

## WELLS CITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 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:** Cllrs: J. Linsdell and J. Parker  
SCO Cllrs: T. Munt; WCC: K. Westwood and A. Westwood  
3 members of the public  
Minutes Secretary: J. Franks

**20/011CEC APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None received.

**20/12CEC DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

None.

**20/13CEC MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2020**

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

**20/14CEC MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Cllr S Briton explained to members of the public present that they had the opportunity to raise any issues at this point. She then reminded the members of the committee of the need to be purposeful in their discussions due to the full agenda.

A member of the public spoke of the Digital Economy Act 2017 and explained they believe the Act impacts upon issues such as the current planning application for a 5G mast on Cathedral Green and initiatives such as planting trees, thereby causing challenges to the protection of the City's green spaces. They asked if the committee would consider placing the issues which are impacted upon by the Act on the Committee's agenda to enable discussion and questions to take place.

**20/15CEC PRIORITY ITEMS:**

**i. Wells in Bloom**

This item was brought forward from the previous meeting. Cllr S. Briton asked Cllrs P. Crummy and L. Agabani if issues around the ecological crisis could be brought up within the WIB and Open Spaces Committees. Cllrs L. Agabani and P. Crummy agreed but requested guidance from this Committee regarding the way forward - to be discussed at the next meeting.

**ii. Planting of Trees (Cllr Joe Parker)**

Cllr J. Parker presented his draft plan to help plant additional trees, explaining the idea, how it works, the benefits and his proposed next steps. Some concerns were raised:

- a) There is a risk the project may impact upon current (rival) market traders negatively, reflecting poorly upon WCC.
- b) Premium planting time for bare-root trees (Dec to Feb) is nearly over. Cllr J. Parker explained The Woodland Trust have stated that it is still possible to plant bare-root trees

All members were in support of Phase 2 (Project Pilot) going ahead and agreed to raise committee monies in support. Cllr J Parker will speak with potential rival market traders, the TIC regarding potential liaison around tree

sales, and liaise with Cllr L. Agabani to put the Plan to the Open Spaces and Finance Committees.

**iii. Tourism**

This item was brought forward from the previous meeting.

- a) Cllr S. Briton suggested that a small number of committee members consider the implications of sustainable tourism and its impact and then bring the outcome of that meeting back to the main Committee. Cllrs S. Corsley, P. Crummy, L. Agabani and S. Briton volunteered.
- b) Cllr S. Briton requested approval from the Committee for her to approach the parishes of St Cuthberts Out and Wookey and also any other parishes to explore potential future collaboration.

**iv. Somerset County Council Grant Funding**

SCC Cllr T. Munt updated the committee. The portfolio holder has stood to one side, and although someone else has taken responsibility for this, details of the application process are still being drafted. SCC Cllr T. Munt has suggested there may be a possibility of doubling up with match funding. SCC Cllr T. Munt will provide updates at future WCC meetings; as soon as more information is available, she will let the Committee know.

**v. WCC Sustainability/Resilience Officer**

This item will be on the Staffing meeting next week. The Town Clerk has requested assistance from the Committee regarding the Job Description, Personal Specification and recruitment process. Cllrs S. Briton and O. Hartley volunteered to assist the Town Clerk.

**20/16CEC REPORTS FROM CEC WORKING GROUPS (WG)**

**i. Cycling:**

- a) Kelly Knight will write a letter to endorse the Cycling Group's work and look for funding to support them.
- b) Cycle parking – the Town Clerk is getting quotes from Somerset Forge Ltd in Easton, as well as on-line companies.
- c) A Cycling Group Information Stall will be present at the MDC Climate Action event on 19<sup>th</sup> March at the Town Hall.
- d) The Group are working on Refresher Training to encourage people to begin cycling again.
- e) The Group plan to recruit a Volunteer Co-ordinator.
- f) The Group plan to create a Cycling Route Map. Cllr L. Agabani suggested any future map be passed to the TIC, for tourists.

Cllr S. Cursley will liaise with A. Westwood to broadcast key points of Group Report.

**ii. Energy:**

Cllr S. Cursley reported that the focus of the Group going forward is to be on energy within the home, not just insulation. Cllr P. Welch queried the 'Green Doors' initiative – this is an opportunity for people who have had 'green' work done in their homes to make it available for others to see how simple things can make a difference. Cllr S. Briton reported that Solar Streets seem to be happy, and she will have an update on this at the April meeting.

