

HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Held via Zoom on 2nd February 2021

Present

Members: Cllr Harry Baumer (Sub-committee Chair), Diana Baumer (Hon Secretary), Chris Flower (Councillor), Andrew Hollett (Councillor), Jan Sellick, Caroline Howarth, Tracy Ebrell (Parishioners)

Guests - Stephen Brown (YCE), Tony Lyle (Councillor Malborough PC), Gilly and Chris Bray (Parishioners), Nirosha Gunatillake (Councillor)

1. **Welcome** Harry Baumer welcomed Tracy Ebrell as the newest committee member and informed the meeting that she would be joining him on the 5 parish alliance. Tony Lyle was welcomed to the meeting. Harry stated that Nirosha would be joining the meeting as an interested new Parish Councillor and wishes to join the subcommittee.

Apologies: none received.

2. **South Dartmoor Community Energy.** A briefing was given by Tony Lyle who is a Director at SDCE and a LEAP (Local Energy Advice Partnership) Home Energy Advisor. TL explained that he was trained to give local advice to people and make referrals to other agencies to help save energy and money. The service is free to pensioners and those on benefits and normally involves a home visit but currently phone consultations take place. TL said they were able to help people change energy suppliers. People were either referred to SDCE, advice@SDCE.org.uk, or directly to LEAP, leap.org.uk. TL stated that SDCE also do workshops in schools to help change behaviour. Holbeton School has signed up. TL talked about Sustainable South Hams which is a network of Parish Councils (more than 30 at the moment) who have come together to share experience and knowledge and to prevent duplication of effort with various projects. CF asked how you explain to people changing suppliers about green energy suppliers, who may be more expensive than standard supply companies. TL said that SDCE don't just point people towards the cheapest supplier but helped get the right supplier. SB commented that price comparison websites didn't always advertise all the available supply companies. TL thought that U Switch picked up most companies.

3. **Minutes of 5th January 2021** were accepted as correct.

4. **Matters Arising**

- a) **Funding to support the Environmental Action Plan** HB stated that the PC was expecting £3646.35 from YCE in the coming week. This money would support the Environmental Action Plan. TE was thanked for chasing up this matter.
- b) **Devon Climate Emergency zero carbon plan consultation** HB reported that it took a long time to complete the feedback form to DCC. NG asked how we involve parishioners in deciding what we need to do in order to achieve what we want.
- c) **SHDC Housing Strategy consultation** HB reported that he had given feedback but was unable to complete the form as he was unable to find where to include his comments and unable to rejoin the online form! AH felt pessimistic about the outcome.
- d) **Books on Climate and Environmental issues for the Reading Rooms** HB suggested that as soon as the s106 money had been received books could be purchased ready for use when lockdown was over. There was discussion about accessibility for all users. Currently Sue Price operates the library in the Reading Rooms just on a Monday morning. CF suggested putting a list of available books in the Mildmay Colours and possibly in the Village Hall.
- e) **Holbeton News update and "tips of the month"**. There were 4 suggestions for future "tips of the month". It was suggested that:- i) Joe Clarke write an article about bird boxes for the March Holbeton News. ii) SDCE write a piece about themselves for March/April iii) GB suggested a piece about pesticides and insecticides iv) AH suggested a piece about LED light bulbs. This should coincide with the energy survey going out to the Parish.

- f) **YCE meeting 23rd March.** TE reported that there is a plan which was mentioned in last month's Holbeton News but there would need to be a full page advertising it in next month's Holbeton News. It was suggested that people wishing to attend (virtually) should contact AH who would have a link to the meeting. There is a limit of 100 people. **Action: HB** to put something in the Holbeton News and to raise it at the 5 Parish Alliance meeting on Thursday.
- g) **A new wildflower area proposal opposite the Reading Rooms, and noticeboard** DB reported that the proposal has been accepted by the PCC and a management agreement with the Parish Council has been drawn up. Tom Flint has agreed to mow the area and then scarify it 2 weeks before sowing the seed at the end of March/early April. DB reported that OTM at Ermington Mill would produce a notice board similar to those used in the Mothecombe Car Park. This will be sited at the bottom of the wildflower area on the wall. TE suggested a chalk board to attach under the notice board to record comments/interesting points. **Action: The wildflower group** to agree a plan of action.
- h) **Parish carbon footprint tool** HB and JMW attended a Webinar with 200 parishes from across the country to hear about the tool developed by Exeter University. HB was unsure how we used the information to prioritise actions. It would possibly be best if our 5 local parishes worked together to interpret the footprint tool and identify priorities. **Action: HB**
- i) **HPC Climate Emergency webpage and new Facebook page** AH requested deferring this to the next meeting for discussion.

5. Other Matters

- a) **Discussion and approval of new funding application form** The form has been adapted from the YCE form. AH felt that there should be no money available for maintenance. It was agreed that no private bank accounts should be used.
- b) **Funding submissions for:-**
 - Birdboxes along public footpaths** by Joe Clarke for Holbeton Climate Change and Eco Group. Joe applied for £1,000. This was for 100 boxes at £10 each which included £4 construction cost for each box. HB suggested we fund 50 boxes initially minus the construction costs = £300. Instead of paying someone to make the boxes parishioners should be invited to make boxes and if they wish to decorate them distinctively. HB has spoken to Robbie Philips from the RSPB who suggested that hardwood should be used to make the boxes and that he would help identify suitable places to put them on publicly available land. It was agreed that Joe would need to give progress feedback to the group. NG asked how we could measure the success of box usage. HB reported that Robbie Philips said that 80% of the boxes should be occupied within 1-2 years.
 - Solar Panel and battery for pavilion** at Flete by Giles Ebbutt for Holbeton Cricket Club. Giles has submitted a proposal which amounts to £2,700. They already have £500 from the District Council. It was agreed that a feasibility study looking at the site and aspect needed to be undertaken. **Action: HB** to request a feasibility study and then to discuss at the next meeting.
- c) **Andrew Hollett's Energy Performance Certificate (EPC)** AH obtained one for £55 because he was changing his heating system. Every house that is sold has to have an EPC. AH proposed that every house in the Parish should have one. **Action: CH** will investigate and report at the next meeting.
- d) GB & CB thought that agriculture is a big problem. **Action: HB** to talk to John MW and John Sherrell and report back to the next meeting.

6. Date of next meeting, Tuesday 2nd March 2021, 7.30pm