

**UNADOPTED
POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL**



CLIMATE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Climate Committee meeting held on Monday 17th February 2020 Council Chambers 49, High Street, Polegate 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs D Murray, Mrs M Piper, M Cunningham, J Harmer, S Shing (5)

Not Present: - -

No members of the public present

Minute Number	Resolution
12889	Opportunity for Public Comment None
12890	Apologies for absence Cllr S Shing
12891	Declarations of interest in any items on the agenda Cllrs Mrs. M Piper & D Murray as directors of Polegate War memorial recreation ground CIC; Cllr D Murray as trustee of Wannock Village Hall, Cllr S Shing (County Cllr).
12892	Climate change matters including draft items for the report A Councillor apologized for not attending the last meeting and asked the chair about the actions. The chair explained that the committee would be producing a report and recommendations to full council in due course. The chair stated that the focus would be (at first) for climate change matters and move onto a separate report regarding environmental matters. The committee would focus first on what was within the control of the council to change. It was agreed that the draft report with ideas in sections (circulated to all on the committee prior to the meeting and noted by all), could be assessed for those to be included within the initial "climate change" matters and then a secondary report to include environmental actions that could potentially be taken by the council. A Councillor asked about being "climate neutral" this was discussed and the difficulties with offsetting. A Councillor stated that climate change was happening and the faster the actions were put in place the better. The committee discussed Energy Performance certificate (EPC) and that this would be a recommendation to full council to carry out an assessment on the building at 49/51 High Street as this had not yet been done. RECOMMENDATION TO FULL COUNCIL TO CARRY OUT AN EPC ASSESSMENT ON 49/51 AT AN EXPECTED COST OF AROUND £250 TO COME FROM GENERAL RESERVES <i>Cllr S Shing arrived at 8.17pm</i> See attached sheet for details of which are drafted to be included in the report and which should be held back for an environment report, some items were also excluded.

	Other comments: • The station car par and the private car park in Polegate – do they have electric vehicle charging points? • Have a look at the WDC resilience document to see if there is a section for excessive heat, cold and flooding. • Have a look at the TPO list for Polegate • Does it cost anything to register a TPO? • Liaise with Polegate school on climate change issues • Look at the current WDC design guide to see what is included regarding climate change and energy efficiency • Link into healthy Wealden website • Cuckoo rail and exercise (encourage) • Reusing recycle tyres and other products including tetra packs
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The meeting closed at 9.17pm

Signed by _____ Chair of the Climate Committee

Dated _____

Climate action plan

Matters in control of the Town Council

NB Bold text denotes accepted as part of report for climate change action.

Description	Action
Identify areas where PTC can minimise the emission of gases which adversely affect climate change even more than CO ₂	Assess current energy use, recycling
Plant more trees Brightling Road	Being addressed in the Brightling Road improvement report
Plant More Trees In PWMRG	Will be handed over to CIC. Liaise with tree warden and friends of the earth
Identify the types of trees that are best for the reduction of greenhouse gases	CRICKET WILLOW AND WILLOW
Be a force for good	Set an example and tell residents when we do something that is positive towards the carbon neutral goal Encourage and support local groups formation (takeclimateaction.uk)
Obtain EPC rating for 49/51	Get quote and full council resolution. RECOMMENDATION TO FULL COUNCIL
Use powers wisely	Assess the impact of our actions when making decisions.
Pledge to do what is within PTC powers to make Polegate carbon neutral by 2030	<i>Make a resolution at the next available meeting</i>
Make sure that our energy suppliers are green energy	Check energy contracts for All supply (metered and unmetered) NB Green energy cannot usually be guaranteed to be green all of the time.
Making decisions based on climate change as a consideration – when identified – Council should focus on CLIMATE at first with actions that IT can take to reduce its impact. Aiming to be carbon neutral (disclaimer)	Considering the carbon emissions of decisions being taken and/or harm to nature. Promoting sustainable rather than increasing carbon emissions. Lobby MP and higher local authorities to demand nation changes to bus services regulations. Decisions should be common sense and good practice. Consultations: request from the authorities the climate impact of the proposed outcomes. Recommendations put should be assessed with regards to their impact on climate, air pollution and nature plans
Demonstrate leadership through practical actions	
	Move street lighting over to LED
	Carry out an energy audit
	EPC certificate on buildings RECOMMENDATION
	Potentially use SALIX funding if required (loan)
	Install renewable energy such as heat pumps and solar (OVESCO.co.uk)
	Install smart meters where possible

