

## STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL

### **MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 08 JANUARY 2024 AT 6PM IN TOWN HALL**

**PRESENT** Councillor Bret Allibone (Chairman)  
Councillor Amanda Wheeler  
Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing  
Councillor Yvette Díaz-Muñoz  
Councillor David Scammell

**ALSO PRESENT** Patricia Stuart-Mogg (Town Clerk)  
Jane Bateman (on-line)  
6 members of public

**592. PUBLIC REPRESENTATION (Agenda item 1)** - None

**593. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda item 2)**

Councillor Andrew Croft and Councillor Lisa Brewin had submitted their apologies.

**Proposal 1** – Proposed by Councillor Amanada Wheeler seconded by Councillor Yvette Díaz-Muñoz and unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the apologies and reasons for absence.

Apologies were also received from John Lott, Mandy Mackinnon and Cheryl Allibone. These were noted.

**594. MINUTES (Agenda item 3)**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 13 December 2023, were confirmed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

**595. FEEDBACK ON CLIMATE ACTION PLAN STRATIGIES**

The Chairman Bret Allibone recapped on the how the draft Climate Action document is developing with the present main headings:

- Land & Biodiversity
- Young People
- Consumption & Waste
- Buildings & Technology
- Transport
- Cross-cutting Actions

The headings will advance as this draft document evolves. The first elements which were discussed:

*a. Consumption / Waste*

**Main goals:** Work with local residents and partners of the Council to encourage and support projects that reduce consumption and waste and so help with the development of a circular economy in the town

**Short term actions:**

- Provide information and resources on new website and local media to encourage reduction, recycling, reuse and repair.
- Consider the development of a Repair Café in Stamford.
- Lobby SKDC for public space recycling facilities in Stamford itself to increase the local residents' ability to recycle common items easily.
- Investigate the creation of a 'library of things' or a sharing hub in Stamford.
- Work with local schools to organise uniform, toy and book swaps / sales alongside walk-to-school weeks.

- Ensure all Town Council procurement decisions consider the implications for consumption and waste both directly and indirectly (to look at providers' own waste record/performance)

Discussion ensued and the consensus supported the initial list of short-term activities. These could be achieved and provide a platform on which to consult and create a network with schools, local organisations, and residents to work towards these objectives.

It is important to note that this element is the environmental element of the Climate Action Plan, which supports the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, plastics and fuel use etc. However, it does need to be linked to activities supporting mitigation and adaptation. It was recognised that the actions needed to address the climate change are immense. This an initial framework upon which to build. Even the current recycling systems operated by the District and County Councils are known to be inadequate and are being investigated by one of the Town Councillors.

Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing offered to lobby the District Council to introduce a recycling hub at the Cattle Market for residents to use, which could be collected on the appropriate day for that recycling article. Councillor Bisnauthsing also suggested that the initiative to contact the retailers in the town to reduce their plastic waste should be revisited.

*b. Climate Action Plan for young people*

Young people have the power to make a difference. Climate change will have a greater impact on them than on the rest of us. It will affect their health, their homes, their livelihoods and their future. We need to work with the young people in our community by listening to their concerns and ideas, raising awareness, supporting and publicising their initiatives and encouraging their involvement in our own projects through the Council's Newsletter and Mercury articles.

Secondary Schools & Colleges	Primary Schools	Other groups involving young people
Stamford Welland Academy Casterton College Stamford School Stamford College ESPA	Malcolm Sargent St Gilbert's St George's St Augustine's Bluecoat Stamford Junior School	Cubs, scouts, brownies & guides Stamford Youth Council

*Communication:*

- Make initial contact with all regarding a Climate Action Plan
- Find out what they are already doing on climate
- Ask what they think the Council should be doing
- Ask how they would like to be involved

*Initiatives already in action with STC involving young people:*

- Stamford College – climate action website project currently being progressed
- Youth Council – involvement in climate meeting and ongoing meetings every half term

*Projects that could involve young people:*

- Tree planting
- Refillable bottle design for water refill station
- Climate poster for shops in Stamford
- Wildflowers
- Climate Action column

Following discussion, it was agreed important to communicate with all the above groups using all forms / platforms of communication. It was also considered that the activities needed to be linked with the schools' curricula.

*c. Transport*

**Main goals:** Work with partners to reduce carbon emissions and air pollution from traffic in Stamford. Work with SKDC, LCC and other partners to make active travel (walking and cycling) more attractive and find ways to reduce traffic levels.

