

## STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL

### **NOTES OF THE CLIMATE ACTION WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 15 JUNE 2022 AT 6PM AT 'VIRTUAL' LOCATIONS USING VIDEO AND AUDIO LINK**

#### **PRESENT**

Councillor Amanda Wheeler (Chair), Councillor Lisa Brewin, Councillor Joanna Winterbourne, Patricia Stuart-Mogg (Town Clerk)

**ALSO PRESENT** John Polkinghorne (Sustainable Stamford), Jane Bateman (Sustainable Stamford), Deanna Donovan (Sustainable Stamford), Nima Julius (Natural England), Simon Batty (Resident), Sue Holloway (Mallard Pass Action Grp)

#### **71. WELCOME**

Councillor Amanda Wheeler welcomed all to the meeting and observed that this Working Group has been established for some 2years and a Chair and Vice Chair need to be selected.

#### **72. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor David Taylor (Town Mayor), Michael Temple (Sustainable Stamford), Rachel Butler (Rivers Trust), Jenny Hall (Resident), Jim Irvine (Resident), Jane Rutherford (Resident), Kayleigh Nicolaou (Extinction Rebellion), Lauren Bennett (Langdyke Trust), had submitted their apologies. These were noted and accepted.

#### **73. ELECT CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Following discussion, it was noted that following the new Council year and a Chair and Vice Chair would need to be appointed to this group. It was agreed by the Group that Councillor Wheeler had been an active Chair progressing many initiatives and was well supported by the Group so should continue in the role.

**Proposal 1** – It was proposed by John Polkinghorne, seconded by Councillor Lisa Brewin that Councillor Amanda Wheeler continues as Chair. This was supported by the members present.

Debate ensued and it was considered prudent to continue to have two people to cover the role of Vice Chair - one from the Council and the other from outside.

**Proposal 2** – It was proposed by Councillor Amanda Wheeler, that the Vice Chair role should be shared between Jane Bateman and Councillor Lisa Brewin. This was supported by the members present.

#### **74. TO CONFIRM THE NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 13 April 2022 had been circulated and reviewed. There were no matters raised and the content was confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

Action Points from those minutes:

- a. *Town Council's Logo* - Councillor Amanda Wheeler informed the Group that at the last Town Council meeting the Council approved a new logo which would be included within the footer of the official Town Council letter paper. The logo stated the Town Council's active commitment to lower its carbon footprint. It was noted that this would be circulated to all members of the Group with the draft notes of this meeting.
- b. *Electric Charging Points* – The Group were informed that the number of electric charging points in the town is gradually increasing. New charging points have been installed in the car parks of Morrisons Supermarket and the William Cecil Hotel. The Tickencote petrol station has applied for nine charging points and is awaiting planning approval. The campaign with LCC to increase the number of on-street charging points continues.

**75. TREE PLAN**

It was noted that initially Kayleigh Nicolaou, with the assistance of NCS students, conducted a survey of the Town and identified locations where 400-500 trees could be planted around Stamford. It was recognised that following the 'Adopt a tree' campaign several volunteers had put their names forward to look after and nurture the trees when planted. There would be no cost to the adopter, they will only need to commit to watering the tree until it is established. If there are any problems, they should contact a central email address provided. Free trees had been offered by Lincolnshire County Council towards a planting project, but the Council wished for a full Tree Plan to be produced to ensure that the right trees are planted in the correct places. This had been produced with the assistance of Councillor Marion Pitt, and included the dimensions of the locations and the suggested tree species suitable for each site.

This document had been examined by Nima Julius, an Ecologist and adviser to Natural England, who advised that the first question, and current topic, is whether the planting should be to ensure the species most appropriate and most resilient to climate change or to improve the green infrastructure of the area? Currently, the considerations put forward in Stamford Town Council's tree plan support the aims of Natural England. Following discussion, it was also suggested that planting for shade should be considered and that possibly the Forestry Commission may also be able to suggest species which are most flood and climate resilient.

