

Cockermouth Town Council

3 March 2020

Dear Councillor,

You are summoned to a meeting of the **CLIMATE CHANGE TASK GROUP** to be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Tuesday 17 March 2020 at **10.00Am** for the purpose of the under-mentioned business.

Please let me know if you are unable to attend.

All welcome.

Yours sincerely



Sheila Brown

1. **Minutes – To agreed as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting (pages 1-2)**
2. **Apologies for absence**
3. **Declaration of Interest** – Members to give notice of any disclosable pecuniary interest, other registrable interest or any other interest and the nature of that interest in relation to any item on the agenda in accordance with the code of conduct.
4. **Public Participation**
 - a) To answer any questions from members of the public in accordance with the Summary of Public Rights
 - b) To receive a petition from a member of the public in accordance with the Summary of Public Rights
5. **Climate Change Emergency** – To consider the Town Council's initial response to declaring a climate change emergency and discuss progress (pages 3-8)

Press and Public Welcome



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Town Clerk
Sheila Brown



Joint Winners
Council of Europe Year 2000
Europe Prize

Previous Awards
Plaque of Honour, Flag of Honour
European Diploma



Twin Town
Marvejols, France



A Fairtrade Town

Minutes of the inaugural meeting of the CLIMATE CHANGE TASK GROUP held on Friday 6 December 2019 in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, Cockermouth at 10.00am

Present: Councillor S Barnes
Councillor A Smith
Councillor I Burns

Apologies: Councillor A Semple

112 Election of Chair

Councillor S Barnes was elected Chair of this Group.

113 Public Participation

There was none

114 Declaration of Interest

The Chair declared a personal interest in bee keeping as the Trustee of a Bee Keeping Charity.

115 Climate Change Emergency

Those present considered the Town Council's initial response to climate change emergency and discussed at length which initiatives it wished to take forward. Tribute was paid to the contribution made by Isabella Bridgman and Clare Rodger, Cockermouth School.

Recommended - a) That the Town Clerk write to local schools requesting donations of old Halloween costumes, Christmas jumpers, other dressing up outfits as they created tonnes of plastic waste. These costumes would be recycled from the library.

b) That the Town Clerk contacts Tivoli regarding ceasing/restricting the use of pesticides on Council land.

c) That the Town Clerk writes to Craig Travel to discuss carbon offset schemes run by local travel agents.

d) That the Town Council contacts the procurement department of Cumbria County Council to enquire if their procurement processes for electricity and gas suppliers include green suppliers

e) That the Town Clerk write to Tivoli and request that our floral displays use only plants that attract bees and other pollinators. Chair to provide a list.

f) That the Town Clerk write to CCC to requests the planting of wild flowers on the verge on approaches to Cockermouth and the banking opposite St Helen's Street

allotments.

g) That the Chair attends a future meeting of the Allotments Association to encourage bee keeping and other pollinator friendly planting in council owned allotments.

h) That the Town Clerk requests that our town centre litter bins are replaced with new bins which have separate compartments for plastic, paper and general rubbish.

i) That the list of possible actions be amended as per the attachment.

The meeting closed at 10.50am

Climate Emergency

List of possible actions for town council

1. ACTIONS WHICH ARE QUICK, CHEAP, RELATIVELY EASY

- Cease providing plastic water bottles at TC events – IN HAND
- Express concerns about river pollution to MP / Environment Agency – ACHIEVED
- Scheme for shops / businesses to refill water bottles – ACHIEVED
- Tree-planting on council-owned land - IN HAND Cumbria Woodlands have completed an audit. Neville will attend March 2020 TC Meeting
- Green pages on TC website – ACHIEVED
- Work with others (eg Goodness and Grain, Wordsworth House etc) to provide recycling opportunities for Tetrapaks – IN HAND
- Work with other businesses to increase recycling facilities (eg Aldi /Lidl for clothing) – IN HAND

- Carry out a 'green' survey of businesses asking them to score themselves against a set of criteria (eg recycling, use of plastic packaging etc)
- Where possible councillors to walk or cycle to meetings – IN HAND
- Encouraging shops to use paper bags
- Volunteers to provide advice on growing vegetables (like WW2 'Dig for Victory')
- Recycle Halloween outfits, Christmas jumpers, dressing up outfits and re-distribute through library – IN HAND a number of outfits have been donated.

