

STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL

NOTES OF THE CLIMATE ACTION WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 07 APRIL 2021 AT 6PM AT 'VIRTUAL' LOCATIONS USING VIDEO AND AUDIO LINK

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs Amanda Wheeler (Chairman), Councillor Shaun Ford (Vice Chairman), Councillor Gloria Johnson (Deputy Mayor), Councillor Dave Dorson, Patricia Stuart-Mogg (Town Clerk)

ALSO PRESENT Val Harvey (Vice Chairman), Paddy Jelen (Urban Group), Kayleigh Nicolaou (Extinction Rebellion), John Polkinhorne (Sustainable Stamford), Simon Batty (Resident), Jane Bateman (Sustainable Stamford), Jim Irvine (Zero Emission Vehicles), Nick Sandford (Woodland Trust).

1. WELCOME

The Chairman Councillor Amanda Wheeler welcomed all to the meeting, especially Nick Sandford from the Woodland Trust. All present introduced themselves and their association with the Climate Action Working Group.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor David Taylor, Deanne Donovan (Sustainable Stamford), and Aled Pattinson (Plastic Free Stamford) submitted their apologies.

3. TO CONFIRM THE NOTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 12 March 2021, which had been circulated, were reviewed. There were no matters raised and the content was confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

4. UPDATES:

- a. *Wildflower Project* – The Chairman thanked all those who were involved in commencing the wildflower project with the ground preparation of the three trial spots for wildflower verge planting. The groundwork will continue over the next few Sundays, meeting at North Street carpark at 9am. All are welcome to join the team. The wildflower seed has been ordered and would be sown in a fortnight.
- b. *Water-refill Station Project* – Councillor Wheeler informed the meeting that an application is being submitted to SKDC for a Community Grant towards this project. It was noted that this was a direct result of Councillor Kelham Cook, Leader of SKDC attending the last Climate Action Working Group meeting. It is anticipated the outcome of the application will be confirmed by mid-April. A further representation will be made to the Skells Trust when all the details are gathered.

5. NICK SANDFORD, WOODLAND TRUST

The Woodland Trust is UK's largest woodland and conservation charity, managing over 1000 woods, with a vision to have a UK rich in woodland and trees. The charity works closely with Parish and Town Councils to influence policy and decision makers to protect woods, create new ones, plant trees and to build long term partnerships. Councils are encouraged to adopt tree-friendly policies which supports a tree strategy which protect ancient woodland which is valuable wildlife habitat. Authorities should safeguard and integrate trees, especially where there are new housing development sites. Setting a target to increase and maintain the tree canopy of the local area, by planting and nurturing the natural regeneration of native species. Through the action of planting trees, the three main issues the world is facing - Climate Emergency, Biodiversity Emergency and Covid Emergency can be addressed. A practical way the Woodland Trust can assist is by helping to produce an Emergency Tree Plan. The Trust's

Tree Charter provides the ten key principles of the importance of trees. It was noted that SKDC has signed-up to the Charter and Stamford was invited to do the same. Policies could be included in a Neighbourhood Plan to support these initiatives. Free Community Tree Packs are available to Councils, offering variety of species. During discussion it was noted that Lincolnshire has a very low canopy and tree density. There was the consideration of the cost of maintenance once trees are established, which is an issue for Councils on tight budgets. It was noted that there are various schemes available to support planting and maintenance especially if larger landowners are involved to create hedgerows and woodland. It was recognised that trees and plants are the only effective measure which removes carbon from the atmosphere.

6. STAMFORD CEMETERY PRESENTATION BY COUNCILLOR D DORSON

Councillor Dorson outlined the history of the Stamford Cemetery site. The challenge is to continue providing residents with a burial facility. Present trends suggest an average of 175 burials every three years, with more cremations than burials. To ensure continued space, the east section of the burial ground is being extended. The development of the extension is phased being to install footpaths, roadways and parking zones. The Cemetery has extensive range of biodiversity in its flora and fauna. The Council work closely with a number of organisations to protect wildlife and native species. There was discussion on the various green burial methods. Councillor Johnson noted that plans are underway for a green burial site for Stamford. Councillor Wheeler is pursuing a memorial woodland on the south bank of the Welland with SKDC.

7. CLIMATE ASSEMBLY

Val Harvey informed the meeting how Kendal is galvanising their local community to tackle the Climate Emergency. Kendal Council commissioned a Citizens Jury to answer the question ‘What should Kendal do about Climate Change?’ Citizens Juries are deliberative processes designed to empower citizens to be involved in shaping the response to local or national issues. It was thought that this could be possibly introduced in Stamford. It was suggested that it should be deferred to the next meeting.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 05 May 2021 at 6pm

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

(The meeting closed at 7.20pm.)