



HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall, High Street, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 2HG
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Minutes of the Climate and Biodiversity Emergency Committee (CBEC) held
6th February 2024 at 7pm, in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, High St, Haslemere

Chairman	*Cllr C Matthes
Vice-Chairman	*Cllr A. Bayliss
Councillors	Austin, Banfield, *Bridge, *Miller, *Waters, *Weatherburn, Weldon

* present

The meeting was clerked by the Town Clerk, Lisa O'Sullivan.

1/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED: That apologies are accepted from Cllrs Austin (study commitments), Banfield (reason not given), Weldon (meeting clash).

2/24 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

3/24 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held 26th September 2023 were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4/24 CARBON NEUTRAL ROADMAP

The council's plan needs further review; however most of the carbon neutral actions are pretty much complete. Cllr Matthes reported that she has contacted NALC and spoken to Andrew Maliphant about what the council should now be doing. He said that we are already doing well, and that NALC are developing tools from the 'great collaboration' that will be available to towns and parishes by the end of year. There will also be a Community Climate Action Plan. Cllr Waters questioned whether the work the council has already done could feed into any future work in this respect. Cllr Matthes will confirm. There was some discussion over the carbon footprint of the council and possible ways of measuring the town footprint. Cllr Matthes reported that there is a top-down tool which she will circulate the link to.

RESOLVED: That the carbon neutral roadmap is reviewed in 2025, Cllr Matthes is to report back on the new NALC guidelines once available.

5/24 BIODIVERSITY DUTY FOR TOWNS AND PARISHES

It was agreed that the NALC document, circulated with the agenda, is very good. Councils don't currently have a responsibility in law to take actions regarding biodiversity, but the government is very keen for them to look at it. NALC has worked on a draft response to the duty, and the town council has actually already completed some suggested actions, but more still needs to be done. Some ideas of next steps might include a draft model action plan. There has already been a meeting with the Haslemere Biodiversity Project and the council may be funding a biodiversity baseline on its own land however, most of the land in Haslemere is privately owned. To get a wider baseline we would need to work with other partners, including other councils, National Trust etc. Cllr Bridge noted that common land is a good place to start as its not commercially attractive. WBC has circa 60 acres at Haste Hill.

The committee asked that Jo Burns circulates a note on next steps from the SALC meeting she is attending on 20th February.

6/24 PARTNERING WITH LOCAL GARDENING / LANDSCAPING COMPANIES

At the last CBEC meeting, Cllr Bayliss' idea of inviting local gardening / landscaping contractors to an online meeting to discuss increasing biodiversity and reducing use of pesticides in their projects was agreed. He now has a list of local people and businesses and will arrange a Zoom meeting, inviting people by email and advertising on the Haslemere community board.

7/24 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – CLIMATE COLLECTIVE

The 'Climate Collective' is an informal group of local organisations who are working to limit climate change. Pre-Covid meetings were held in a local pub, but these have not re-started. It was agreed that a kick-off meeting at the town hall could be held to update other groups on what HTC has been doing and hear from others what their plans for the year are.

RESOLVED: Cllr Matthes will find out when the best time might be for the meeting, hopefully one evening in April. She will work with the Town Clerk to organise.

The Town clerk has booked a stand for the Charter Fair. There could be a QR code for people to follow and make promises for the Great Collaboration? <https://greatcollaboration.uk/>

8/24 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – BRIEF UPDATES

Love Haslemere Hate Waste (LHHW) - are holding a repair café at The Swan once a month. There is also a library of things at the library on Wey Hill and they are starting a project to avoid food waste. Cllr Matthes reported that the Great Green Get together may be held at the library, LHHW are organising it.

Transition Haslemere (TH):

There is a talk on 27th March at the Haslemere Hall about John Tindle who lived in Hindhead and was first person to professionally prove the greenhouse effect. He is buried in St Bart's graveyard and the Haslemere Society are hoping to raise money to renovate his grave.

The Wassail organised with COPSE, and National Trust was very well attended with 150-200 people present.

Green Coffee has also started up again, being held at the Courtyard Café.

Active Travel – have been working with schools to encourage cycling. With St Barts they have been encouraging children to walk / cycle / use public transport to get to school. AT are looking at infrastructure issues that might prevent this working and will have a walk about with a SCC highways engineer. Town Clerk to attend.

There are two local consultations that people should engage with. One on local footpaths, the other is the SCC 'vision zero' consultation, including the possibility of 20mph speed limits. The committee is conscious of the fact that the community needs to be brought on board with any potential speed limit changes.

At a meeting with WBC officers, ideas of working together were discussed. They hope to produce a plan to make it look and feel more pedestrian in some places in the town.

The town centre cycle shelter was discussed. AT did support it being installed. Since then, it has not been used enough in eyes of some residents. Cllr Bayliss asked how cycling can be promoted better? The Clerk suggested that the Council could provide adult cycle training courses, paid for from left over green grant funds.

Haslemere Biodiversity Project – Cllr Banfield was not present, a note of the meeting between HTC and HBP was circulated prior to the meeting.

Other community updates - none.

Meeting ended 8.45pm

Signed.....
Chairman of Meeting

Date.....