

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY SUB- COMMITTEE OF
WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE
ON THURSDAY 11 JULY 2024, AT 7.30 PM**

Committee members present: Councillors V Wright (Chair), P Kirby-Harris, K Morris and C Walters.

Other councillors present: None

Others present: J Harvey – Sustainable Wantage
G Wilkin – Wantage & Grove Active Travel Group

Deputy Clerk: S Sanders

1. To receive apologies for absence

None.

2. To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, other registrable interests and non-registrable interests.

None.

3. To receive any statements and questions from the public

None.

4. To receive and agree the terms of reference for the climate emergency committee including frequency of committee meetings and substitute members.

Responsibilities were agreed as follows:

Progressing the council's climate emergency policy.

Working with local community groups to support climate action and to give grants where appropriate.

Promotion of climate issues.

Communication with different levels of government to promote sustainability within the parish of Wantage.

To work with other committees to ensure that sustainable goals are embedded in all policies.

To have an oversight of environmental quality measures in the town.

The policy was to be agreed at the next meeting.

Action: Chair

Substitute members had not yet been agreed.

Action: Chair

5. To receive the income and expenditure report for the committee.

Members noted the income and expenditure report dated 10/7/24

6. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held 19 February 2024.

a. To receive an update on the letters to David Johnston MP regarding the sewage in river water and sustainable projects.

It was noted that David Johnston was no longer the MP for Wantage and it was agreed that this item should be removed from the agenda. It was also agreed that the committee would write to Olly Glover, the new MP for Wantage and Didcot introducing the committee and highlighting the issues that were important.

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Councillor Kirby-Harris to draft an email to be agreed by members of the committee.

Action: Kirby-Harris

b. To receive an update about funding from the shared UK Rural Prosperity Fund for health and active travel.

It was agreed that this item could not be progressed as the fund was no longer available.

7. To receive a verbal update from the Wantage & Grove Active Travel Group

Guy Wilkin gave a verbal update on the group's projects and activities. He reported that Oxfordshire County Council had appointed a consultant for the LCWIP and there would be a steering group. The signposting proposal had been sent to OCC. It was noted that this will be tied in within the LCWIP. The group had attended the Grove Extravaganza.

8. To receive a verbal update from Sustainable Wantage

Jo Harvey gave a verbal update on the group's projects and activities. Wantage Town Council had supplied and delivered a IBC (for watering the newly planted trees) to Manor Road Memorial Park.

9. To receive feedback from the Earth Day event held 20 April 2024

It was agreed not to hold an event in 2025, but instead to invite community groups/businesses to participate in activities during Great Big Green Week (8-16 June). It was agreed that a budget be available for participants.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Wright
SECONDED BY Councillor Walters

IT WAS RESOLVED TO invite organisations to organise and run their own events to celebrate Great Big Green Week. A budget of £3000 was agreed. An application form/template was to be drafted.

Action: Chair

10. To review the progress of the action plan.

It was agreed to remove the action plan from the agenda until the policy had been agreed.

11. To receive any items to be included in the agenda for the next meeting 9 September 2024.

Develop a policy for the committee.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm
