

STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL

NOTES OF THE CLIMATE ACTION WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 05 MAY 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), Patricia Stuart-Mogg (Town Clerk)

ALSO PRESENT Val Harvey (Vice Chairman), Paddy Jelen (Urban Group), John Polkinhorne (Sustainable Stamford), Simon Batty (Resident), Jane Bateman (Sustainable Stamford), Jim Irvine (Zero Emission Vehicles), Deanne Donovan (Sustainable Stamford)

1. WELCOME

The Chairman Councillor Amanda Wheeler welcomed all to the meeting and understood that this was the last virtual meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Dave Dorson and Councillor David Taylor submitted their apologies.

3. TO CONFIRM THE NOTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 07 April 2021, had been circulated and 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 wildflower trial beds have been seeded and are being watered both manually and naturally with the recent level of rainfall. It was noted that Stamford Town Council did not support the Cut and Collect regime throughout the Town. There will be a feature in the local press inviting public opinion. As disappointing this is, all energy will be focus on developing these trial sites. During discussions, it was agreed that this would be considered at the next meeting on how to progress this scheme further.
- b. *Water-refill Station Project* – Councillor Wheeler informed the meeting that an application has been submitted to SKDC for a Community Grant towards this project and the outcome of the application is awaited. It is hoped that a response is received before the next Skills Trust meeting.
- c. *Tree Charter / Woodland Memorial Area* – The Chairman had examined the Tree Charter presented by the Woodland Trust and it required the Council to commit to planting trees. The suggestion of a woodland memorial garden along the south bank of the Welland River, had been pursued with the District Council. It was understood that the District Council would support this initiative subject to the Town Council adopting the land and underwrites the on-going maintenance. There was a suggestion that sponsors could possibly be identified to support this project. Councillor Wheeler informed the meeting that she had set up a not-for-profit Community Interest Company called Team Stamford, with its own bank account, of which she is a Director and Chairman. Councillor Wheeler stated that this site is being investigated further with the Welland River Trust. There was a suggestion that there could be other potential locations within the Town which may prove more appropriate. The Town Clerk advised that this necessitated a full report being submitted to the Town Council for consideration possibly at the May Town Council meeting.

5. **Councillor David Taylor – Connect Stamford** - Unfortunately, Councillor David Taylor was unable to attend the meeting and the presentation was postponed to the next meeting.

6. **CLIMATE ASSEMBLY**

Councillor Wheeler informed the Group that Rutland County Council is inviting members of the public to join an online webinar which is launching a Climate Conversation on Wednesday 12 May from 9am to 11am. There will be several experts attending the event and the request is for as many people to join the discussion and enlist on one of the action groups.

Val Harvey presented the commissioned report by Kendal Town Council on 'What should Kendal do about Climate Change?' Twenty residents from across Kendal town took part in the Kendal Climate Change Citizens' Jury. The profile of the jury membership reflected the diversity of Kendal town. The Jury received presentations from seventeen expert analysts. To ensure the process was robust, fair, and unbiased an Oversight Panel was formed. This panel met parallel to the jury and was made up of some nineteen key local stakeholders which included members from the public, private and community sector. The Citizens' Jury is an example of a Citizens' Assembly, but on a smaller scale. This examination was commissioned and funded by Kendal Town Council, with additional aid from Cumbria County Council, South Lakeland District Council and a crowd funding scheme. The outcome of the inquiry resulted in the statement acknowledging that there is a climate crisis, and that people must change their priorities urgently keeping climate change a principle that governs all their decisions, with money no longer the most important influencing factor. This is a problem for which we all have a collective responsibility. Kendal is leading this campaign and is inviting other Councils to engage and join the movement.

Councillor Wheeler expressed concern over the cost associated with Kendal's project. Jim Irvine stated that part of his role is to engage with Local Authorities in such exercises and indicated that he may be able to arrange for one of his colleagues to present on this subject at a forthcoming meeting.

Deanne Donovan expressed concern that the Neighbourhood Plan had not addressed Climate Change issues and its risks. There appears to be a lack of understanding of Climate Change adaptation and Climate Change mitigation. Perhaps the first step should be education on the simple basic measures that could be adopted by the Town Council. There was concern whether there was sufficient commitment in Stamford to drive this forward.

Several members agreed to attend the Rutland Climate Conversation and feedback at the next meeting. Councillor Wheeler observed that this Town Council Climate Action Working Group has no autonomy nor budget. The Town Clerk advised that this Group was set-up on the direction of the Town Council. A case will need to be made to the Town Council at their June meeting for consideration that this Working Group is assigned as a standard Committee with a budget. The consensus was that a report should be drafted by the Chairman and presented to the Town Council to support this scheme.

7. **Cycling and Footpath Presentation by John Polkinghorne** - A presentation was presented by John Polkinhorne on the work carried out by Sustainable Stamford. The aim of the study was to provide better cycleways and footpaths between Stamford and neighbouring villages. The Town already has adequate infrastructure to support cycles and pedestrians. Six surrounding villages have been surveyed to ascertain current cycle and footpath facilities. Although there were some facilities in place, the paths needed some attention. The Chairman appreciated the work carried out by Sustainable Stamford and looked forward to how it would link in with the Connect Stamford scheme.

8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, 02 June 2021 at 6pm *tb*

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.20pm.