2. ACTIONS WHICH MAY REQUIRE WORKING WITH OTHER AUTHORITIES AND/OR THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND WHICH MAY REQUIRE FUNDING

- Cease / restrict use of 'pesticides' on council land – IN HAND - Town Clerk to write to Tivoli. Tivoli have drastically reduced the use of Glyphosate usage in Allerdale by 75%, by using a residual herbicide in Feb/March which prevents germination. The hanging baskets we provide already contain plants that will attract bees and other pollinators
- Plant wild-flower meadow areas in Memorial Gardens and/or elsewhere - IN HAND - Rotary to plant wild flower meadow in Memorial Gardens
- Work with Allerdale / business to provide electric vehicle charging points in town – Allerdale to look at issue again/Cumbria LEP is currently considering the approach to electric vehicle infrastructure. This is likely to result in the development of an electric vehicle strategy which would look at a range of issues including the future development of charging points across the County and the approach for installation of charges at residential properties.
- Work with Cumbria Woodlands to plant trees on council-owned land – IN HAND – Audit undertaken & Cumbria Woodlands to attend our March 2020 meeting
- Support / encourage cycling-friendly businesses

- Support carbon offset schemes run by local travel agents (tie in to tree planting) IN HAND – No reply from Craig Travel, tree planting scheme already in existence with Cockermouth Travel.
- Neighbourhood Plan – specs for new builds on insulation, green energy etc.
- Town Council buildings – ensure insulation up to spec and energy from green supplier, (eg Good Energy or Ecotricity) PARTIALLY IN HAND – Town Clerk to write to procurement at CCC to find out if green energy suppliers included in their tender process and if they would be willing to move to 100% green energy. Npower supply brown energy which is cheaper. Having said that 8.5% coal, 57.9% natural gas, 17.4% nuclear, 12.6% renewable, 3.6% other. If we add green for our site this can be done from the contract anniversary period April 2021. The additional cost would be approximately 0.05p/kwh.
- Floral displays in town centre to use plants which attract bees and other pollinators IN HAND – Tivoli have confirmed that they use such plants
- Work with local schools to discourage engine-idling in vicinity of schools DELETE engine idling in the vicinity of schools now against the law
- Encourage county council to plant wildflower verges on approaches into town – IN HAND Town Clerk to write to CCC about planting wildflowers on verges on approaches to town and on banking in their ownership opposite Gote Road allotments. In general the soil on the verges is too rich for wildflowers. Verges need to have the soil stripped off. A bee corridor will be created across North Cumbria. It

mainly follows the A591 but will include the A66 from the Low Road roundabout heading out towards Workington. This will be funded through National/charitable funding to support bees.

- Install drinking fountain in town centre for refilling bottles (ideal for cyclists) ~~DELETE~~
– Lots of businesses offering free refills in town.
- Create a bee-garden – ~~DELETE~~ the creation of a single garden. Chair instead to speak at a future meeting of the Allotments Association about bee keeping and pollinator friendly allotments. Allotments Association to discuss this issue at their meeting on January 28th.
- Plant rowan trees (or other suitable species) in between the existing Main St trees to provide for the long-term – ~~DELETE~~ not felt to be feasible
- Bikes paths / lanes / parking places / electric bike charging points
- Planting vegetables on council land – amend to planting fruit trees instead of vegetables – IN HAND speaking to Neville about planting fruit trees as part of audit.
- Acquiring land for allotments – ~~DELETE~~ numbers on the allotment waiting list did not support the acquisition of more land.
- Encouraging shops to sell more local produce – ~~AMEND~~ to Encouraging shops to sell more seasonal produce

- Returnable town maps – DELETE maps produced to encourage visitors to re-use on return visits
- Town centre litter bins with separate compartments for plastic, paper and general rubbish – IN HAND Town Clerk to write to Allerdale to request these. No reply to date.
- Give and Take Day – To be discussed in detail at the meeting. Funding available from CCC

3. LONGER-TERM AIM / AMBITION

- The aim of Cockermouth Town Council is for its activities to be carbon-neutral by 2030 at the latest. This will require an audit of the council's current carbon footprint and concerted efforts to reduce it. Some of the measures that will be necessary are included above, e.g. ensuring that town council buildings are fully insulated and that energy is purchased from 'green' suppliers.