

Cockermouth Town Council



24 November 2021

Dear Councillor,

You are summoned to a meeting of the Climate Change Action Group to be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Wednesday 1 December 2021 at 1.00pm 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 agree 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 our list of possible actions and decide which to take forward over the next quarter (**pages 3-5**)
6. **COP 26 – What was agreed at the Glasgow Climate Conference (pages 6-8)**
7. **EV Charge Points – All new buildings to have electric charge points from 2022 (pages 9-10)**
8. **Date of next Meeting**

Press and Public Welcome

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Joint Winners

Council of Europe Year 2000

Europe Prize

Previous Awards

Plaque of Honour, Flag of Honour

European Diploma

Minutes of a meeting of the CLIMATE CHANGE TASK GROUP held on Wednesday 18 August 2021 at 1.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth

Present: Councillor I Burns & Councillor R Watson

56 Election of Chair

Councillor I Burns was elected chair for the ensuing meeting.

57 Minutes

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

58 Public Participation

There was none

59 Declaration of Interest

None declared.

60 Public Participation

None

61 Climate Change Emergency

Those present which actions had been actioned since the last meeting and which actions should be taken forward during the next quarter.

Recommended – That National Clean Up Day on 18 September be promoted and that the Task Group helps promote/organise litter picking events around town on that day.

62 Peat Compost

Sales of peat compost to gardeners will be banned from 2024. Ministers will also give £50m to support the restoration of 35,000 hectares of peatland by 2025, about 1% of the UK's total.

The UK's peatlands store three times as much carbon as its forests. However the vast majority are in a degraded state and are emitting carbon dioxide which drives the climate crisis.

The Environment Secretary announced £500m to fund a tripling of tree planting in England to reach 7,000 hectares by 2024 and said that a new 2030 target for wildlife populations would be set.

A species reintroduction taskforce was also unveiled to take forward work on recovering species lost to England, such as wildcats and beavers

Agreed – That the measures announced be welcomed and noted.

63 Environmental Project

Further to minute number 206, the Town Council has applied to the Local Area Committee Fund for 168 bags of ladybird larvae plus labour for someone to place these into the trees on Main Street, Market Place and Kirkgate.

The scheme was likely to take place in the Spring of 2022.

Agreed – That the project be welcomed and noted.

64 COP26

In May, the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy launched the Together For Our Planet : Business Climate Change Leaders campaign, a new drive to encourage small and micro businesses to commit to cutting their greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030 and to net zero by 2050 or sooner.

The UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), at the Scottish Event Campus in Glasgow on 31 October – 12 November 2021.

The climate talks will bring together heads of state, climate experts and campaigners to agree coordinated action to tackle climate change.

Businesses who commit by signing up to the SME Climate Commitment will be recognized by the United Nations Race to Zero Campaign. Their mission will be to secure global net zero by mid-century and keep 1.5 degrees within reach, adapt to protect communities and natural habitats, mobilise finance, and working together to deliver.

Agreed – That the Campaign be welcomed and noted.

65 Date of the next meeting

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

The meeting closed at 1.55pm

Climate Change Task Group Actions	Rank within the theme and number of points	Overall Rank	Completion Date
ENVIRONMENT			
Cease providing plastic water bottles at TC Events – IN HAND			June 2019
Express concerns about river pollution to MP/Environment Agency – ACHIEVED			June 2019
Scheme for shops/businesses to refill water bottles – ACHIEVED			June 2019
Tree-planting on council-owned land – 1212 trees to be planted Harris Park Extension			November 2021
Green pages on TC website – ACHIEVED			June 2019
Volunteers to provide advice on growing vegetables (like WW2 'Dig for Victory')			June 2019
Recycle Halloween outfits, Christmas jumpers, dressing up outfits and re-distribute through library.			Ongoing
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 February/March which prevents germination. The hanging baskets we provide already contain plants that will attract bees and other pollinators			June 2019
Plant wild-flower meadow areas in Memorial Gardens and/or elsewhere – IN HAND – Rotary to plant wild flower meadow in Memorial Gardens			
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			June 2019
Floral displays in town centre to use plants which attract bees and other pollinators – IN HAND – Tivoli have confirmed that they use such plants			June 2019
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 into 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 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			June 2019
Create a bee-garden – DELETE the creation of a single garden. Allotments Awards Evening to include 2 new categories, best bee friendly allotment and best bee friendly garden			Nov 2021

Give and Take Day – Funding available from CCC. Idea supported by Town Council. Delayed due to Covid			June 2019
Best Pollinator Allotment and Best Pollinator Garden categories to be added to Garden Competition. Delayed due to Covid			November 2021
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 the town council buildings are fully insulated and that energy is purchased from 'green' suppliers			
Vocally support applications for new renewable energy in Cockermouth			
Write to all take-away outlets and businesses in Cockermouth to reduce their waste.			
Encourage paperless meetings			May 2021
Use water retaining planters			
Encourage members/staff to carry refillable bottles and re-useable cups			
Work with Allerdale and CCC to convert footway lighting to LED and/or trial solar lighting.			
Speak to the Chamber of Trade about the introduction of a Cockermouth Cup for use in cafes and restaurants. Customers pay £1 deposit for a Cockermouth Cup, enjoy their drink and return the cup to any participating café to get their £1 back. Cups are then washed ready to be used again.			
Establish a tree sponsorship scheme			June 2021
Give away 100 x 10g packets of free wildflower seeds from library			June 2021
Encourage residents to join a virtual climate change Cockermouth reading group			18/6/21
FOOD AND FARMING			
HOUSING AND ENERGY			
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			June 2019

cheaper. Having said that 8.5% coal, 57.9% natural gas, 17.4% nuclear, 12.6% renewable, 3.6% other.			
PROMOTING ACTION AND RAISING AWARENESS			
Work with other businesses to increase recycling facilities (e.g. Aldi/Lidl for clothing) – IN HAND – Mayor has spoken to Lidl			June 2019
Carry out a 'green' survey of businesses asking them to score themselves against a set of criteria (e.g. recycling, use of plastic packaging etc.)			
Where possible councillors to walk or cycle to meetings – IN HAND			June 2019
Encourage shops to use paper bags			
Consider starting an Incredible Edible Group – deferred due to Covid			
CafS are looking to recruit 20 volunteers across Cumbria to help them deliver a brand new programme to boost knowledge about climate science solutions and inspire people to take action in their own lives – advertised on our social media 4/2/21.			June 2019
Neighbourhood Plan – specs for new builds on insulation, green energy etc.			
Promote bike paths, lanes, parking places, electric bike charging points			June 2019
Planting fruit trees on council land			
Encouraging shops to sell more seasonal produce			
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. Councillor Smith to chase a response			
Support the formation of an Allerdale Partnership Climate Change Group drawing on expertise from councillors, residents, young citizens, climate science and solutions experts, business and skills providers. The Group will consider actions and strategies being developed by Allerdale Borough Council and partnership organisations and develop a borough wide strategy.			
Strive to become an Earth Protector Town			
Recognise, promote and partake in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earth Hour • Earth Day • World Environment Day • Clean Air Day • Cycle to Work Day • Zero Waste Week 			Partially completed 21/6/21

