

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2019 AT 6.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: L Agabani, S Briton (Chair), P Crummay, S Cursley

IN ATTENDANCE: Acting Town Clerk/RFO: S Luck
County Cllr T Munt
3 members of the public

19/33CEC APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

C Rees, A l'Anson, Cllr J Osman (Mayor and Vice-Chair), P Welch (Deputy Mayor)

19/34CEC DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

19/35CEC MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24TH OCTOBER 2019

Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, approved and signed.

19/36CEC MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

S Briton reminded members of the public present that they would be given time to contribute pertinent points during the meeting however should they wish to raise any other issue they could so at this point in the agenda. No-one wished to speak.

19/37CEC REPORTS FROM WELLS CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES

1. Staffing committee reported their agreement with the proposal to appoint a new part time Resilience Manager post subject to approval of Full Council and with a start date of April 2020 at the earliest.
2. Planning committee reported they were requesting Full Council to adopt a Precautionary Principle with regard to the proposed 5G network. In addition Planning were also requesting from MDC information on all tree TPO's in Wells.
3. F&GP committee have included all costs shown in the CEC Implementation Plan into the draft budget.
4. The Archives and Open Spaces committees, no meeting to report.

19/38CEC CEC WORKING GROUPS (WG) REPORTS

a. Transport

S Briton reported that she understood Cllrs Fawcett and Linsdell to be in discussion regarding this WG, she undertook to contact them regarding progress.

b. Cycling

M Gilson reported for the Cycling WG in the context of their agreed aim to make wells a cycle friendly City. Meetings had taken place and the group were working on a cycling and walking infrastructure plan which would be included in the Neighbourhood plan. They had identified possible funding available from Cycling UK. The group had undertaken an Audit ride around Wells and identified sites where improvements could be made. They emphasised the need to work with developers at the earliest possible stages of the planning process to ensure cycle and pedestrian paths were prioritised; the proposed changes to the Lidl and police Station sites were highlighted.

c. Energy

The Energy WG met on 19th Nov and a verbal report was given by S Crocker and S Briton. The group is preparing a Carbon footprint for Wells, which will support the Full Council to consider priority areas for projects, e.g. helping residents to minimise energy use through maximising insulation. The Solar Streets Wells project had so far carried out 30 free surveys with 2 houses committed to the project.

The Charity Zero Carbon had recently installed 2 EV Charging Points in Glastonbury and had offered funds for a Point in Wells. The Town Clerk and chair to gather further information.

d. Wells CAN Do

Have a meeting scheduled for 29th Nov. The Climate Action Networkers launch event for Nov 22nd was postponed due to the Election. It has been rescheduled in the Town Hall for the 7th February.

e. Other groups

Although there had been discussion with regard to establishing a Food Working Group and Bio-diversity Working Group under the current terms and conditions they would require a named Councillor to support each. Given the work that the Archives & Open Spaces Committee are undertaking it was agreed to leave Biodiversity for their consideration. Wells Food Network (WFN) have re-established the Somerset Food Trail and it was agreed that WFN would be asked to provide WCC with a briefing on their work.

19/39CEC IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.

Members asked if the plan could be made more accessible on the WCC website. Progress with each element of the plan was reviewed. It was agreed:

- a. S Briton and the Town Clerk to liaise regarding possible briefing dates.
- b. S Briton and the Town Clerk to ask members of Sustainable Wells to draft a brief guide to carbon reduction.
- c. Consideration of a Green Charter to be a priority for the January CEC meeting.

19/40CEC DELEGATED RESPONSIBILITIES

To delegate authority to the Acting Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, to decide any urgent matters arising before the next meeting.

19/41CEC ANY OTHER MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

- a. S Briton reported on a successful Climate seminar held in the Cathedral. It was agreed it would be useful to work with the Dean and Chapter as well as the Diocese on future projects and that S Briton should continue to liaise with both.
- b. It was agreed that a draft Parish Tree Policy would be circulated.
- c. It was noted that the Blue School was organising an eco-conference with other schools for 23rd January.
- d. It was noted that the SCC Public Consultation on the Climate Emergency had been rescheduled with the Mendip meeting now booked for Feb 15th at Mendip Shape.

19/42CEC DATE OF NEXT MEETING: It was agreed to cancel the meeting at 6pm, on Thursday 5th December 2019.

The next meeting will be at 6pm, Thursday 9th January 2020