

The Climate Emergency Working Party Notes of the Meeting of Tuesday, 9th February 2021 at 6.00pm via Zoom.

Present: Mr S Jarvis, Chairman, Cllr I Crawford, Cllr Lou Goodger and Mr P Smith.
Also, in attendance: Mrs V Woodhouse, Executive Officer

Apologies

Mr I Capon and Mr C Hassall.

Climate Action Plan

Mr Jarvis had circulated a draft action plan to members prior to the meeting which he explained was a working document. Mr Jarvis explained the layout of the document and the Working Party went through each item on the Action Plan. Some minor changes to wording were suggested along with some additional points for inclusion and the Chairman agreed that these would be amended accordingly.

It was felt that there would be a better way of wording 3.1 "Create a Climate Emergency standing item on all committee agendas" to ensure that this is achieved without placing a standing item on each agenda, the EO explained that Agenda Items are usually for decisions to be made and this could be worded to incorporate the principle behind the item into all Council decisions. The Working Party was in agreement and it was agreed for the EO to propose wording for this item.

When discussing the Action Plan the Working Party felt that several items related to a Climate and Ecological Emergency and it was agreed to refer to the original declaration and Terms of Reference to see whether or not an Ecological Emergency has been declared and if it hasn't consideration should be given to suggesting to the Parish Council that an Ecological Emergency is declared.

The EO raised concerns about the wording of item 3.4 and the implications the proposed wording could have on local contractors and the potential of increasing the carbon footprint if only national companies are able to tender for certain works. The Working Party agreed that the wording should be altered to encourage the Parish Council to work with its contractors to reduce their carbon footprint and encourage environmentally friendly working practices.

Item 4.4 "Form a Fremington Parish Renewable energy company" The EO informed the Working Party that the Parish Council had undertaken a Community Renewables Energy Feasibility Study which, whilst it might be out of date, it could be reviewed and used as a basis for some of the items, the EO confirmed the document would be circulated to members following the meeting.

5.6 it was noted that the Parish Council does not hold Cllr Surgeries and agreed for the EO to alter the wording accordingly just to give a broader notion that information packs will be created and available.

6.1 the EO raised concerns about residents "adopting a verge" and explained that the Parks and Playing Fields Committee had been quite clear at its last Committee Meeting that it would support the aim of re-wilding but had emphasised that any re-

wilding must be undertaken using the correct procedure and in either March or October, the Committee had further suggested that quotations from local contractors are sought and locations must be referred to the Parks and Playing Fields Committee for consideration and ratification prior to the commencement of any works. Cllr Crawford agreed and both the EO and Cllr Crawford did not feel that this item would be supported by the Parks and Playing Fields Committee, however, Mr Jarvis expressed support for this item to remain.

It was felt that several items identified within the draft Action Plan should be cross-referenced to the Neighbourhood Plan. The Working Party briefly touched on funding opportunities and it was agreed for the EO to investigate the affiliation to ENTRUST and whether that would be a possibility for the CEWP.

Recommendation: That the Action Plan is amended following the discussions and submitted to the next CEWP meeting for review and finalising before submitting to the Parks and Playing Fields Committee for consideration of adoption by the Parish Council.

Given the time it was agreed to place item 3 Biodiversity Action Plan and 4 Publicity on the next Agenda for consideration.

Interim Devon Carbon Plan

Mr Jarvis reported that he felt the draft plan was comprehensive and a largely aspirational document, a democratic process had been followed and everything is cross referenced.

Recommendation: That comments are submitted in support of the document and congratulations on the scale of the vision.

Any other matters

The EO informed the Working Party that the Fremington Environment Group had disbanded and donated its remaining funds of £299 to the Climate Emergency Working Party. Members were grateful.

The EO updated the Working Party on the recommendations that had been made at the last Working Party meeting on the 1st December 2020 and the decisions on the recommendations from the Parks and Playing Fields Committee as follows:

1. To support the aim of re-wilding but to emphasise to the working party that any re-wilding must be undertaken using the correct procedure and in either March or October, it was suggested that quotations from a local contractor are sought. The locations must be referred to the Parks and Playing Fields Committee for consideration and ratification prior to the commencement of any works.
2. The Committee looks forward to receiving the Action Plan for consideration and ratification in due course.
3. It was noted that the Parish Council had already agreed to support the campaign to ban plastic Body Boards.

4. The Committee does not support writing to NDC's Waste and Recycling Department to ask them to consider covers for plastic recycling boxes, it was noted that this was not possible for cost and efficiency reasons and it is better to put your black bin on top to hold everything in place. It was agreed to deal with this issue locally and try to advertise using the black bin to hold the plastic contents in place.

The Working Party noted the update, and it was agreed to place the following items on the next Agenda for the Working Party:

- Re-wilding
- Beavers

It was further agreed to hold the next meeting at 6pm on Tuesday 2nd March 2021.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm