

Climate Change Forum

4th July 2023, 7.30 pm at Gardiner Memorial Hall, Burwell

Present: Clive Leach (Chair), Liz swift, Michael Swift, Jim Perry, Geraldine Tate, Helen McMenamini-Smith, Lea Dodds, Nicola Hallows, and Martin O’Leary

1. Apologies for absence
Paul Webb, Ian Woodroffe, and Jenny Moss.
2. Approval of the minutes of 6th June 2023
The minutes of the meeting held on 6th June 2023 were approved. Proposed by Jim Perry and seconded by Liz Swift.
3. Climate Change Action Sheet – Consideration of items and updates to the Climate Change Action Sheet
The following updates were noted:

Item	Update
Climate Action Policy	Clive Leach reported that he had attended the ECDC Community Energy Meeting for East Cambs. Report from the meeting discussed later in the meeting. Liz Swift reported that she had attended the CanFund Webinar.
Energy usage and sources	A quotation had been received from Sharman and Grimwade to carry out energy assessments for the Jubilee Reading Room and Mandeville Hall. Their proposal is for a comprehensive assessment and comes in at a cost of £3160 plus VAT for the Jubilee Reading Room and £4300 for Mandeville Hall. The Group agreed that an assessment is required, but the quotation from Sharman and Grimwade is high. The Clerk was asked to obtain some further quotations. It was agreed that the Jubilee Reading Room should be a priority.
Transport and travel	Clive Leach apologised for not having looked at information regarding EV points yet. It was noted that the roadworks are still in place along Newmarket Road. The cycleway next to the development is being constructed and the existing road appears to be narrower. Martin O’Leary asked about the Council’s decision to ask the community about initiating a Burwell bypass campaign. Council members explained that this is an initial survey to find out if this is something that the community would like the Council to do. Martin O’Leary explained that when considering any proposals for a bypass, the Council would need to consider how a bypass would fit into the Council’s Climate Change Policy and at what cost the scheme would be to the environment.
Agriculture and food	Martin O’Leary reported that he had not yet had the opportunity to contact the farmer he knew to see if he would be interested in joining the forum.
Housing and infrastructure	There were no further updates for housing and infrastructure.
Local business	There were no further updates relating to the local businesses.
Waste and resources	The Clerk reported that she had managed to successfully put one of the water refill points on the Refill App but was not sure if the second one had uploaded properly or not.

	<p>A letter has been sent to ECDC regarding the recycling of small electrical items. No response has been received.</p> <p>Lea Dodds reported that he had recently attended the recycling centre at Witchford and had asked what happens to items which are not broken and that could be reused. He was told that if the operatives are made aware of the item, then they can be moved to the centre's shop to be sold. If they are not aware they cannot save the item from going into the skip. This comes over as a very half-hearted approach.</p> <p>Nicola Hallows asked if there is anywhere in Burwell that could be used as a storage facility for items which still have a use, and that others could benefit from. Members were asked to give this some thought and the matter to be revisited at a later meeting.</p>
Environment and land use	<p>Nicola Hallows reported that she is working on the composting plan. Mr Rawlinson is hopefully filling up the water containers at Pauline's Swamp this weekend.</p> <p>Wild Burwell has been looking after some young saplings in the village. They have also removed the guards from the trees and hedging along Low Road, as well as overgrown grass and weeds from around the saplings. A couple of trees planted along Low Road have not survived. Most of the hedging plants appear to have survived. Wild Burwell will be holding their AGM on 16th July between 3 and 5 pm. This will be followed by a led walk.</p> <p>Nicola Hallows reported that Wild Burwell wishes to be involved with the new grass cutting contract. The Council is currently considering the option of returning the responsibility of the verge management to the County Council and in doing so, have asked the County Council for a specification/schedule for their grass cutting regime. The Council is also considering a No Mow May policy where it is safe to do so.</p> <p>There are a large number of wildflowers growing in Spring Close. It is not known when the hay cut in Pauline's Swamp and Spring Close will be carried out.</p>
Village Survey	No further updates, but there has been some discussion between Paul Webb and Clive Leach about including the proposed village speed reduction in the survey.
Fossil Fuels	See below.
Education	WI presentation was very good and well received.

4. Any Other Business

a) CANFUND Workshop -Report from workshop held on 20th June 2023

Liz Swift reported that she, Paul Webb, and Geraldine Tate had attended the recent Canfund workshop hosted by Innovate UK. The workshop addressed how carbon footprints can be reduced, encouraging the population to focus on carbon footprint reduction, how this can be done and how the many barriers can be overcome.

Lea Dodds stated that there are some changes that can only be made nationally, and that a recent survey, Climate Change was 8th in the list of concerns that families have, with the cost of living being considerable higher.

- b) Community Energy Development – Report on East Cambs CAN Seminar 15.6.2023 and Parish Council/Climate Change Forum – Discussion and agreement on how to engage with energy providers with regard to community energy development.

Clive Leach reported that he had attended the above seminar and that he had found the seminar to be very useful. Representatives from the Reach Solar Farm, Gamlingay Wind Farm, and Swaffham Prior Heat Network had been present. There was also a representative from Cambridgeshire County Council who had been appointed to assist with community energy projects. It was apparent at the seminar that there is enthusiasm for community energy schemes, but it is an uphill struggle to move forward. Emma Fletcher, one of the main organisers of the Swaffham Prior Heat Network is now working for Octopus for Community Development.

Forum members agreed that there is much to be gained by engaging with members of the energy industry, such as Octopus, about a possible renewable energy supply project for the village.

Martin O'Leary informed the Forum that he is a director of the Reach Solar Farm and that there is a huge financial risk if a community has their own scheme with out the backing of an industry partner. In the case of a solar farm, consideration has to be given to pay back terms at the end of the life of the solar panels, the expertise and dedication needed for the project to run, being the onus of only a few individuals who will age over the period of the life of the farm. Therefore, working in some form of partnership with industry is beneficial. Connection to the national grid can also be an issue. The next opportunity that Reach Solar Farm could possibly gain any additional grid space is 2029. Lea Dodds reported that in Denmark where members of the community had a financial involvement, wind farms were better received, and with less objections and complaints.

Geraldine Tate and Helen McMenamin-Smith left at 8.25 pm.

- c) Support for establishment and continuing operation of BEG website – possible Parish Council Funding

Clive Leach to ask the Council to consider a donation to support the website on behalf of BEG.

Jim Perry suggested in line with the song 'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle' that the Climate Change Forum should consider running a campaign, similar to the Safety Campaign, for the community.

5. Date of the next meeting

It was agreed that the next Climate Change Forum meeting would be held on the 5th September 2023, 7.30 pm at the Gardiner Memorial Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.28 pm.

Signed

Dated