

# HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020, Holbeton Village Hall

**Attendees** - Cllr Harry Baumer (Sub-committee Chair), Diana Baumer (Hon secretary), John Sherrell (Chair Parish Council), Chris Flower (Councillor), Andrew Hollett (Councillor), Anna West, Jan Sellick (Parishioners)

Harry Baumer welcomed attendees to the first full sub- committee meeting.

1. **Apologies** were received from John Mildmay-White and Caroline Howarth
2. **Minutes of 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020** This was the first meeting and only attended by the Parish Council representatives. The Minutes were accepted as correct.
3. **Matters Arising.**
  - a) **Governance Arrangements.** 3 non Parish Council members were co-opted onto the sub- committee at the inaugural meeting. The status of the sub- committee was clarified. The sub-committee is not bound by the same procedures as the Parish Council and may be conducted informally. There was discussion about others in the community who wish to be involved, and it was agreed that as many people as possible should be involved in the implementation of the Environmental Action Plan.
  - b) **Approach to Holbeton School Head Teacher** It was acknowledged that there needs to be a strong link with Holbeton School in order to educate children about sustainable living and climate change. **Action** Harry Baumer to invite Chris Rickard the new Head Teacher to the next meeting.
4. **Environmental Action Plan** The current version of the plan has been approved by the Parish Council. On 31/3/20 a process for prioritising actions was agreed. This was based on the results of the survey undertaken following the public meeting.
  - a) **Priorities.** The action plan comprises a list of 32 actions some of which the Parish Council would need to take the lead on, and some actions which would be supported/facilitated by the Parish Council. Cllr Harry Baumer identified 5 actions from the survey being considered initially:
    - Action 1, Adopting a new policy that requires the Parish Council to consider the environmental implications of all its decisions.

Action 3, Ensuring that the lighting in all Parish Council controlled premises (namely the Reading Rooms and the Public Lavatories) are energy efficient.

Action 11, Ensuring that the street lights in the parish are energy efficient both by virtue of being low energy bulbs and are switched on only for the necessary times through the year.

It was agreed that the above actions would be progressed at Parish Council level.

Action 20, Collaborate with Holbeton School over teaching how to live a sustainable life.

Action 21, The use of low energy lights throughout the parish.

There was discussion about exploring some of the other points on the list such as the use of pesticides and herbicides, hedgerow management, bee and wild life corridors. John Sherrell explained about land stewardship and available subsidies for land management. DEFRA is producing an environmental land management document to inform farmers. Holbeton is fortunate to have a large amount of organically farmed land in the parish. There is also an established informal local farming forum.

It was suggested that there should be a slot in the Holbeton News each month for people to contribute ideas relevant to the agenda such as, the use of natural cleaning products and where to buy them, energy saving ideas, organic gardening, what grants are currently available for households to improve insulation. These could also be published on the parish website.

**Action.** Anna West to approach Christine Tarrant, HN editor.

- b) **Parish wide LED Survey**\_Andrew Hollett has created a LED survey to be hand delivered to all households and businesses in the parish. This will help inform us about the use of LED bulbs in the parish and what we need to do next to help reduce power consumption, home electricity costs and the parish carbon footprint. It was suggested that the questionnaire be simplified. **Action.** Cllr Andrew Hollett

Cllr John Sherrell reported that there was a Govt. subsidy available to farmers to help them convert lighting in their outbuildings to LED.

Andrew Hollett suggested bulk buying of LED bulbs for villagers to purchase. The limits on what parish councils may do in this respect to be will be ascertained at Parish Council level. **Action.** Cllr Andrew Hollett

- c) **Proposed street lighting review.** See action 11 above. Ensuring that the street lights in the parish are energy efficient by virtue of being low energy bulbs, not unnecessarily bright and only switched on at necessary times during the year. DCC policy circulated in advance of the meeting. **Action.** Cllr Hollett to investigate the Devon County Council policy and practice further to establish what can be done locally.

**5. Holbeton Parish Council draft Environmental Policy.** This was circulated to the sub-committee prior to the meeting for comment. The main point it emphasised was that the Parish Council should give consideration to the environmental impact of any decisions made by them. The policy will be submitted to the Parish Council next month for approval and amendment as required. **Action.** Harry Baumer

**6. Possible funding to support the Environmental Action Plan.** Harry Baumer reported that Creacombe Solar Farm has signed a S106 agreement with South Hams District Council. The money resulting from this will be shared between 3 Parish Councils (Newton and Noss, Yealmpton and Holbeton). It was suggested that this money might be used by the sub-committee to fund environmental action projects.

**7. AOB** The Holbeton Parish Council website now includes a climate emergency page.

**8. Date of next meeting. Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 7:30pm at Holbeton Village Hall**