**Short term actions:**

- *Cycling and walking* - ensure delivery of safe, high-quality cycling and walking infrastructure, expanding and connecting existing provision across the town and surrounding area.
- *Behavioural Change* - promote and encourage by engaging with schools and local businesses - i.e. Clean Air Days, Switch Off Your Engine campaign, Bikeability (delivering cycle training in primary schools), adult cycle training, sustainable transport within businesses.
- *E-bikes* - promote take-up of e-bikes via promotional activities and events, and work with partners to seek to develop a financial mechanism to enable more young people to afford e-bikes as an alternative to buying their first car / learning to drive.
- *Public transport* - develop a guide to promote local public transport focusing on the options to travel to key locations.
- *Car sharing* - promote car sharing and lift services via websites, social media, promotional activities and events.
- *Electric charging points* - lobby for points to be installed off-street and in high density residential areas.
- *Park & Ride* - lobby for a Park & Ride on the outskirts of Stamford, i.e. at Morrisons.
- *Out-of-town last mile delivery hubs* - lobby for out-of-town hubs where goods can be taken before being delivered to final destination customers with low-emission vehicles for the final part of their journey to customers.
- *Train service* - engage with relevant forums and lobby for an improved train service through Stamford – i.e. increased frequency of trains, trains running on Sunday mornings and later on Saturday evenings.
- *Transport hub* - lobby for an integrated hub with the bus and coach station near the train station to improve connectivity.

Discussions observed that many of these points related to lobbying County for more bike lanes or increasing the parking spaces for bikes. Also encouraging individuals using more eco-friendly methods of commuting e.g. walking, e-bikes or scooters. Targeting taxis and delivery vehicles to support the Town Council by turning off their engines when parked. Councillor Bisnauthsing stated that any taxis who do not abide by this request should have their licence details forwarded to SKDC.

d. *Emergency Plan* – Deanne Donnavan examined the current Town Council Plan and thought the plan needed to be rewritten. The Town Clerk informed the meeting that Councillor Jonathan Waples will be initially leading rewriting of the document. A meeting will then be scheduled with Dianna Donnavan, Environment Agency and LCC Resilience team.

The Chairman noted that once all elements had been completed the Working Group should review the document producing a second draft.

## 596. CLIMATE ACTIONS FEEDBACK

- a. *Website* - Chris Bryant, Stamford College, is progressing this activity with the students. It is anticipated that a website which will embrace visuals that relate to Stamford should be available to examine by March 2024. It was noted that this might coincide with the Town

Meeting, when the Climate Action link could be launched and promote the communication platform. This is an item on the next agenda.

- b. *Rivers Trust* - Rachel Butler updated the meeting on the activities of the Millstream and River Welland. Councillor Ed Fancourt is working with the Rivers' Trust to ensure that the Welland bank on the Meadows which is being eroded and needs attention is addressed. The application status on the submission to the Environment Agency is to be investigated. Rachel Butler suggested that in light of the recent flooding issues, could the Town Council issue a press release to gather local information from residents on their experiences and to inform residents / business whom to contact. The general view is that a lack of dredging has been the problem where in fact dredging is not ecological and causes more damage.
- c. *Tree Planting* – The Town Clerk reported that LCC had confirmed that the Town Council's grant request for trees had been accepted. It was noted that two locations had been identified for planting – (1) Town Meadows along the boundary with the Freeman's Meadows and (2) the Cemetery. Trees were being ordered and delivered to the Cemetery for that location to be completed first. Following discussion, the preferred dates for planting should avoid half term. The ground would be prepared by the Cemetery GM contractor in readiness for planting. Schools and other organisations would be contacted to collect a group of volunteers for the planting exercise around the 19<sup>th</sup> February. It was observed that equipment would also need to be provided. It was confirmed this trees planting activity will enhance wildlife habitat, support sequestration, and provide shade. Although the benefits will be felt in the long term, it is a positive step in trying to address the effects of climate change and encourage community activity. It was also noted that LCC was holding a Tree Strategy scheduled on the 18<sup>th</sup> January. Councillor Amanda Wheeler, together with Rachel Butler and Deanne Donnavan would be attending.

**Proposal 2** – Councillor Bret Allibone proposed, seconded by Councillor Amanda Wheeler and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** the Town Council accepts the grant offer by LCC for tree planting in the Cemetery.

- d. *Insulation projects* – John Polkinghorne suggested that encouraging residents to insulate and draft proof their homes could be an initiative which could be driven forward. The Chairman that this could be included in the Building & Technology section of the Climate Plan.
- e. *Terms of Reference* – It was noted that Committee is in the process of reviewing its Terms of Reference and once completed would be forwarded to Deanne Donovan.

#### 597. **STAMFORD MERCURY MONTHLY COLUMN**

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

- a. January – Giano Marco
- b. February – Purple Bin recycling
- c. March – Water Refill Project
- d. April – What happens to Recycled Waste
- e. May – How to Retrofit your home
- f. June – Young People find a change by Rose Batey

The Just Heat project is oral history to gather research for the Government on how individuals respond to the green heating schemes which are being introduced: such as heat pumps. Volunteers are welcome to be involved and be interviewed.

#### 598. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting Monday 05 February 2024 at 6pm

The Chairman - Closed the meeting at 7.20pm