

Minutes of Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change subcommittee

Meeting held on Tuesday 26th February 2020 at 7.30pm at Little Luson

Present: Cllrs John Sherrell, Andrew Hollett, Chris Flower, Harry Baumer (Chair). John Mildmay-White.

Apologies: none received

Remit of the subcommittee

To take forward the climate change declaration of Holbeton Parish Council:

“to declare a Climate, Environment and Biodiversity Emergency. To work with all partners, including environmental experts, other local authorities, businesses and residents, to produce an ‘Environmental Action Plan’ for the parish and report this back to council within six months. And lastly to call on higher levels of government (Westminster, Devon County Council and South Hams District Council) to implement swift appropriate actions and provide the powers, funding and resources to make carbon neutrality and environmental restoration possible.”

Agreed that the main objective is to produce an environmental action plan for the parish for June 2020 Parish Council meeting, ensuring that parishioners are kept informed and involved.

Governance

The subcommittee has not been given its standing orders, so will for the time being follow those for the Parish Council meetings. The code of conduct applies, and all non councillor members will be made aware of these as well as the council’s other governance documents.

Issues such as whether the meetings are advertised publicly in advance and open to other parishioners to join; whether non councillors have to complete a register of interests, to be clarified. Agreed to seek clarification on standing orders at the next Parish Council meeting. **Action: Chair**

Review of open meeting of 22nd February

The written report of this meeting was read out by the Chair. It was agreed that the attendance of around 50 parishioners suggests significant interest in the issue. The general discussion suggests that the meeting strongly supported the Parish Council’s initiative. Some parishioners said that they were unaware of the developments with Yealm Community Energy and the implications for the 5 parishes.

Agreed that the Chair will make the report available to the next Parish Council meeting. **Action: Chair**

Review of feedback forms

To date 18 of the 50 feedback forms taken by those attending had been returned (2 from non parishioners). The preliminary analysis demonstrated the wide range of actions already being taken. The suggested actions were considered for inclusion in the environmental action plan. All completing returns volunteered to help. Of all respondents from within the parish 13 strongly supported and 3 supported a parish carbon audit. It was agreed that a digest of the feedback should be submitted for the next edition of Holbeton News. **Action: Chair**

Membership of Subcommittee

It was agreed that the Chair will approach three respondents from the parish who had volunteered to join the committee. **Action: Chair**

Environmental action plan

It was clear that parishioners wished to be given advice on what they can do to make a difference, and wanted a positive approach by the Parish Council to empowering individuals to feel that their actions can make a difference.

Providing advice and possibly making available low energy bulbs for domestic use in bulk at a significant discount was agreed as an early action that should be highly visible and effective.

Other suggestions included a cycle path along the A379 that could be used to commute into Plymouth; car parking at Flete Western Lodge to facilitate access to the hourly bus service to Plymouth; ensuring that children and young people are involved and helped to think positively of what they can do about climate change (agreed to approach head teacher of Holbeton Primary School. **Action: Chair**); developing a community forum for sharing ideas; clarifying with the planning department what if any local recommendations to increase house insulation can be carried through; taking actions to facilitate on street charging for electric cars*; negotiating with the highways department optimal management of road verges.

*The government grant from the Office for Low Emission Vehicles for on street charge points for electric vehicles has a number of requirements that would have to be met. These include being able to show that residents who want to have an electric car could only do so if there was on-street charging available; having a Traffic Regulation Order to ensure each space was dedicated for this purpose; any car parks would have to be owned by the council and also subject to a TRO. The grants are made on a first come first served basis, and once the annual allowance is used up no further grants are awarded in that year.

The Chair to draft a skeleton environmental action plan. **Action: Chair**

Carbon audit

There was strong support for undertaking a parish wide audit. Two potential partner organisations had provided quotes for the audit. One was chosen; it was agreed that they would be asked to quote for an audit for the other 4 parishes as well, on the basis that this would hopefully be more cost effective.

Action: J M-W

The audit of the farms in the parish would be undertaken by volunteers under the direction of Cllr John Sherrell. **Action: J Sherrell**

AOB

The Chair drew attention to the [Greener Ugborough Parish initiative](#) he had been shown by the Parish Clerk. Worth considering to add to council website as a means of engaging Holbeton parishioners.

Date of next meeting

31st March 2020 The subcommittee to communicate by email in the meantime

Addendum:

Subsequent to this meeting Caroline Howarth, Jan Sellick and Anna West have agreed to join the subcommittee.