

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY ON THURSDAY 30TH JULY 2020 AT 6.00PM VIA ZOOM

PRESENT ON ZOOM: Cllrs: L Agabani, S Briton (Chairman), P Crummay, S Cursley, A l'Anson, J Osman (Mayor and Vice-Chairman), P Welch (Deputy Mayor)

IN ATTENDANCE ON ZOOM: WCC staff: S Bristow, A Westwood
Cllrs: J. Linsdell, J Rust
SCC Cllr T Munt
MDC Cllr T Ronan
M Gilson, WCC Climate Emergency Cycling Group

20/21CEC APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Cllrs: C Rees, O Hartley

20/22CEC DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS
Sarah Briton declared an interest in the Energy Working Group report. It is a personal interest as she has had the solar panels installed. Sarah Briton asked members if it was acceptable to them for her to present the report and answer questions. Members voted in favour of this.

20/23CEC MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5TH MARCH 2020
Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, approved and will be signed in due course.

20/24CEC MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
No-one wished to speak.

20/25CEC PRIORITY ITEMS:

- i. MD Cllr Ronan gave his report verbally, and agreed to provide a written report to be added to the minutes (attached).
- ii. SC Cllr Munt gave her report verbally, and agreed to provide a written report to be added to the minutes (attached).

20/26CEC REPORTS FROM CEC WORKING GROUPS

- i. Cycling
Notes from the previous two meetings were presented. Cllr Cursley offered to circulate the Gear Change report. Cycle racks have been repaired and increased with plans for more cycle racks. Plans for the Somerset Way through Wells are being looked at. Cllr l'Anson added that under the Wells Neighbourhood plan, two architect-led design packages are currently being drawn up and these look at accessibility for cyclists and pedestrians in Wells. Cllr Cursley proposed that the CEC make a recommendation to WCC that the Council write to the Dept of Transport and ask for our local bridges not to be infilled so that they can be made available as multi user paths. Seconded by Cllr l'Anson. The proposal was carried. Matt Gilson recommended the motion makes the point that although the request refers to Wells' local bridges, this is part of the national picture to care for railway bridges.
- ii. Energy
Notes from the last meeting were presented. Sarah Briton added that under the Solar Streets Wells project there have so far been 20 installations of a total of 100 kW with an accumulated Community Benefit Fund of £1000. With regard to this fund Sarah Briton proposed that consideration be given to work

with other community organisations such as Avalon Community Energy with recommendations to be brought to either Full Council or the next CEC. Cllr Agabani seconded and the proposal was carried.

- iii. Climate Action Networkers - There was no report as the first meeting of the group post lockdown will not be until September.

20/27CEC REPORTS FROM WCC COMMITTEES

Update from Neighbourhood Plan - will shortly be looking at the housing section and will be taking into account schemes such as Building for Life and other similar benchmarks to ensure that houses which are built are sustainable. There were no other reports.

20/28CEC RESILIENCE/SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER

Cllr Agabani reported that the budget for this post was still in place although as a result of lockdown the eventual start date for the post has been delayed and it may not realistically be possible to have someone in post until January 2021. Sarah Briton confirmed that she and Cllr Hartley are working with the Town Clerk to have a draft Job Description, Personal Specification and possibly draft interview process ready for the September meeting of the Staffing Committee.

20/29CEC IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

A review of the implementation plan had been circulated. Sarah Briton talked through this and reported that the CEC had spent little of its budget. The launch of the Climate Action Network raised more money than it cost and these funds are ring fenced. Issues related to Biodiversity will come under the Open Spaces Committee. Sarah Briton suggested that:

- i. Food might be the next CEC Working Group while making sure that strong links were made to other local groups already working in this area.
- ii. A review of the way in which issues of climate mitigation and adaptation are embedded in WCC work was the priority item on the agenda of the next CEC meeting.
- iii. Consideration of a Wells Green Charter be transferred to the 2020/21 Implementation Plan.

20/30CEC 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. This was agreed.

20/31CEC ANY OTHER MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

- i. Cllr Welch stressed the importance of the Wells Neighbourhood Plan and congratulated Cllr l'Anson on the work the Neighbourhood Plan are undertaking. Cllr l'Anson stated AECOM input will lead to a housing need assessment for Wells. SC Cllr Munt asked if AECOM could consider how a major change in planning policy might affect many of the smaller properties in Wells and the potential threat to the housing stock in Wells.
- ii. Sarah Briton referred to letter directed to the resident concerned. No comments.
- iii. Sarah Briton reminded CEC members that this was the last meeting she would be chairing and thanked the members for their support and engagement.

20/32CEC DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm, Thursday 29th October 2020

ACTION ARISING OUT OF MEETING:

Agenda Item	Account-ability	Action
20/25CEC	SC Cllr Munt	To send report
20/25CEC	MD Cllr Ronan	To send report
20/26CEC	Cllr Cursley	To send Gear Change report to WCC Office Manager for distribution alongside meeting minutes
20/26CEC	Cllr Cursley	To send link to article on bridges to WCC Office Manager for distribution alongside meeting minutes
20/26CEC	Sarah Briton and Cllr Cursley	Raise motion at Full Council
20/26CEC	Sarah Briton	Report to next CEC or Full Council on Community Benefit Fund proposals
20/29CEC	WCC Admin	Include 'adaptation and mitigation' as Priority item for the next CEC Agenda
20/29CEC	WCC Admin	Ensure Implementation Plan 20/21 is on the next CEC agenda