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero Emissions Day • World Car Free Day • International Walk to School month • National Clean up Day 			
Promote/help organise litter picking events			Sept 2021
Residents to be encouraged to let their gardens become wildlife havens – seeds given out			June 2021
Ask CCC to provide a selection of climate change books for our library – Pamela Wilkinson is drawing up a list. Books received			June 2021
Encourage support of climate change reading group			August 21
Organise speakers and children's activities relating to climate change in the library			
Hold information events to inform residents			
Consider how we can reduce food waste – find out what is being done locally			
Ask local chefs to suggest seasonal meals			
Work with CAfS to produce a training and accreditation scheme to enable local builders/trades persons to gain all the necessary skills for retrofitting homes			
Work with CAfS to provide an ongoing awareness scheme to every home in Cockermouth informing owners of the steps they can take to retrofit homes, the help available and provide a list of accredited companies			
Appoint a climate change lead councillor and officer			May 2021
Encourage councillors and staff to take part in suitable climate change education programmes to ensure that they are better able to make the informed decisions required.			Ongoing
Include such training as part of their induction.			
Encourage the Creation of a one stop shop/climate change hub/information centre in Allerdale.			
TRANSPORT			
Work with Allerdale/County/business to provide electric vehicle charging points in town – 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. Allerdale are in discussions with Charge my Street. TC encouraged residents to take part in the charge my street on line survey which ended on 8/1/21. Electricity North West are introducing a £1million Reinforcement Fund to enhance			June 2019

their network in the next 2 years where connection requires extensive re-inforcement.			
Support/encourage cycling-friendly businesses			June 2019
Continue Town Bus Service			June 2019
Promote safe walking routes through TIC			
Encourage car sharing			Put add on social media July 2021
Liaise with ABC & CCC to Improve cycling provisions			
Purchase a speed indication device			Nov 2021
OTHER ACTIONS			
Support the Local Electricity Bill – the Bill, if made Law, would empower local communities to sell locally generated clean energy directly to local customers by establishing a statutory right to supply. This is currently impossible because of the huge set up and running costs involved in doing so – SUPPORTED 18.03.20 TC MEETING			June 2019
Support the Climate & Ecological Emergency (CEE) Bill – SUPPORTED 20.01.21 TC MEETING			June 2019
Ensure we know the climate change or nature implications of our decisions before we make them.			
Be aware of planning and climate change legislation			
Lobby Government for the development of a country wide food and farming strategy			
Do an audit of what activities/groups are already taking action to address climate change.			
Continue to budget yearly to help us fund our aspirations			£1000 in budget for 2021/22

COP26: What was agreed at the Glasgow climate conference?

A new global agreement - the Glasgow Climate Pact - was reached at the COP26 summit.

It aims to reduce the worst impacts of climate change - but some leaders and campaigners say it does not go far enough.

What was in the COP26 agreement?

The agreement - although not legally binding - will set the global agenda on climate change for the next decade:

Emissions

It was agreed countries will meet next year to pledge further cuts to emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) - a **greenhouse gas which causes climate change**.

This is to try to keep temperature rises within 1.5C - which scientists say is required to prevent a "climate catastrophe". Current pledges, if met, will only limit global warming to about 2.4C.

Coal

For the first time at a COP conference, there was an explicit plan to reduce use of coal - which is responsible for 40% of annual CO₂ emissions.

However, countries only agreed a weaker commitment to "phase down" rather than "phase out" coal after a late intervention by China and India.

- **PM: Climate deal sounds death knell for coal power**
- **Evasive words and coal compromise, but deal shows progress**

Developing countries

The agreement pledged to significantly increase money to help poor countries cope with the effects of climate change and make the switch to clean energy.

There's also the prospect of a trillion dollar a year fund from 2025 - after a previous pledge for richer countries to provide \$100bn (£72bn) a year by 2020 was missed.

While some observers say the COP26 agreement represented the "start of a breakthrough", some African and Latin American countries felt not enough progress was made.

- **Why hasn't climate pledge to poor countries been met?**

Fossil fuel subsidies

World leaders agreed to phase-out subsidies that artificially lower the price of coal, oil, or natural gas.

However, no firm dates have been set.

- **How much is still spent supporting oil, coal and gas?**

What else was agreed in Glasgow?

A flurry of other announcements were made:



US-China agreement

The world's biggest CO2 emitters, the US and China, **pledged to cooperate more over the next decade** in areas including methane emissions and the switch to clean energy.