	COMMENTS WERE MADE ON THE ACCURACY OF SMART METERS.
TO BE INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT NOT CLIMATE	Reduce pesticide use and other harmful activities
TO BE INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT NOT CLIMATE	Use peat free compost where compost is required
TO BE INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT NOT CLIMATE	Shun pesticides where possible
TO BE INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT NOT CLIMATE	Ensure light pollution is controlled
TO BE INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT NOT CLIMATE	Stop using glyphosate weed killer and use hot foam system instead
TO BE INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT NOT CLIMATE	Signs where we use of peat free compost
Manage land for nature TO BE INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT NOT CLIMATE	Allotments open spaces call all be managed to enhance nature. Can be done by changing mowing regimes and planting bee and insect friendly plants. Friends of the earth and Buglife have produced a guide to developing an action plan for helping pollinators.
TO BE INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT NOT CLIMATE	Enhancing planting of wildflowers and other verge flowers
Increase tree cover	Planting more trees. (free from forestry commission, woodland trust) THIS IS BEING DONE AS PART OF THE IMPROVEMENT MEASURES AT BRIGHTLING ROAD
Buy green	Buying local can support the local economy WHERE POSSIBLE
	Buy green electricity ASPIRATION
TO BE INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT NOT CLIMATE	Food provided at events, buy green and mainly plant based. (if meat and dairy, use less and better quality)
Use green transport TO BE INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT NOT CLIMATE	Encourage staff to walk, cycle or use public transport (potentially introduce a levy for parking) bespokecyclegroup.org sustrans.org
TO BE INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT NOT CLIMATE	Encourage Cllrs to walk, cycle or use public transport (potentially introduce a levy for parking)
TO BE INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT NOT CLIMATE	Council could provide bikes or electric bikes for staff as they carry out any work-related trips
INVESTIGATE CYCLE RACK AT COUNCIL OFFICES	
TO BE INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT NOT CLIMATE	Provide zero interest loans for buying bikes
TO BE INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT NOT CLIMATE	Where a car or van is required to use electric vehicles only

Waste and recycling TO BE INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT NOT CLIMATE	Minimise the amount of waste going to landfill
TO BE INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT NOT CLIMATE	Recycle or compost
TO BE INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT NOT CLIMATE	Set up a composting scheme (allotments)
TO BE INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT NOT CLIMATE	Set up a community recycling facility for hard to recycle items if WDC has not done so, or signpost to WDC facility if required
TO BE INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT NOT CLIMATE	Look into a partnership with Terracycle?
TO BE INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT NOT CLIMATE	Avoiding unnecessary purchases such as single use plastics (use reusable cups)
Investing money in green investments N/A	Avoiding fossil fuel companies and investing in sustainable low risk banks or investment funds.
Neighbourhood Plans	Designate sites within the neighbourhood for trees, renewable energy and nature restoration. POTENTIAL FOR THE FUTURE
TO BE INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT NOT CLIMATE	Protect and enhance the environment for future generations
Car parks (town council owned)	Low cost or free parking for electric vehicles? (cost of charging?). dedicated spaces for electric vehicles with charging points. POTENTIALLY ADD TO ESCC/WDC LIST AND POSSIBLY WRITE TO PRIVATELY OWNED CAR PARK OWNER
Reporting	Report on progress towards carbon neutral position versus national targets THESE COULD BE REPORTED ANNUALLY AT THE ANNUAL STAT MEETING.
	Set interim targets from the base point (measurable)
TO BE INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT NOT CLIMATE	Set nature restoration goals
	Review how councils involves residents in the existing decision making process.
Funding	Use grants, and CIL to assist in climate actions and nature restoration projects
Hiring facilities	Request that those hiring council buildings and land are as climate friendly as possible in their use of the facilities.
CAB	Ensure that the voices of vulnerable communities in the area are represented in council decision making and council/resident communications as much as possible.
Buildings	Following EPC assessment carry out insulation retrofits as is required. (warmersussex.co.uk; retrofitworks.co.uk)
	Look at energy efficiency in the council buildings – types of heating

	and cooling systems being used. <i>Revisit Solar?</i>
	Communicate to residents energy efficiency saving tools and measures that they can take. Including the take up of smart meters by their energy provider. Smartenergygb.org
	Carry out other recommendations in the EPC to enhance energy efficiency within the buildings.
	Any new buildings must be energy efficient (using passivhaus standard or similar)
	Potentially develop a heating and energy efficiency strategy for the council?
Suppliers	Ask suppliers about their carbon footprint strategy, whether they use electric vehicles and ask that as many as possible use electric vehicles for deliveries.
Promote community sharing and reuse TO BE INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT NOT CLIMATE	Freecycle; repairs cafes; charities
Partnership with schools TO BE INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT NOT CLIMATE	Encourage healthy eating, vegan options and other carbon footprint reduction. Two way conversations about what the children would like to see that may assist in a positive effect on climate change. Vegansociety.com
Protect older trees	TPO trees of significance
TO BE INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT NOT CLIMATE	Support nature, improve soils and water quality aid flood protection and urban design (Urban park at Brightling Road)
Letter to businesses	Letter asking business to get on board and encourage reusable cups etc rather than disposable ones.
Hold a theme meeting Annual Town Assembly with speakers and stalls	Arrange ATA with stalls and speakers on climate change for residents. Possibly sponsored by a local business?
Arrange a meeting with the FoTE spokesperson for councillors	Arrange meeting date.
Support applications that have renewable energy initiatives	Planning applications
Support local businesses	Advertise local business ways to assess their carbon footprint (free of charge) and ideas for business to reduce their carbon footprint
Funding sources	Need resolution from council to be able to apply for grants as these are short deadlines.

