

UNADOPTED
POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL



CLIMATE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Climate Committee meeting held on Monday 20th January 2020 Council Chambers 49, High Street, Polegate 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs D Murray, Mrs M Piper, M Cunningham, S Shing (4)

Not Present: - Cllr J Harmer (1)

2 members of the public present

Minute Number	Resolution
12861	Opportunity for Public Comment None
12862	Apologies for absence Cllr J Harmer, S Shing (would arrive later due to other meeting)
12863	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).
12864	Climate change matters (as per terms of reference) The chair read out the terms of reference and a detailed some of the items that would need to be produced for the report to full council, including: should the council declare a climate emergency; should the town council create a carbon strategy; could and should the council pledge to be carbon neutral by 2030; were there any grants that should be applied for, for decisions and actions on climate change; what the town council could do itself with regards to climate change. <i>Standing orders suspended</i> A member of the public felt that the council should refer to climate change rather than climate emergency. <i>Standing orders reinstated</i> A short discussion on the differing views of some scientists on the rise in CO ₂ levels and industrial gases ensued and the IPCC (The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) ¹ The committee discussed what the town council could do for example: ➤ Assessing its use of fossil fuels ➤ Assessing its use of Nitrous/Nitric oxides ➤ Looking at alternative forms of energy that the council could use ➤ Reporting on how it communicates what it was doing with the community A councillor mentioned that he felt the word emergency should be removed and the town

¹ <https://www.ipcc.ch/>

council should focus on education and change of what it did. He also stated he felt that the council should liaise with the local school to find out what the children wanted as well, as they would be the ones living in Polegate in 30 years' time. He spoke about the railway and cars sitting at the level crossing.

The chair stated that the officers of the council already liaised with the school and other authorities such as the County Council, Wealden District Council, Eastbourne Borough council and the Government and would continue to do so in regard to climate change as well. He also mentioned that the town council was the lower tier and each tier had certain things that they could tackle with regards to climate change.

A councillor stated that the town council could write to Network rail with regards to have an LED board showing the time that the barrier would be down for encouraging people to turn off their engines. Another councillor stated that some cars already had stop start. A councillor mentioned that he had seen these, and it was worth asking if they could put one at Polegate.

The committee discussed the way the council may be able to educate the residents to do things (*nudge*) but that they couldn't *make* people or enforce things.

The committee discussed other items that the council could take action on such as:

- Use of electricity
- Use of gas central heating
- Fuel use and the contractors that the town council uses
- To create a list of things that the council could do and influence

A councillor suggested the planting of more trees. This was accepted by the group as a good option and the chair mentioned that the improvements to Brightling road area included a lot more trees. The Councillor stated that maybe more trees could also be planted at Wannock.

A councillor mentioned encouraging car sharing, as she often saw one person in ne car and this may be an area where for example parents could be encouraged to car share taking the children to school (if they use cars) and this would also help with the parking situation around school opening and closing time.

A councillor mentioned that in the USA they had different lanes for car sharers which was faster than single occupied cars, but this was probably not feasible in the UK.

- The committee spoke about encouraging walking and cycling

The committee discussed transport for the south east, the overcrowded railways and how most of train users did not use the shops in the town. It also discussed the bus services and electric and cycle bike hire. The committee also discussed the fact that public transport had to be suitable to encourage residents to use the services instead of cars as it was a behavioural change issue.

A councillor commented that the town could had to look at what it could do first, for example energy use and management. Then once it had got those into place it could also sign post the residents to changes, they could make to help.

A councillor mentioned that encouraging walking would help not only the environment but people's health as obesity was on the rise and less cars would help with pollution.

A councillor asked what Wealden District Council did with its recycling, and possibly that if the residents knew what was happening to it, that would encourage them to recycle more.

The clerk was asked to find out.

The committee agreed that the website and social media would be good ways of promoting changes, however some councillors asked whether pamphlets could be distributed to residents to signal what the town council was doing.

It was agreed that the current building (49/51) should be looked at with regards to energy consumption (Electricity, insulation, LED lighting, double glazing, air conditioning/heating etc). Possibly an EPC. Green energy. Solar panels. Wind power? Heat pumps. EPC.

The committee discussed how much could the council save versus the carbon footprint. (return on investment).

They agreed that encouraging residents to plant one tree may be useful, (many trees were available free of charge) and asked what type of trees would be best for the environment. How quickly trees would grow and make an impact, which were best for bees/insects and whether fruit trees such as pears apples and cherries were useful. The clerk was asked to find out.

The chair stated that Brightling was going to have more (free) trees, and asked that the clerk look into whether it would be feasible for the town council to obtain the trees and then allow residents to plant them.

Cllr S Shing arrived at 8.05pm

A councillor mentioned that "willow trees" may be helpful.

A councillor asked if the District Council could be requested NOT to cut down mature trees.

