

Climate Change Forum

4th January 2022 7.30 pm on Zoom

Minutes

Present: Jenny Moss (Chair), Gill Miller, Jim Perry, Liz Swift, Michael Swift, Geraldine Tate, Paul Webb, Brenda Wilson, Paul Pickles, Linda Hart, Nicola Hallows, Martin O’Leary, Yvonne Rix (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence
Helen McMenamin-Smith
2. Approval of the minutes of 2nd November 2021
The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2021 were approved. Proposed by Jim Perry and seconded by Michael Swift.
3. Climate Action Sheet

Item	Action Required	Person/Status
Climate Action Policy		
Energy usage and sources	Assess BPC Carbon Footprint Encourage use of https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/ Share on our website and BEG FB page Letter to Clunch	The Clerk explained that it would not be easy to put together all the information required. Using one building as a representative may be an option. It was suggested that it may be more appropriate for an outside organisation to be approached to carry out any carbon footprint assessment agreed and that this suggestion should be made to Full Council.
Transport and travel	EV Charging Points Cycle paths	Paul Webb to contact Emily Bolton re possible ECDC grant for EV Charging Points. Council has applied for funding for EV Grants for GMH through English Heritage – Result of application should be known late January early February. BEG looking at possible locations for charging points and the British Legion has been suggested. They will also be contacting businesses to see if they would be willing to have a point installed. Possible BEG Subgroup to be formed to look at potential cycle paths for example to the new Soham Train Station. Paul Webb made all aware that the Burwell Cycle Club had provided the Council with a report on cycleways in the village and this could be made available to BEG.
Agriculture and food	Promote local produce Liaise with BAGs over allotments Work with local farmers	Jen sent letter to Clunch Jenny Moss in discussion with BAGS regarding a possible Open Day at the allotments. The suggested date is the same as the date proposed for the Pauline’s Swamp Open Day. This could work, with the two events publicising each other.

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		<p>The Forum is still keen to have a representative from the local farming community. Brenda Wilson to try to establish a list of farmers in the village so that a letter from the Parish Council can be sent to them explaining about the Forum and asking if anyone would like to be a representative. Michael Swift made the Forum aware of possible future Government policy to encourage farmers to plant hedging and wildflower areas on their land</p>
Housing and infrastructure	<p>Focus on the need for new builds to be carbon neutral</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plan</p>	<p>Jenny Moss had received a response from Lucy Frazer MP (Appendix 1)</p> <p>An email had been received from BEG asking the Parish Council to consider having a Neighbourhood Plan. Michael Swift explained that under different guises, Neighbourhood Plans had been going for over 30 years and that the work involved in putting a plan in place is immense, and that a plan would not change override Government legislation regarding building standards. New housing already must meet Government environmental legislation and would therefore not recommend having a Neighbourhood Plan. If the Council did decide to have a plan, work on the document is likely to take three to four years, with extensive consultations with the Parish, a costly referendum and inspection by the Planning Inspectorate. ECDC has a Local Plan which each Parish submitted content to be included. The Clerk advised that if the Council wished to consider having a Neighbourhood Plan that an extensive study on what should be included, what is achievable, what legislation is already in place in comparison with the work and the costs involved in compiling the plan.</p> <p>Liz Swift explained, in response to a comment that the Parish Council appeared to have a defeatist attitude to Neighbourhood Plans, that the Council is exceptionally busy, managing many properties and projects and is being pragmatic and realistic on achievable workloads for staff and Councillors. It was suggested that as many people as possible should lobby MPs, and the County and District Councils regarding building properties to high environmental standards.</p>
Local business		<p>BEG members are writing to local businesses regarding having EV points. Nicola Hallows asked what plans the Forum has for involving businesses, as some businesses may be willing to offer some sponsorship. Jenny Moss explained that she had written to around 30 local businesses for sponsorship for the Community Gardens and only one had responded. Involving the local Co-op may be an option. Jenny Moss to speak to Steve Smith the local manager soon. The Co-op does however have to comply with national guidelines for the support they can offer to the community.</p>

