

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 9TH JANUARY 2020 AT 6.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: L Agabani, A l'Anson, S Briton (Chairman), P Crummay, S Cursley, O Hartley, and P Welch (Deputy Mayor)

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk/RFO: S Luck; Cllrs: J. Linsdell and J. Rust; SCO Cllrs: M. Cooke and J. Walker; 10 members of the public
Minutes Secretary: S Wride

20/01CEC APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: O Hartley (late arrival) and J Osman (Mayor and Vice-Chairman)

20/02CEC DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

20/03CEC MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21ST NOVEMBER 2019

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

20/04CEC 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 do so at this point in the agenda.

- a) SCO Cllr M. Cooke drew attention to SCO's forthcoming press release in the *Wells Voice* about the 'Dark Skies' project; SCO in the process of putting together a survey about setting up a transport service to run alongside the 67 Bus; positive report from resilience-qualified SCO Cllr J Walker at 08.01.20 meeting, information to go onto SCO website shortly.
- b) A member of the public drew attention to the Centre for Alternative Technology's *Zero Carbon Britain: Rising to the Climate Emergency*, which can be accessed via <https://www.cat.org.uk/info-resources/zero-carbon-britain/>
- c) A member of the public attention to an event organised by Wells Climate Strike at the Blue School on March 13th and extended an invitation to Cllr L Agabani to talk at this event.

20/05CEC PRIORITY ITEMS:

a) Wells City Council Guide to Carbon Reduction

Draft copies of a WCC Guide to Carbon Reduction and Cut Your Carbon Footprint poster were circulated for discussion. Finalised copies will be circulated to the Committee members for comment and available for discussion at next Full Council. This material will be used as part of the 'Wells CAN) (Climate Action Network) Do' event on 07.02.20. The following points were raised:

- i. ensure source information is referenced and reputable,
- ii. ensure suggestions are not overly prescriptive, changing any 'shoulds' to 'coulds',
- iii. include reference to disposable fashion under 'Consumption',
- iv. include WCC logo and those of partner organisations,
- v. explore other ways of communicating message, e.g. cartoons.

The following comments were made by members of the public:

- vi. WCC should approach local businesses (independent or chain) re the sustainability of branded uniforms, 90% of corporate clothing goes into landfill sites

- vii. WCC should do all it can to ensure that zero carbon homes are build, so that new builds will not have to be retrofitted at huge expense
- viii. WCC should contribute to the national Gov't Future Homes Standard Consultation which is open until 07.02.20.

b) Wells CAN Do, Wells Town Hall, Feb 7th 7 – 9:30 pm

S Briton reported on progress and expressed the Committee's thanks to the Wells CAN Do Working Group for their efforts. The poster for the event was circulated and is available through the Town Hall. Bookings for places can be made through the Town Hall or the online link in the poster (attached).

c) Wells Green Charter

It was agreed that this would be deferred for discussion to the next CEC meeting along with information about the Earth Protector town campaign.

S Briton provided Committee members with dates for other local events:

- i. 23.01.20 Eco Conference at the Blue School
- ii. 06.01.20 to the 25.02.20 Somerset County Council Climate Consultation <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/climate-emergency/> includes drop-in session 15.02.20 at MDC council chamber
- iii. 19.03.20 MDC information evening at Wells Town Hall at which WCC are welcome to have a table.

20/06CEC REPORTS FROM CEC WORKING GROUPS (WG)

- a) Transport:** Cllr J Linsdell has offered to organise the first meeting of the WG, the date to be confirmed. The WG will liaise closely with those working on the Neighbourhood Plan. The Committee expressed its appreciation to Cllr J Linsdell for her commitment to getting this WG up and running.
- b) Cycling:** Nothing to report.
- c) Energy:** January meeting cancelled; February meeting will discuss issues arising from the 'Wells CAN do' event; Wells Solar Streets' recent solar panel installations have been commented on positively in social media. S Briton in discussion with IDDEA to ensure publicity for project continues. Further discussion required with IDDEA with regard to the Community Fund.
- d) Wells CAN Do:** covered above
- e) Other groups:** Wells Food Network happy to come and speak about Somerset Food Trail to this committee or the full Council.

20/07CEC REPORTS FROM WCC COMMITTEES

- a) Finance and General Purposes** (Cllr P Welch): public meeting re 5G to take place on 28.03.20 in the Town Hall
 - b) City Centre and Open Spaces** (Cllr L Agabani): tree survey report, draft tree policy, and biodiversity coming up.
 - c) Planning** (Cllr A I'Anson): policy of recommending that if a tree must be felled, the applicant should replant another elsewhere on the same the plot.
 - d) Staffing** (Cllr O Hartley): Town Clerk confirmed that Wookey and SCO Parish Councils did not want to share a Resilience Officer with WCC; SCO Cllrs present clarified that they took this decision so as not to raise their precept, SCO Cllr J Walker is Resilience-qualified, the Parish Clerk has a degree in environment protection and could do more hours, but SCO still interested in working closely with WCC, e.g. on joint funding bids. The Town Clerk will contact other councils shortly. Discussed the possibility of the MDC Sustainability Officer coming and speaking to the full Council.
 - e) Archives** (Cllr S Cursley): nothing to report.
- The Committee agreed to discuss liaison with Wells in Bloom and Tourism at the next meeting

20/08CEC DELEGATED RESPONSIBILITIES

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

20/09CEC ANY OTHER MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

- a) It was suggested that more time is needed for the CEC, it could take place after rather than prior to the Planning Committee. The Town Clerk advised that this would not be possible because there is no way of knowing in advance how many planning applications will need to be discussed at any one Planning Committee meeting. Discussion of possibly allocating two nights to Council business. The Town Clerk will revisit WCC's diary.
- b) Request that WCC keep SCO informed of all relevant events and initiatives.
- c) Invitation to engage with SCO's informal discussions about hydro-power. Cllrs J Lindsell and S Cursley interested.

20/10CEC DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 6pm, Thursday 5th March 2020

The Committee agreed to postpone next meeting until 05.03.20 as 'Wells CAN do' takes place on 07.02.20.

If there are links that you require that are not in the minutes, please contact S Briton or the Town Clerk.