

## WELLS CITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY ON THURSDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2020 AT 6.00PM VIA ZOOM

**PRESENT ON ZOOM:** Cllrs: S Briton, P Crummay, S Cursley, A l'Anson , J Parker (Chair),  
C Rees (only able to listen), P Welch (Mayor)

**IN ATTENDANCE ON ZOOM:** WCC staff: J Franks, A Westwood  
Cllrs: J Rust  
SCC Cllr T Munt  
MDC Cllr T Ronan  
M Gilson, WCC Climate Emergency Cycling Group  
E Lefevre, Project Factory/WCN

**20/33CEC APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr R Humphreys

**20/34CEC DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interests.

**20/35CEC ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Cllr J Parker introduced himself as the newly elected Chair and proposed S Briton as Vice Chair. Cllrs S Cursley and P Welch seconded. S Briton was approved as Vice Chair.

**20/36CEC MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2020**

Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, approved and will be signed in due course.

**20/37CEC MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

a. Disposables in Hospitality Outlets

Member of public who proposed this item was unable to attend. S Briton raised the item on her behalf – there is a general concern re waste levels which are rising due to increased use of disposables during the pandemic. This issue can be addressed in the next Implementation Plan.

**20/38CEC PRIORITY ITEMS:**

a. WCC Tree Project  
Begins on 31.10.20.

b. SCC CE applications

S Briton reported that there was full Council agreement to work on two applications, Somerset Climate Action/Somerset Wildlife Trust (33 Parish Councils have expressed an interest) and Wells City Council Housing Retrofit sole application. Draft applications will be circulated to Full Council by Sat Nov 7<sup>th</sup>.

c. Resilience/Sustainability Officer update

The recruitment of this post has been delayed. Wells Town Clerk, S Luck, has reported that the proposed start of this post is March/April 2020, with likely advertisement in January.2020. Next Staff Meeting (03.12.20) will decide the final timetable. HR Advisors have confirmed structure and terminology.

- d. CEC Implementation Plan Oct 2020/May 2022 (including budget 2021/2022)  
Draft plan to be circulated in next 2 weeks. Cllr Parker asked for support and input once draft has been produced.
- e. WCC Committee representatives  
Committee members to consider which other WCC Committees they wish to represent. This will be agreed by email before the next meeting.

**20/39CEC    REPORTS FROM CEC WORKING GROUPS**

- a. CEC Working groups

Cycling – Matt Gilson reported on the work ongoing to secure good cycling links in and around Wells focussing on the next phase of development proposed for the ‘Travis Perkins/Lidl’ site.

Energy – Sarah Briton reported that the Energy Working Group is focussed on Solar Streets Wells and the possibility to SCC funding for a Wells Retrofit project.

Climate Action Network – Cllr Briton reported that work is in hand with Wells Community Network and Sustainable Wells including the development of a ‘Consume Less Waste Nothing’ project.

- b. MDC – Cllr Ronan’s report was commented on by Cllr Parker regarding whether WCC would be interested in supporting engine-idling initiative.
- c. SCC – Cllr Munt referred to actions contained in comprehensive document that can be found in link below

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/climate-emergency/somersets-climate-emergency-strategy-documents/>

Cllr Munt also read out statement from Project Factory which can be found at the end of these minutes.

**20/40CEC    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.

**20/41CEC    ANY OTHER MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT**

- a. Cllr Parker proposed the CEC Committee become Climate & Biodiversity Committee. Cllr Parker to produce proposal.
- b. Cllr Parker proposed drawing up a contact list of all community groups and entice them with offer of free or low-cost trees to facilitate wider discussion around issues and gain support.
- c. S Briton suggested looking at ways we can work more closely with other organisations, particularly St Cuthbert Out to offer consistency of message.

**20/42CEC    DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TBA**

**ACTION ARISING OUT OF MEETING:**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Account-ability</b>	<b>Action</b>
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

**Statement to the meeting of the Wells City Council Climate Emergency Committee 29th October 2020** Project Factory CIC understands that the current application by Wells City Council for the Portway Annexe to become an asset of community value needs to be strengthened in order for it to be approved. The application needs to show that the Portway Annexe is currently used by the community and how it could be used for the next five years. We believe that the building could be used by Wells City Council, not only for the open spaces team, but it would also make a perfect place for the proposed Resilience Officer to be based. The building and grounds lend themselves to sustainability education, a community garden, cycle racks and charging points for the use of the whole community. We understand that the boiler is very near the end of its life and this would open up an opportunity for a green energy sourced boiler - to be used as an example in the community of what can be achieved. Finally and most importantly, the building is the only place in Wells which provided further and adult education. Without it, people would be forced to travel further afield for adult education courses, putting more cars on the road and restricting people who are already disadvantaged, from accessing those courses and workshops which could improve their skills and health and wellbeing.