China has previously been reluctant to tackle domestic coal emissions - so this was seen as recognising the need for urgent action.

- **Cautious welcome for US-China climate agreement**
- **Why China's climate policy matters to us all**

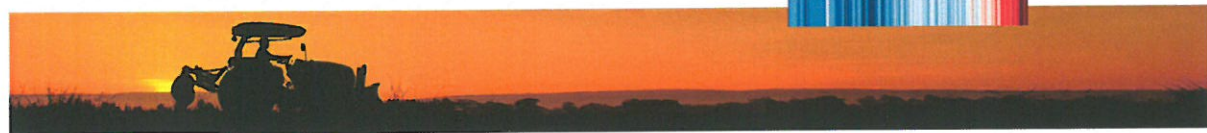


Trees

Leaders from more than 100 countries - with about 85% of the world's forests - **promised to stop deforestation** by 2030.

This is seen as vital, as trees absorb vast amounts of CO2.

Similar initiatives **haven't stopped deforestation**, but this one's better funded. However, it's unclear how the pledge will be policed.



Methane

A **scheme to cut 30% of methane emissions by 2030** was agreed by more than 100 countries.

Methane is currently responsible for a third of human-generated warming.

The big emitters China, Russia and India haven't joined - but it's hoped they will later.



Money

Financial organisations controlling \$130tn **agreed to back "clean" technology**, such as renewable energy, and direct finance away from fossil fuel-burning industries.

The initiative is an attempt to involve private companies in meeting net zero targets. However, some environmental organisations have said without a greater commitment to ending support for fossil-fuels, this could be little more than a PR exercise.

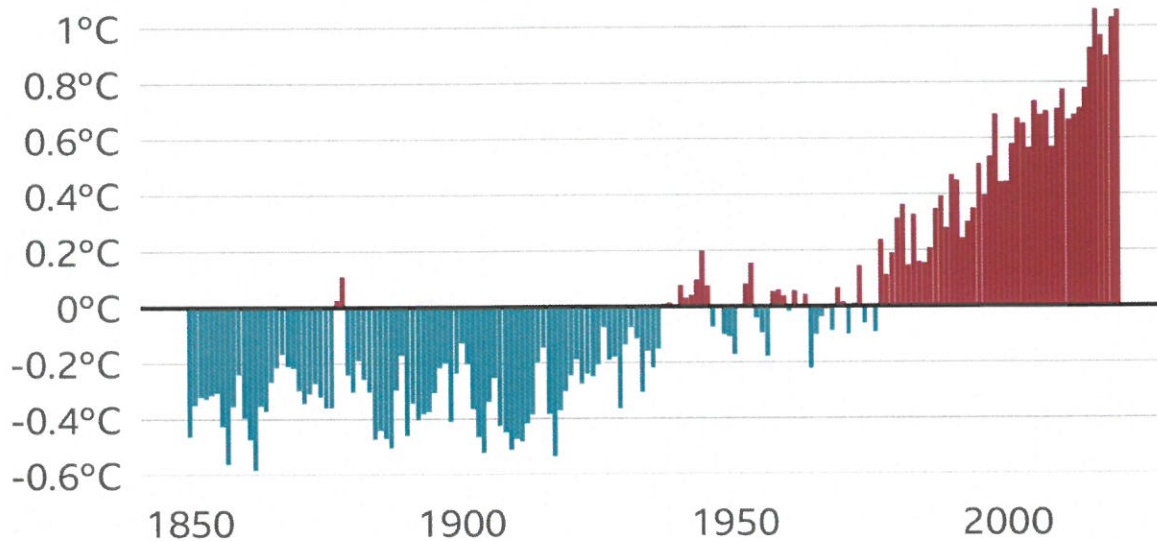
How will countries be made to meet their pledges?

