECT OF THE REPORT PRESENTED BY PROFESSOR WHITELEGG

This item was deferred until the next CCWP as the meeting had only been held earlier on 7 February 2024.

RESOLVED:

To be an item on the agenda for the next meeting on 3 April 2024.

8. MALVERN HILLS NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSULTATION

The consultation document presented to Ledbury Town Council was provided by E&L to CCWP for their response with a view to submitting that response to Malvern Hills National Landscape. The consultation document relates to renewable energy in the Malvern Hills and its setting.

In summary the CCWP noted:-

- It was a thorough report.
- That the report took a positive approach to renewable energy but would not want to deploy anything that would have a major impact on the setting.
- It did not wish to do anything on a large scale or that might cause disruption to the land and buildings.

RESOLVED:

That the CCWP agreed that the following statement should be the recommended response to be sent to Malvern Hills National Landscape by the deadline of 28 February 2024 from the Council and E&L.

“Thank you for the detailed and thorough report and the opportunity to comment. Ledbury Town Council is supportive of the aims to provide renewable opportunities whilst safeguarding the landscape”.

9. ABSOLUTE NET ZERO REPORT

Councillor Sinclair lead a discussion for the Working Party on the Absolute Net Zero report, making members of the Group aware that the creation of the academic report, 4 years ago, is understood to be backed by the Chinese Government.

Councillor Sinclair wanted to make people aware of some of the points set out in the diagram 2020-2050 (page 6 of the actual report) and the impact that they would have on everyday life.

It was noted that many of the insights across a range of headings, were not unexpected in the longer term – to 2050, but it was good to raise awareness. It was acknowledged that CO2 to zero had moved on in the recent past, even given the recent concerns about the location of COP28.

A further report was referred to by the Chairman, having received information from Professor Whitelegg about the same and set out below.

“The Wuppertal Institute also uses its long-standing expertise in performing meta-analyses of energy system scenarios in various projects. In one of these meta-analyses on behalf of Fridays for Future Germany, it investigated the accelerated changes that would be realised in the energy industry and in the buildings, industry and transport sectors to achieve a [climate-neutral German energy system already by 2035](#). In a study on behalf of the nature conservation organisation NABU, the Wuppertal Institute used a scenario meta-analysis to derive various strategies for how the energy transition can be implemented in a way that minimises negative impacts on nature.

[CO2-Neutral by 2035: Key Points of a German Contribution to Maintain the 1.5°C Limit - Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy \(wupperinst.org\)](#)”

It was noted that much of the report was outside the remit of the Working Party, which had been set up to make recommendations to E&L to build resilience and address opportunities to improve the sustainability of Ledbury.

The Chair thanked Councillor Sinclair for bringing the report to the Working Party's attention.

RESOLVED:

That the Working Party reflect on the reports for future consideration.

10. COUNCIL CARBON FOOTPRINT

Awaiting feedback from the Finance Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the CCWP is awaiting feedback from the Finance Committee.

11. WARM SPACES FOR WINTER 2023/24

It was noted that the Rugby Club did apply for grant funding for warm spaces this year, but the application had been rejected on the grounds that they could not offer time slots outside of regular working hours.

12. COMMITTEE STRUCTURE/CORPORATE PLAN 2020

To be carried forward to the next meeting.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the CCWP will be held on Wednesday, 3 April 2024 at 6.00pm, in the Council Offices.

CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING PARTY – ACTION SHEET

No:	Item (Action Required)	Responsibility	To be actioned by (date)
6	Al Braithwaite agreed to contact NMiTE to start the discussion with NMiTE. Councillor Chowns to join the meeting.	Al Braithwaite	April 24
5	CCWP Meeting give consideration as to how the Council could work with the Health Practice in the future.	CCWP	April 24
8	This Working Party agreed that the following statement should be the recommended response to be sent to Malvern Hills National Landscape by the deadline of 28 February 2024 from the Council and E&L.	E&L and Clerk	28 February 24