The chair reminded the committee that they should be considering issues that was in the town councils' control and that communicating action plans to residents and "nudging" them into the right direction was also possible.

A councillor commented that the town council also had limited resources for the bigger issues, but that every little helped to improve the situation. He mentioned the use of combi boilers and heat pumps and how different items are considered energy efficient at one time and then change as technology improves such as changes from fluorescent to LED.

- The clerk was tasked to make a list of as many things that the council could do with regards to climate change, which could be added to.
- Councillors asked to find out the benefits of having tablets instead of paper for meetings and to look at the costs of producing paperwork for meetings.

The committee discussed electric vehicles (EV) charging points and what happens to the batteries once they are life expired.

There was a brief discussion on cycle racks and ESCC/network rail land.

A councillor commented that excluding elderly residents others could be encouraged to lower their home temperature to save money and the environment and potentially their boiler temperature. Also, air conditioning units in the summer.

The committee had a short discussion about Electric Vehicle charging points, filling stations and the length of time that it takes to charge a vehicle (often 30 minutes or more).

The committee also discussed the planning being outside of the town council's control, but the possibility of requesting additional items in the new local plan that will assist with climate change if they are not already in it. (Communal heating, solar, heat pumps etc) Currently this is not enforceable by Wealden DC.

It was agreed that the main areas to focus on would be:

- Reducing the impact of the town council's operations – what is within the town council's powers/ability
- Liaising with other councils to apply other initiatives (officers already communicate, Cllrs to also communicate through all levels of local government.
- Communicating what the town council is doing and what residents can do
- Understanding that not everyone is in agreement that there is a climate emergency
- Meet regularly to produce a final report for full council in 5 month's time.

Cllr Mrs M Piper left the meeting at 8.56pm

Clerk notes: Annual town assembly, theme climate change; friends of the earth to come to speak to council and possibly at the ATA, FAQ from friends of the earth and other climate change ambassadors; sign posting for residents; ask contractors what they are doing with regards to climate change, offsetting? List of items for action.

The meeting closed at 8.57pm

Signed by _____ Chair of the Climate Committee

Dated _____

Climate action plan

Matters in control of the Town Council

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	
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.
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	Make a resolution at the next available meeting
Make sure that our energy suppliers are green energy	Check energy contracts for All supply (metered and unmetered)
Making decisions based on climate change as a consideration	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
	Potentially use SALIX funding if required (loan)

	Install renewable energy such as heat pumps and solar (OVESCO.co.uk)
	Install smart meters where possible
	Reduce pesticide use and other harmful activities
	Use peat free compost where compost is required
	Shun pesticides where possible
	Ensure light pollution is controlled
	Stop using glyphosate weed killer and use hot foam system instead
	Signs where we use of peat free compost
Manage land for nature	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.
	Enhancing planting of wildflowers and other verge flowers
Increase tree cover	Planting more trees. (free from forestry commission, woodland trust)
Buy green	Buying local can support the local economy
	Buy green electricity
	Food provided at events, buy green and mainly plant based. (if meat and dairy, use less and better quality)
Use green transport	Encourage staff to walk, cycle or use public transport (potentially introduce a levy for parking) bespokecyclingroup.org sustrans.org
	Encourage Cllrs to walk, cycle or use public transport (potentially introduce a levy for parking)
	Council could provide bikes or electric bikes for staff as they carry out any work-related trips
	Provide zero interest loans for buying bikes
	Where a car or van is required to use electric vehicles only
Waste and recycling	Minimise the amount of waste going to landfill
	Recycle or compost
	Set up a composting scheme (allotments)
	Set up a community recycling facility for hard to recycle items if WDC has not done so, or signpost to WDC facility if required
	Look into a partnership with Terracycle?
	Avoiding unnecessary purchases such as single use plastics (use reusable cups)
Investing money in green investments	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.
	Protect and enhance the environment for future generations

	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. Bespokecyclegroup.org
Car parks (town council owned)	Low cost or free parking for electric vehicles? (cost of charging?). dedicated spaces for electric vehicles with charging points.
Reporting	Report on progress towards carbon neutral position versus national targets
	Set interim targets from the base point (measurable)
	Set nature restoration goals
	Review how councils involves residents in the existing decision making process.
Funding	Use grants, S106 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.
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.
	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.
	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	Freecycle; repairs cafes; charities
Partnership with schools	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
	Support nature, improve soils and water quality aid flood protection and urban design (Urban park at Brightling Road)
Letter to Businesses	Letter to vendors to encourage re-usable cups.
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
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	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)
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
	Reuse plastic cutlery with takeaways
	Use of reusable cups rather than disposable
	Turn washing temp down to 30 degrees
	Make your next vehicle and electric vehicle
	Reuse/compost left over food
	Become flexitarians 9eat less meat), vegetarian, vegan

<https://www.ipcc.ch>

<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.