

ITEM 9

Notes of the Climate Emergency Working Party Meeting held on Tuesday 8th September 2020 at 6.00pm via Zoom.

Present: Cllr Ian Crawford, Cllr Ian Capon, Mr Steve Jarvis (Chairman)
Cllr Lou Goodger, Mr Peter Smith, Mrs Joan Gristwood.
Mrs Liz Steer (Administration Officer) and Miss Nieve Wuttke-Keary
(Apprentice Administration Assistant)

1. Apologies: Mr Robert Manning, Mr Steve Jarvis would be arriving late to the meeting
2. Cllr Crawford chaired the meeting and started by explaining that there were reduced members now due to the new GDPR forms being signed and returned so the group was compliant with GDPR and those who had signed the forms were now able to email members. The Google emails were now disbanded. Louise Goodger was welcomed to the meeting and congratulate on being co-opted as a Cllr. The group sent their best wishes to Mrs Kate Graddock.

Cllr Ian Capon spoke about how well the Neighbourhood Plan comments had been received and there had been a good response from Cllrs, it has been taken back to the consultants for re-wording. There was a general discussion about the Neighbourhood Plan. Mrs Gristwood asked if there was still time to put forward suggestions, the over consensus was that provisions to be put in place for the elderly (future proof old age) and Mrs Gristwood will email her suggestions into Mrs Graddock before the 8th October as the NP goes before Council for discussion.

3. Cllr Ian Crawford began to discuss re-wilding verges

Mr Steve Jarvis entered the meeting at 6.22pm and took over the chair.

There was a general discussion about the verges, Cllr Crawford and Cllr Capon both agreed that more clarity was need over the maps and what were visibility splays. Cllr Crawford wanted to know who would volunteer and would like Mrs Graddock to declare who has volunteered and has anyone from Roundswell Residents Association volunteered. Cllr Capon was concerned that if areas are assigned to Cllrs they will not get done. Mr Steve Jarvis suggested that they walk round the Parish and decide what areas would be suitable for re-wilding, it was agreed that Louise would email Steve when she was available to meet. Steve also said this needed to be moved on, once areas were identified stakes, tape and seed would be needed to be purchased, also once areas were identified then reiterate posting through doors encouraging people to be involved, Cllr Ian Capon commented that approval would have to be sort from DCC and FPC.

Mrs Gristwood is a member of PCC St Peter's church has explained that they had looked at planting more shrubs along the wall adjacent to the Military Road, there were plenty of trees in this area but were aware not to plant anything that would obscure viability .

4. Mr Peter Smith explained he had not had time to read in depth the impact of Government Climate Change Committee Report on 2-4° temp rise by 2050. A discussion followed and everyone agreed that there would be significant impact by 2050. There could be a 2-metre sea level rise, and this would impact the Parish this was major concern. Mr Steve Jarvis made it clear that radical changes were need requiring Government money. Cllr Crawford said that there was very little at Parish level. Cllr Ian Capon made the group aware that DCC had a flood risk management strategy consultation and encourage all to view the website as it covered flooding all over the county.

Mr Peter Smith suggested looking for community funding to provide electrical hook up points in the local area. It was suggested that Mrs Kate Graddock investigate funding and ask Park and Playing Fields Committee to see what funding was available from DCC.

5. Mr Peter Smith explained that it was important that people were aware of grants that were available from 5 to 10 K, this included insulation, new efficient boilers and various other energy saving measures. Cllr Ian Crawford said that all household could and should be encouraged to apply for grants.

Cllr Louise Goodger left the meeting 7.00pm

It was also mentioned that Fremington Parish Council could apply for loans for Greening the Locality. SALIX is the website that Cllr Ian Crawford suggested to view for local councils, another website was 361 Energy helping people in North Devon to take climate change action. Cllr Ian Capon suggested that FPC advertise this website on their Facebook page and maybe consider an open day to help advertise this for people. Also, it was discussed about the possibility of turning the Gas Network into Hydrogen.

6. Other matters were discussed regarding the lack of pavements from Instow toward Bideford and the fact that people are being encourage to give up cars, and some elderly people who use mobility scooters cannot always get any distance because of the lack of pavements and it was felt that more funding was necessary. Cllr Ian Capon said it was DCC highways that got funding from new developments for pavements, Cllr Ian Crawford said that the CEWP should champion the improvement of pavements.

Mr Steve Jarvis reported that Covid19 money was still available, but the time frame was short. Other issues were raised regarding Passivhaus buildings which are built with

comfort while using very little energy for heating and cooling, the construction according to principles developed by the Passivhaus Institute in Germany. It was discussed that as a working group they should write to the Parish and ask them to write a letter to NDC to consider similar specifications when considering planning applications. It was decided that a letter should be written to influence NDC to push for the highest standards possible when building. It was also questioned as why the new leisure centre was being built & designed with no solar panels.

Cllr Ian Capon mentioned the current reforms to the current planning system, he suggested that individuals and Cllr's write to their MP's saying these reforms should be stopped.

A date for the next meeting was suggested as 13th October 2020.

Meeting Closed 19.29pm.