Most commitments made at COP will have to be self-policed.

Only a few countries are making their pledges legally binding.

The world is getting warmer

Annual mean land and ocean temperature above or below average, 1850 to 2020



Note: Average calculated from 1951 to 1980 data

Source: University of California Berkeley



What was COP26 and why was it necessary?

COP26 was the moment countries revisited climate pledges made under the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Six years ago, countries were asked to make changes to keep global warming "well below" 2C - and to try to aim for 1.5C.

COP stands for "Conference of the Parties", and the one in Glasgow was the 26th annual summit. Ahead of it, 200 countries were asked for their plans to cut emissions by 2030.

The goal is to keep cutting emissions until they reach net zero by mid-century.

Next year's COP27 summit is in Egypt.

All new buildings in England to have electric car charge points from 2022

Boris Johnson to announce plans at CBI conference, telling business leaders the UK is at a pivotal moment



About 250,000 home and workplace charging points are already in place. Photograph: David Gee 4/Alamy

Aubrey Allegretti

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Sun 21 Nov 2021 22.30 GMT

Boris Johnson will seek to boost the UK's clean energy credentials after a tricky UN climate crisis conference by announcing that all new buildings in England will be required to install electric vehicle charge points from next year.

In a speech to the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) in the north-east of England on Monday, the prime minister will reveal plans, briefed as "world-leading", to toughen up regulations for new homes and buildings.

From next year developers on sites such as supermarkets and office blocks will be required to install electric vehicle charging points, in an attempt to help phase out the use of petrol and diesel cars before sales of them come to an end in 2030. The government expects the move to lead to 145,000 new charging points each year.

Buildings undergoing renovations that leave them with more than 10 parking spaces will also be subject to the new measures.

Heralding the importance of clean energy just weeks after the UK hosted Cop26, Johnson will say the country is at a pivotal moment, adding: "We cannot go on as we are."

He will tell business leaders that it should not just be public spending that is used to "adapt our economy to the green industrial revolution", but that the government will focus on investment in science and technology, raise productivity and "then get out your way".

Defending the new requirements, Johnson will add: "We must regulate less or better and take advantage of new freedoms."

The government will also support a new loan programme worth £150m, distributed by Innovate UK over three years, to help British small and medium-size enterprises commercialise their latest research. The “innovation loans” will be accessible to a variety of sectors – including green businesses – and follow a pilot with businesses.

A further £9.4m in funding has been confirmed for what Downing Street said was a first-of-a-kind hydrogen project in the UK’s largest onshore windfarm, near Glasgow. The money will go to the Whitelee green hydrogen initiative to develop the country’s largest “electrolyser” – a system that converts water into hydrogen gas. It is used to store energy and supply local transport providers with zero-carbon fuel.

As part of the government’s bid to reach net zero by 2050, almost 26,000 publicly available electric vehicle charging devices have been installed – including 4,900 rapid ones. A total of 250,000 points in homes and workplaces have already been put in place.

Ed Miliband, the shadow business secretary, accused the government of “failing Britain’s automotive companies and workers”. He said: “Ministers have stepped back and left manufacturers, workers and the public on their own, failing to take the action necessary to make the switch affordable for families hit by a cost of living crisis.

“By extending the help to buy an electric car for those on lower and middle incomes and accelerating the rollout of charging points in areas that have been left out, [Labour] would ensure that everyone could benefit and make the green transition fair.”

The prime minister’s climate spokesperson, Allegra Stratton, raised eyebrows in August when she revealed she was still driving a third-hand diesel. When asked why she did not drive an electric vehicle, she said: “I don’t fancy it just yet.”

Stratton, who lives in north London, said this was because of the length of time it took to make trips to visit her father in the south of Scotland, her mother in Gloucestershire, her grandmother in north Wales, and her in-laws in the Lake District.

However, in October, just before world leaders gathered for Cop26, Stratton revealed she had ditched the diesel car.