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Waste and resources	Promote recycling/upcycling Water refill stations Repair Cafe	<p>Jenny Moss to ask the Co-op if they would be willing to have a water filling station. The tap at the Recreation Ground could be added to the 'Water Fill App' that is available. The Anchor Pub in North Street also has a water filling station. Water filling stations to be discussed at the next Community, Leisure and Sports Group meeting.</p> <p>Possibility of a Repair Café being set up to be discussed at the next Community, Leisure and Sports Group.</p>
Environment and land use	Tree Planting Wild flowering Community Gardens Environment Agency	<p>Disappointed that neither the CCC nor ECDC has land available. Wild Burwell/Tree Nursery have permission to plant some trees establishing in the Tree Nursery on National Trust land. Concern was raised about how established trees outside the Conservation Area have no protection against felling unless there is a Tree Protection Order assigned to them. Clerk to find out who controls which areas are designated as Conservation Areas. It was suggested that additional tree planting could take place on the arable field side of Pauline's Swamp.</p> <p>All members of the Forum have received a copy of the Parish Council Asset and Environments Group recommendations for the 2022 grass cutting season (Appendix 2). Nicola Hallows while agreeing with many of the recommendations was opposed to the 10 cuts proposed for the verges and felt that the reasons given for this decision were not justifiable and asked that the Climate Change Forum voting against the recommendations made by the Asset and Environment Group. Liz Swift explained that the Assets and Environment Group is aware of the need for biodiversity but had to consider all residents' views and move forward with a balanced approach taking into account all these views. By making changes slowly, would allow for residents to be made more aware of the need for biodiversity. Paul Webb explained that the Council would look to work with Wild Burwell with the design of the Community Gardens on Pound Hill and at the Recreation Ground to incorporate wildflower aspects. He explained where verges were concerned, safety was paramount and that the Parish Council did not have control over the cutting of all the verge areas in the village.</p> <p>Some concern was raised over the need for raised beds within the Community Garden. Martin O'Leary voiced that should the Parish Council go ahead with the community garden on Pound Hill he would need to consider his position on both the Climate Change Forum and the Spring Close Management Group. Jenny Moss suggested that Nicola Hallows should work with the Community Garden Group (Jenny Moss, Paul Webb and Helen McMenamin-Smith). Nicola Hallows agreed that she would be willing to do this.</p> <p>Paul Pickles who had previously worked for Anglian Water informed the Forum that he was willing to share his knowledge about the lode and the sewerage works with the Forum. He</p>

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		<p>explained that Burwell is in a fortunate position to have no water sources travelling into the village from higher ground. It also has no areas of long-term flooding. At the point when he left Anglian Water six years ago the sewage system was working well and there was still capacity in the system for growth. When issues arise, modelling is carried out and required adaptations made to ensure that the system remains within the legal requirements. Residents should be aware of the damage that can be caused to water ways, such as the Lode and the catch water drain, where all ground water drains within the village flow in to, when individuals clean their vehicles on the road.</p> <p>Concern was raised about the management of the ground through spraying being carried out under the solar panels at the Goose Hall Solar Farm. It is thought that original the ground was due to be kept clear by the grazing of sheep. Paul Webb to look at the initial planning application and consent.</p> <p>Paul Pickles was asked if he had any knowledge or advice on Chalk Streams and their management. The Lode has deteriorated over the last 40 years, Paul Pickles explained that the feeding of the ducks and swans particularly with animal food is detrimental to the chalk stream. Around ten years ago, Anglian Water had introduced a phosphate filter to prevent the main lode up to the Cock-Up Bridge suffering from similar damage. The Spring Close Management Group will be looking at the stream head at their working day to be held on Saturday 22nd January at 10 am and Paul Pickles was invited to attend. Maintenance of the stream head is also included in the Spring Close Maintenance Vision Plan.</p>
Village Survey		More information such as content topics, funding available, formats, online etc required.
Green Open Day		No further discussion took place.

4. Any Other Business

Jenny Moss asked for suggestions for content in the next letter to Clunch. Suggestions included how long bees had been in existence for, the way previous generations carried more out by hand than now a days and why washing vehicles on the road is bad for the environment.

5. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 1st February 2022 7.30 pm. Whether this meeting should be held on Zoom or Face to Face will be dependent on Covid closer to the time.

Signed:

Dated:

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