

STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL

NOTES OF THE CLIMATE ACTION WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 16 JUNE 2021 AT 6PM AT 'VIRTUAL' LOCATIONS USING VIDEO AND AUDIO LINK

PRESENT

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

ALSO PRESENT Val Harvey, Simon Batty (Resident), Jim Irvine (Zero Emission Vehicles), Deanne Donovan (Sustainable Stamford), Kayleigh Nicolaou (Extinction Rebellion)

1. WELCOME

Councillor Amanda Wheeler welcomed all to the meeting.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR OF WORKING GROUP

It was proposed by Councillor Shaun Ford, seconded by Councillor Dave Dorson and unanimously **RESOLVED** that Councillor Mrs Amanda Wheeler continues as Chair of the Working Group.

It was proposed by Councillor Dave Dorson, seconded by Councillor Joanne Winterbourne and unanimously **RESOLVED** that Councillor Shaun Ford continues as Vice Chairman of the Working Group. It was also agreed that Val Harvey would support Councillor Shaun Ford as Vice Chair.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Paddy Jelen (Urban Group), John Polkinhorne (Sustainable Stamford) and Jane Bateman (Sustainable Stamford) had submitted their apologies.

4. TO CONFIRM THE NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 05 May 2021, had been circulated and reviewed. There were no matters raised and the content was confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

5. UPDATES:

- a. *Wildflower Project* – The Chairman thanked all those who were involved in the wildflower project and hope everyone had the opportunity to visit the site as the wildflower seeds sown were germinating and developing with strong growth. The wildflower site in Christchurch Close is also developing well and has been admired by passers-by.
The Chairman Councillor Amanda Wheeler informed the group that the wildflower site on the corner of North Street and Recreation Ground Road is yet to be prepared. This is being coordinated in tandem with the Diversity Festival scheduled in August, the location will be a Bio-Diversity location. During the Festival children will be planting wildflowers, with the names of the children involved being recorded as engaging in the project. There will be signs displayed informing the public as to project development and progress.
- b. *Water-refill Station Project* – Councillor Wheeler informed the meeting that unfortunately the application submitted to SKDC for a Community Grant had not been successful. Unfortunately, the reason was that the need had not been demonstrated. However, the reason for the water-refill station is to promote re-filling water bottles and reduce the plastic bottle waste. This resulted in the deficit of £4.5K for the project still to be found. Following discussion Councillor Dorson suggested that the town could be consulted on the project. He offered to prepare a form which could be circulated to demonstrate whether there is public support. There was a view that this scheme could also be upgraded to include the provision of sparkling water. The provision of a water-refill station is a response to climate change and reducing single use plastic. Consideration as to whether other funding sources could be identified. The suggestion of crowd funding is being explored by Kayleigh Nicolaou. Val

Harvey also reminded that many of the retail units in the Town Centre had signed up to refill.org and would refill bottles of visitors to Stamford. **Action Point:** DD/JW

6. **FEEDBACK FROM RUTLAND CONVERSATION PROJECT** – The Chairman Councillor Amanda Wheeler thanked those that were able to attend the Rutland Conversation Project. A report has been circulated to members in respect of the Rutland Conversation Project. Val Harvey observed that the objective is for each village or town to have Climate Action groups and that Rutland County Council as attempting to establish a Youth Council through which this project could be reinforced. Councillor Ford stated that the concept of ‘make do and mend’ is an ethos being promoted. Consideration should be given to the production of banners as a visual presence in town, to get the message across to the public and residents that any small activity and changes could assist in the reduction of their carbon footprint. Draft suggestions of banners were shared with the group.
- There was discussion in respect of how this Working Group can instigate community involvement and participation in environmental affairs. It was recognised that the Climate is important an issue and the message should be how do we adapt our routines and life to prepare ourselves for Climate Change. It was the consensus that the SKDC Sustainability and Climate Change Officer should be invited to provide some feedback on the local impacts of Climate Change on Stamford.
7. **ITEMS OF CONCERN -**
- *Dangerous Traffic & HGV Movement* - There was serious concern raised over the number of vehicles accessing the High Street during the restricted period when the High Street is pedestrianised. In addition, there was concern expressed when a huge HGV vehicle was wedged in St. George’s Street and narrowly avoided destroying a historic building. This is a good reason to encourage Low Traffic Neighbourhoods.
 - *Car Free Day* - It has been noticed that there has been an increase in cycle users and it is hoped that more cycle stations will be installed around the town.
8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, 14 July 2021 at 6pm - Following discussion it was the consensus that meetings continue virtually.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.20pm.