



HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Climate and Biodiversity Emergency Committee (CBEC) held
11th June 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.

9/24 **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Cllr Bayliss nominated Cllr Matthes. Cllr Miller seconded the nomination.

There were no other nominations

RESOLVED: That Cllr Matthes is elected chair of CBEC for 2024-25.

10/24 **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

Cllr Matthes nominated Cllr Bayliss. Cllr Bridge seconded the nomination.

There were no other nominations

RESOLVED: That Cllr Bayliss is elected vice-chair of CBEC for 2024-25.

11/24 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

RECOMMENDED: That apologies are accepted from Cllrs Austin (study commitments), Weatherburn (holiday), Weldon (prior engagement).

12/24 **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

None.

13/24 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held 6th February 2024 were signed by the Chair as a true record.

14/24 **GREAT COLLABORATION – ONE PAGE TOPIC NOTES**

Cllr Matthes reported that NALC has formed a working group to produce one page advice sheets intended to share knowledge around achieving environmental goals. They are asking councils to produce these sheets if they have relevant experience. Initial suggestions are 1) how to commission a biodiversity audit (Haslemere's is starting this month) and 2) taking over management of a SANG (not many councils have done this and might be nervous).

RECOMMENDED: Cllr Matthes and the Clerk will complete the two advice sheets suggested above, Cllr Waters suggested a review in the future to see if anything else can be added.

15/24 **CLIMATE COLLECTIVE / EARTH DAY**

Cllr Matthes reported that in April, the Haslemere Museum had held an Earth Day event which local organisations such as COPSE, Transition Haslemere and LHHW had participated in. Whilst it was a great networking opportunity, there was not high footfall. Kay Topping has asked for help organising / promoting future events. The committee agreed that HTC should assist and participate in future events, the Clerk suggested that officers could help with promotion and that the Museum could apply for a Green Grant. It was also suggested that other local towns were approached to see how they promote similar events. Cllr Matthes noted that the Farnham one seemed to be very successful.

16/24 INITIATIVES FOR HTC STRATEGY

A council Update and Participate meeting is being held shortly and the chair asked members for project ideas linked to council strategy that could be taken forward to the meeting. The following were agreed:

Cllr Bayliss will bring some ideas for transport and infrastructure, currently being worked on by the Active Travel group.

The Biodiversity audit that the council has commissioned will undoubtedly suggest some schemes for improvements to the management of council land. These should be taken forward as projects.

17/24 PARTNERING WITH LOCAL GARDENING / LANDSCAPING COMPANIES

Cllr Bayliss has invited local gardening contracts, via Facebook, to a Zoom meeting but was disappointed how many attended the session, the majority being people he already knew. One person did, however, talk about some presentations she'd done in Petersfield about gardening in a high biodiverse way and is prepared do the same in Haslemere. It was suggested that the people Cllr Bayliss was hoping to reach may respond to a different method to Zoom however he does not have the time to take this forward at the moment. The Clerk will bring this back to next CBEC meeting.

18/24 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – BRIEF UPDATES

Love Haslemere Hate Waste (LHHW) no report

Transition Haslemere (TH) Cllrs Bayliss and Matthes were not at the last meeting but Clive Davidson has been involved in tree wardens training and also organising a climate hustings in Liphook.

Active Travel – Cllr Bayliss reported they are looking to find schemes to improve cycling / infrastructure in the town with the aim of putting in a CIL bid to the Town Council. Unfortunately schemes can be very expensive, a pedestrian crossing is from £100k, and also lots of initiatives have already been considered and rejected by the relevant authorities before. Once the LCWIP is formally approved Waverley can bid on our behalf for infrastructure projects.

Haslemere Biodiversity Project – Cllr Matthes reported that the biodiversity audit is underway and HBP are working with a number of organisations and on a number of projects. For instance, the rewilding of the strip on Churt Road alongside the Golden valley which has been seeded with seeds provided by Buglife. Cllr Waters noted that there should be strips at the natural access points to allow access from the pavement to the footpath, Cllr Matthes will feed this back.

Other community updates - none.

Meeting ended 20:00

Signed..... Date.....
Chairman of Meeting