**iii. Transport:**

Cllr J Linsdell reported the main focus for the Group is buses and walking, to avoid any potential conflict with the Cycling Group, and they have put together a statement so that people understand the group's remit. People are reporting that the high street pavements are getting into a bad state with a lot of wobbly paving stones. Cllr J. Linsdell asked people to contact

her if they had any ideas for the upcoming International Car Free Day which is on 21<sup>st</sup> September this year.

**iv. Wells CAN Do:**

Cllr S. Briton gave a brief overview of this event as there have not yet been sufficient responses from on-line feedback for a full report. There was full attendance at the event and it was well received. Cllr S. Briton repeated the presentation to Wells Chamber of Commerce on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Next objective is to make it available on WCC website and other business websites. Sam Thomas has offered to tailor the presentation for businesses. The monies which have been raised by the event have been ring-fenced for the next financial year.

**20/17CEC REPORTS FROM WCC COMMITTEES**

There were no urgent matters arising from any other WCC Committees and any non-urgent matters/reports were postponed to the April meeting to enable all AOB items to be heard and discussed.

**20/18CEC DELEGATED RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Committee agreed 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.

**20/19CEC ANY OTHER MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT**

- a) Cllr S. Briton reported that Avalon Community Energy are going to hold their next AGM at Wells Town Hall in June 2020 with a public meeting afterwards, and would like to invite Committee members along to talk about managing energy in small rural communities. It was agreed that Cllrs S. Briton and P. Crummy will take this forwards.
- b) Wells Climate Strike is taking place on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March and the organisers have asked if a member of the Committee would like to talk about the Committee's work. Cllr O Hartley volunteered to speak, if his diary permits. They have also asked Cllr L Agabani to speak at the event on behalf of the Open Spaces Committee, and requested someone to speak regarding WCC's position on trees and tree planting. Cllr J. Parker and Cllr L. Agabani will meet to decide who will volunteer for this. Cllr S. Briton will email organisers to clarify whether they still would like speakers from the Committee.
- c) Cllr P. Welch requested the Committee consider restructuring the Agenda so that meetings take place every two months and with a one and a half hour timetable so that more time is available for lengthier decisions. Cllr S. Briton also suggested some re-structuring around the Agenda to assist with this and confirmed the Town Clerk is working to enable this to happen.
- d) Cllr S. Briton pointed out that the next meeting will be her last meeting as Chairman.
- e) Cllr S. Briton suggested that the Implementation Plan is a priority at the next meeting.

**20/20CEC DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 6pm, Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020**

## COMMITMENTS ARISING OUT OF MEETING 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020:

Agenda Item	Account-ability	Action
20/15CEC (i)	L. A P. C	To raise ecological crisis issues within the WIB and Open Spaces Committees.
20/15CEC (ii)	J. P	To speak with potential rival market traders, the TIC regarding potential liaison around tree sales, and liaise with Cllr L. Agabani to put the Plan to the Open Spaces and Finance Committees.
20/15CEC (iii) (a)	S. B L. A P. C	To meet to consider the implications of sustainable tourism and its impact and then bring the outcome of that meeting back to the main Committee.
20/15CEC (iii) (b)	S. B	To approach parishes of St Cuthberts Out and Wookey and any other parishes to explore potential future collaboration.
20/15CEC (v)	S. B O. H	To assist the Town Clerk in the recruitment process.
20/16CEC (i)	S. C	To liaise with A. Westwood to broadcast key points of Group Report through social media.
20/16CEC (ii)	S. B	To update Committee on this at the April meeting.
20/16CEC (iii)	All	Idea please to Cllr J. Lindsell for the upcoming International Car Free Day on 21st September.
20/19CEC (a)	S. B P. C	To liaise with Avalon Community Energy regarding their request for WCC representation at their AGM (likely to be in June).
20/19CEC (b)	S.B L. A O.H	To follow up request for speaker(s) at Friday 13th March Climate Strike Volunteer WCC speaker(s) at Friday 13th March Climate Strike
Agenda		Possible restructure to enable more discussion. Prioritise Implementation Plan at next meeting.