Matters to be communicated to the public

Description	Action
Identify residents who may be climate change	

champions	
Inform and nudge residents	Share info on social media. Carbon footprint calculator. Things you can do to mitigate/reduce carbon footprint.
Carbon footprint	Share information on how residents can assess their carbon footprint free of charge wwf.co.uk
Sustainable transport options	Share with residents sustainable transport options
Local accredited energy assessors and renewable energy installers	Share with residents accredited energy assessors and renewable energy installers <i>COUNCIL MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO ENDORSE ONE CONTRACTOR OVER ANOTHER. MAKE THEM AWARE OF WHO IS AVAILABLE AND THE LEVELS YOU NEED TO ASSESS.</i>
Smart meters	Share with residents the benefits of smart meters to monitor use of their energy in £s (grants available to advertise these)
Bulk purchase of energy	Direct residents to bulk energy providers such as WDC advertise and explain what that means to them (yourenergysussec.org.uk)
Eco friendly retailers TO BE INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT NOT CLIMATE	Pass on information about eco-friendly retailers, green builders, landscape companies (and possibly educate local business to become one themselves.)
Bulk purchases of other renewable technologies	TC to bring together local homeowners and businesses to develop a scheme for bulk purchases. (possibly to piggyback on WDC schemes?) Bulk purchases of energy audits, energy insulation. (Transition streets)
Assist in the creation of car sharing schemes	(social enterprise Liftshare) <i>Caution due to safety and other issues re "paying" a stranger to take you somewhere, cost sharing etc.</i>
Communication	Signpost air clean zones
	Promote practical action to residents
	Help residents make low carbon choices
	Help residents save energy – energysavingstrust.org/home-energy-efficiency/energy-saving-quick-wins

Matters for liaison with other Government bodies and Statutory Bodies

Description	Action
Request info from WDC re what happens to current recycling	Contact CB re facts; ask for tour of facilities?
Liaise with EBC re their event	Clerk and admin/committee clerk attended event in Eastbourne and obtained stall holders details and information/networking with speakers and ideas that may help POLEGATE residents.

Call on Government to provide any additional powers and resources necessary for PTC to achieve the target of becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and to impact implement best practice methods to limit global warming to 1.5C	
ESCC Highways	Lobby the county council to ensure that cycle routes are kept clear from debris to encourage use of existing routes Sustrans.org Cuckoo Trail
TO BE INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT NOT CLIMATE	Reuse plastic cutlery with takeaways
TO BE INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT NOT CLIMATE	Use of reusable cups rather than disposable
TO BE INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT NOT CLIMATE	Turn washing temp down to 30 degrees
TO BE INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT NOT CLIMATE	Make your next vehicle and electric vehicle
TO BE INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT NOT CLIMATE	Reuse/compost left over food – community fridge
TO BE INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT NOT CLIMATE	Become flexitarians (eat less meat), vegetarian, vegan
Letter to network Rail about possibility of having signage LED that shows how long until the barriers reopen.	
	Request that homes be made energy efficient (planning) and nature friendly, located close to public transport and amenities to avoid car use.
	Request that homes are as sustainable as possible. Ideally homes should be zero carbon (e.g. passivhaus standard)
	Designate safe walking routes and cycle routes – or encourage these when consultations taking place. (partnership with county council and district council to encourage these)
	Encourage the use of ebikes, segregated cycleways and cycle parking. Bespokecyclinggroup.org
Vulnerabilities e.g. flooding	Identify those who may be at risk of flooding and high heat levels and target policies, actions and spending in this area if required.

<https://www.cse.org.uk/>

<https://friendsoftheearth.uk/climate-change>

<https://www.cse.org.uk/advice/advice-and-support>

<https://ecoactioneb.co.uk/>

<https://ecoactioneb.co.uk/action>

<https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/>

Note: No project resources have been calculated, staff cost, material costs, time costs, other resources. Climate change will need to be added to the Business Plan if accepted and a climate emergency is declared by PTC and resources should be considered accordingly.

DRAFT