

Minutes of a meeting of the CLIMATE CHANGE TASK GROUP held on Thursday 20 May 2021 at 1.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth

Present: Councillor S Barnes, Councillor I Burns, Councillor R Watson & Councillor A Semple

Also Present: Councillor Tyson

201 Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record.

202 Public Participation

There was none

203 Declaration of Interest

None declared.

204 Public Participation

None

205 Climate Change Emergency

Those present considered which actions should be taken forward during the next quarter.

Recommended – a) That the Town Clerk writes to Allerdale Borough Council regarding the planting of wildflowers on land they own near Bellbrigg Park.

b) That the Rotary be asked whether or not they still intend to plant wildflowers in the tree circle, Memorial Gardens.

c) That members of the Climate Change Action Group co-ordinate the allotments judging each year.

d) That two new awards be introduced this year for Best Pollinator Allotment and Best Pollinator Garden. Clerk to obtain costs for shields.

e) That paperless meetings be encouraged.

206 Local Committee Environmental Fund

In February, Cumbria County Council agreed their revenue and capital budget for 2021/22. The Environment Fund contains £1.2 million to invest in environmental activities to enhance the lived environment in localities.

Their six local committees have received £200k to support a range of environmental improvements e.g. enhanced verge maintenance, tree maintenance and replacement, footpath maintenance, nature recovery, biodiversity improvements etc. Local Committees are encouraged to work with their Districts, Parishes and Town Council to make the best use of the money, including identifying match funding where possible.

The County Council are also recruiting an Environment & Sustainability Officer to lead and support existing new projects.

Agreed - That the funding available and the new post we welcomed and noted.

207 Right to Repair

Consumers will get more rights on expensive appliances such as fridges and televisions under new legislation set to come into force this summer. The 'right to repair' law means firms will legally have to make spare parts available to consumers for the first time. It is hoped that the change could extend the lifespan of products by up to 10 years. The new rules will be estimated to reduce the 1.5 million tonnes of electrical waste the UK generates a year and contribute to reducing carbon emissions overall.

Agreed – That the new legislation be welcomed.

208 Allerdale Borough Council – Action Plan to address Climate Change 2021

Allerdale Borough Council has a vision for a low carbon future and is seeking to address climate change concerns within all key Council services.

The action plan is intended as a living document which will be reviewed annually and updated. Further Government direction and work is needed to carry out appraisals of baseline data and data collection guidelines.

Agreed – That the actions and activities listed be mapped against our own.

209 New carbon footprinting tool for parish councils

Over the next six months, and in partnership with Midlands Energy Hub, CSE will develop a tool that will enable parish councils and local communities to estimate baseline carbon emissions for their area. This will be calculated using information about energy use, travel behaviours and the consumption of goods and services modelled at household level and scaled up to better reflect individual communities.

It will allow users to test out a number of scenarios designed to demonstrate the potential impact of different projects on their overall carbon footprint. Over 170

parishes have signed up to trial the prototype and provide feedback on its format and content.

Agreed – That the development of this carbon footprinting tool be monitored.

210 Date of the next meeting

Resolved – That the next meeting be held on 18 August 2021 at 1pm.

The meeting closed at 1.52pm