It was recognised that the ideal planting period is Autumn. The planting of the Jubilee tree – an English Oak - was planted on the Recreation Ground as part of the Queen's Green Canopy and should spearhead the planting for this Autumn 2022. A list of outlets from where free trees could be obtained would be established and, working with Nima Julius, the correct species in the most suitable locations can be identified to commence planting as soon as appropriate.

**76. UPDATE FROM SKDC CLIMATE ACTION GROUP**

Councillor Wheeler informed the Group that Serena Brown, SKDC's Sustainability and Climate Change Officer, had been unable to attend the meeting. However, the SKDC's Group is meeting every two months and is keen to progress initiatives. There is budget available to support research, which could also be directed towards positive, constructive initiatives. It was suggested that additional space for cycles, outdoor seating with trees providing shading and redesigning the Town centre to provide some of the adaptation measures could be an initiative undertaken by District Council. A risk analysis should be initiated across the district to identify the locations which are at greatest risk from flooding. Initially the focus has been to highlight Council and community behaviour, with the aim of leading by example. Following discussion, it was noted that there are some inspiring projects being put in place in Peterborough, the neighbouring authority, relating to solar and wind resources. Councillor Wheeler would contact the Climate Officer Nicola Day at Peterborough to invite her to one of the future meetings.

**77. CLIMATE PLAN AND CONSULTATION**

Councillor Wheeler confirmed that John Polkinghorne had written a piece about the Stamford Climate Plan which appeared in the Stamford Mercury on June 10<sup>th</sup> 2022. The item has a QR code included which individuals are encouraged to scan to engage in the Climate Plan consultation. A consultation document has also been produced and offered as an alternative, but the aim is to avoid paper and circulate the consultation using the QR Code as widely as possible to obtain feedback. This should include schools, colleges, the Council website, notice boards and all supermarkets.

Following discussion Councillor Winterbourne offered to circulate the poster with the QR Code as widely as possible on social media. John Polkinghorne had created a list of actions which should initially be sent to Councils and community groups. Councillor Wheeler updated that

letters have also been distributed to schools and it is hoped that the youth platform being established by Stamford Town Council can also drive a few initiatives. It was also encouraging that there is a Youth Poet Laureate who supports this project.

**78. STAMFORD MERCURY MONTHLY COLUMN**

The following schedule was reviewed for the Stamford Mercury monthly column on Climate issues:

- *June – climate emergency/climate plan*
- *July – accessing countryside*
- *August – recycling clothes*
- *September – electric vehicles.*

Councillor Brewin was happy to write an item on the work on the Millstream. John Polkinghorne was happy to produce an item on Heat Pumps.

**79. OTHER FORTHCOMING INITIATIVES / PROJECTS / IDEAS?**

The convening of a public meeting on Climate Change to discuss this important issue should be progressed. However, there was a concern how many people would attend such a meeting given very few individuals attended the last Town Meetings in March and November. Following discussion, it was considered that once a Risk Analysis has been produced, a specialist professional guest could attend and talk about the subject.

*Plastic Free July* – Initiatives for reducing single use plastics should be promoted during this month. It was recognised that the All Good retail outlet should be used more as out of three similar outlets only one remains due to lack of support. It was appreciated that the Government directive removing single use plastics is slowly being implemented, such as single use plastic bags, cutlery and drinking vessels. It was disappointing that the Food Waste scheme has been withdrawn by the District Council due to cost. Nevertheless, it is important to encourage residents actively to reduce and register their single use plastic during July.

**80. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- i. *Mallard Pass 2<sup>nd</sup> stage consultation* – It was noted that the deadline for responses to this Statutory Consultation is 4<sup>th</sup> August 2022. It is a very important consultation, upon which residents should be encouraged to submit their comments.

**81. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 13 July 2022 at 6pm**

The Chairman  
Closed the meeting at 7.30pm.