



Mrs Sharon Henley, Clerk to the Parish Council

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Seacourt Hall, 3 Church Way, Botley, Oxford OX2 9TH

Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment & Wellbeing Committee held on Thursday 17th September 2020 at 7.00pm

Those Present: Cllr Church (Chairman), Cllrs Bastin, Berrett, Blase, Dowie, Kay, MacKeith and Potter

In Attendance: Sharon Henley, Clerk

Members of Public: 0

1. Apologies for Absence: There were none. Cllr Jones was absent.
2. Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda: Cllr Dowie declared a non-pecuniary interest as an allotment holder and member of the Seacourt Management Committee.
3. Questions from Members of the Public: There were none.
4. Minutes of the previous meeting on 14th May – Committee to note that these were approved at full Council meeting on 25th June 2020. Noted.
5. Matters Arising: Cllr Church noted that these were all included in the agenda.
6. Items for Consideration
 - a) A Climate and Nature Emergency Action Plan for North Hinksey Parish Council (Paper 1)
Cllr Church ran through the draft document in which his aim was to pull together all previously committed actions on Green Spaces and Climate. The following was discussed:

Climate Action

A new toolkit from the Centre for Sustainable Energy was awaited for measuring the impacts from buildings the Council owned or managed. Cllr Berrett noted that Covid secure measures for Seacourt Hall included air circulation by keeping windows open and this would negatively impact on its energy performance.

Green transport was not a large issue for NHPC but the current on-line meetings were better for the environment.

Air pollution – some of the worst in the area due to the A34.

Investments – the Council to investigate a change to the Unity Trust Bank who were more environmentally friendly than the existing bank and were thought to offer a good service to parish councils.

Planning applications – request that the district council provide more information about environmental impacts. This to be included in recommendations to full Council.

Neighbourhood Plan review – it was suggested that the wording was amended to state that the Council would ‘look to review the Plan to support aims of this action plan’ as it may not be achievable to review the current plan in the short term.

Bulk Purchase – potential could be explored by placing an article in The Sprout.

Walking – it was noted that the Centre for Sustainable Health Walks based in Oxford already had grant funding for this. Walks could potentially be co-ordinated with the doctor’s surgery.

The formation of a Climate Action Group had been one of the calls of the Big Green Day that NHPC had hosted in February and required follow up, possibly via a meeting and this document would provide a plan.

Nature

Managing land – discussion was required between the three relevant NHPC Committees to get bigger biodiversity gain. Existing management plans could be reviewed and added to and, in particular, clarity on ownership on small plots of land was required. It was recognised that the allotments would require special consideration as they were not managed primarily with biodiversity in mind.

Tree planting- it was suggested that the Committee look at a possible space for a community woodland.

It was agreed to hold one Biodiversity meeting hosted by NHPC involving all three relevant Committees and to amend the draft wording.

Protecting water quality – Cllr MacKeith noted that this was supported by the Earthwatch Thames Valley Water Blitz on 20-23 September but commitment to this was required by Monday. It was therefore agreed that Cllr MacKeith would respond in a personal capacity this year and circulate information to councillors for information and add it in for future years.

Enabling action by communities – the plan included discussion on joining the Oxclean litter campaign

The draft plan included an indicated delivery timetable. After discussion it was agreed that a three month priority plan should be identified and presented to the next full Council meeting for approval. Cllr Church to circulate a draft to committee members prior to the meeting. This was Proposed by Cllr Church, Seconded by Cllr Blase. Cllrs Bastin, Berrett, Kay, MacKeith and Potter voted in favour and Cllr Dowie against so the Motion was carried.

b) Tree Week 2020 (Paper 2)

The four proposals on the paper were discussed.

The first proposal was to plant c.100 small trees on the Lower Louie Memorial Field Paper during Tree Week 26th November – 8th December. This was discussed at length with councillors agreeing that this could not be taken forward at present. It was thought that

further discussion was required on an appropriate location and this could not be concluded in time for the November date.

Cllr Church proposed that point 1 was removed from the proposals and the remaining three points to be taken forward:

- Look for other suitable places to plant trees in our parish and engage with landowners
- Talk with local groups who might like to help
- Commit up to £250 towards tree and relevant materials

This was Seconded by Cllr Potter and it was unanimously agreed that recommendations were to be taken to full Council.

- c) Air Pollution update: Cllr Jones was not present so the item was deferred, although it was understood that she was applying to the Dept of Transport for funding.
- d) Litter action: Additional litter posters were required and it was agreed to bring proposals to the next committee meeting.
- e) Responding to the Oxfordshire 2050 plan and the County LTCP transport plan: It was thought that both plans were likely to be coming for public consultation, possibly prior to the next Committee meeting. It was agreed that Committee members who were interested in submitting comments to draft proposals for the next full Council meeting.
- f) Environmental improvements in the West Way development: This was deferred owing to lack of time in the meeting.
- g) Botley in Bloom – towards 2021? This was deferred owing to lack of time in the meeting.
- h) Oxford – Cambridge Expressway – Cllr Church updated that Highways England no longer had a team working on this which was as close as it could get to being formally cancelled.
- i) ‘20’s Plenty’ local speed limit – developments - Cllr Church reported that a county campaign was being considered. Cllr Blase advised the speed limit on Cumnor Hill had been changed from 40 to 30mph.

7. Any other items for information: There were none.

8. Date of next scheduled meeting: Thursday 26th November 2020 at 7pm, venue tbc

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 20.02 hours.