

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP AT WITHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD 30th MAY 2022 AT 6:30PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

PRESENT: - Councillors S. Ager, S. Hicks, J. Williams.

Staff: H Andrews - Deputy Town Clerk
 S Smith - P. A to the council

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

2 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr S. Ager was appointed Chairman of the group.

3 APPOINTMENT OF A VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr J. Williams was appointed Vice Chairman of the group.

4 TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members stated that they would like to have the ability to add additional councillors to the group, as well as interested co-optees. It was **AGREED** to include 'and additional interested co-optees' to item 10 of the terms of reference.

5 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record and subsequently signed by the Chairman.

6 WITHAM INDUSTRIAL WATCH

Cllr Ager gave feedback on a recent meeting with Witham Industrial Watch and members discussed the possibility of solar panels being used by businesses on the industrial estate in Witham. Cllr S. Ager informed members that she will be visiting Witham Industrial Watch on 8th June 2022 to discuss sustainability with some of the businesses.

7 GENERAL DEBATE

Members discussed topics that they thought may be appropriate for the group to focus on, these included:

- Battery operated tools for open spaces use
- An enquiry into the public toilets budget to see if there is enough for accessible running water in the park.
- Rewilding possibilities in our open spaces.
- Climate change aspects in the Neighbourhood Plan e.g., solar panels and ground source heat pumps in new builds.
- The potential of declaring a climate emergency in Witham.
- Increasing access to climate awareness information, e.g., on the website, in The Voice.
- Ways we can make our events more environmentally friendly, e.g., reduction of plastic use, increased amount of recycling bins.

It was **AGREED** that a future member pop-up stall would be dedicated to climate change awareness and members discussed suitable resources for the stall.¹

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members discussed that it is important to protect existing areas of wildlife in the town, as well as utilising pop up stalls, and welcome packs to share information regarding local climate change information.

There being no further business, the panel concluded at 7:40pm.

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Councillor S. Ager
Chairman

SS 06.06.2022

¹ Climate change awareness pop-up stall noted for Tuesday 2nd August 2022, location to be confirmed.