



HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall, High Street, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 2HG
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Minutes of the Climate and Biodiversity Emergency Committee (CBEC)
26th September 2023 at 7pm, Council Chamber, High St, Haslemere, GU27 2HG

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.

Before the main meeting started, Diane Moses from the Biodiversity Group of Haslemere Vision gave a presentation on the work the group has done so far and the work they are intending to do going forward. A copy of the presentation is appended to these minutes.

A grant application for £10k has been made to the Town Council, by the Biodiversity Group, for the financial year 2023-24. It was noted that a number of other significant applications had been received and that the group would need to be able to justify that figure for the budget working party. Cllr Banfield will work with them on this.

The Clerk noted that there was talk of plans being put forward for the management of areas that the Town Council manages, however nothing has been formally submitted for consideration.

It was agreed that a Memorandum of Understanding between HTC and the Biodiversity Group may be a good idea if the Council is going to fund them into the future.

18/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Bayliss had a work commitment, Cllr Austin had a college commitment, Cllr Weatherburn is away.

19/23 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Whilst Cllr Matthes did not have an interest to declare in any of the Agenda items, in the interest of transparency she reminded the committee that her husband, Gareth, is a paid ecologist on the biodiversity project.

20/23 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held 6th June 2023 were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

21/23 PARTNERING WITH LOCAL GARDENING / LANDSCAPING COMPANIES

The purpose of the item was to try and facilitate local people thinking about biodiversity in their gardens. Cllr Bayliss has suggested approaching local gardening / landscaping companies to see if the council can work with them to achieve this.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Bayliss is authorised to pursue this initiative, noting that he should include larger companies (such as those who maintain schools) as well as smaller local ones.

22/23 PROJECT ITEMS FOR COUNCIL BUDGET

The committee will consider this in time for the Participate and Update session on the 5th October.

ACTION: The Clerk will re-circulate information relating to Green Grants awarded since the initiative began.

23/23 CARBON NEUTRAL ROADMAP

This needs further review; however the carbon neutral actions are pretty much complete. There now needs to be a baseline of biodiversity on Council owned land and some sort of metric implemented to measure biodiversity going forward. There is a national one which can be used. The Chair will look into this for the next meeting.

24/23 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – BRIEF UPDATES
LHHW –

Cllr Matthes had not been able to ask Cllr Leach for an update however was able to report that they are about to launch their library of things.

ACTION: Cllr Matthes will circulate the PECAN report for Haslemere.

Transition Haslemere –

Cllr Matthes reported that they have been working with the River Wey Trust on water testing, objecting to the Farnborough Airport extension, energy projects and training tree wardens.

Active Travel -

Cllr Weldon reported from the minutes of the group's last meeting, highlights included working with local schools to reduce the number of car journeys. They also reported that the LCWIP plan is expected within 6 months, this will inform decisions on planning and other areas of local government. There will be a very large amount of money coming to Haslemere for improvements to transport.

The committee asked that their thanks to this group for all the work they do for the town is minuted.

Haslemere biodiversity group –

See above.


Other community updates.

The Clerk suggested that the committee could consider holding another Great Green Get-together event, following on from the success of the one held last year.

There was some discussion on the transfer of the Haslemere War Memorial Recreation Ground to the Town Council.

ACTION: The Clerk will approach the Leader and Portfolio holder at WBC to request a meeting to get a formal answer one way or another. She will give contact details to Cllr Bridge who will also email to ask the question of the WBC officers.

Meeting ended 8.45pm

Signed.....
Chairman of Meeting
Date.....17/7/25.....