

Minutes of the Climate Committee Meeting of Hythe and Dibden Parish Council

**Held at The Council Chamber, The Grove, 25 St. John's St, Hythe, SO45 6BZ
on Wednesday, 4th October, 2023 at 7.00 pm**

Cllr S Osborne (Chairman)

Councillors

Cllr P Dowd
Cllr D Cole

Councillors

Cllr M Wade

Officers in Attendance

Sue Bailey, Clerk
Marcus Kendall, Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor

150/23

APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs A Wade, V Joynes, C Shimman, N Martinez, S Delemare.

151/23

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

- a) To note any declaration of interest made by Members in connection with an Agenda item. Members to specify the nature of the interest; **Personal interest from Cllr P Dowd as acting Chairman of WaterCAN.**
b) To receive any written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests; **None.**
c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate. **None.**

152/23

MINUTES

Following discussion and subsequent agreement of the attendees at the last meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Climate Committee held on 5th July 2023 are approved.

153/23

PUBLIC FORUM

None.

154/23

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

To receive update on Chairman's activities over the past couple of months. The Parish Climate committee was originally established to reflect disappointment that the District Council had not joined 237 other councils who had declared support for the climate emergency. In February 2020 Council utilities providers were changed in favour of providers with a greener ethos and credentials, which also proved cheaper. COVID19 and lockdown meant that the next step of instructing a company to calculate the carbon footprint of the Council were not commenced until 2020. However ways of reducing the Councils' carbon

footprint were discussed and prioritised in the background. WCAG (Waterside Cycling Action group) contacted the Committee to discuss greener and better transport and road initiatives that this Council could support in their ongoing research and valuable feedback on local transport ideas, and provided a report on cycle parking in the area. We enthusiastically started a campaign to supermarkets to be leaders in REFILL, REUSE, REDUCE and take responsibility for waste packaging. True Horizons produced a report assisting the Parish Council on its journey to reduce carbon. This involved various initiatives but mainly centred on sending waste to an incineration facility just a few miles away which also produced energy in the same process. A further report was commissioned a couple of years later to be able to identify any more areas where the Council could reduce its carbon footprint. Since the Council has already implemented many of the easily identifiable and cheaper solutions, the remaining ideas will require greater partner working via grants and energy generation initiatives.

155/23

WATERCAN

To receive update from WaterCAN Chairman from recent events and future plans. The Hythe of Activity event in August was discussed and various volunteers checked and briefed with business cards organised ahead of their stall. The website is up and running with some information. A provisional talk schedule was agreed from September 2023 to March 2024. September's talks are 'Low cost DIY methods for Home Energy Savings' and 'Community Energy', October is 'A year in the Vegetable Garden'.

156/23

IBECCS REPORT

To receive suggestions from Councillors on the recommendations contained within the report and give guidance on future Council emphasis. The report which was disseminated amongst Cllrs was discussed in detail to assess where Council could place further emphasis in its carbon reduction aspirations. Many of the report's suggestions have either been investigated and are in the process of being implemented, or are being taken on board for future use when more funding is available. The wind power idea at Clayfields is being investigated. Liaison with SSEN is very difficult, but is necessary to ascertain electrical capacity at local substations before any further more expensive investigations are started. It is considered that a possible way forward would be to investigate ways of assisting the local community with carbon reduction ideas, e.g. writing to Southern Water to enquire about assisted water butt provision schemes. Further community initiatives can be supported via WaterCAN. Although further scope for large scale Parish Council progress is limited in this area, due to already having achieved so much, Councillors at the Committee are keen to be setting an example by considering other ideas on smaller scale matters which could be done to make an impact locally. Thus all Parish Cllrs are asked to suggest: 5 'unusual' ideas which the Council could do locally/or suggest to WaterCAN to take forward in this Parish over the next 12 months which are not hugely expensive or labour

intensive. Also Parish Cllrs are asked for three suggestions which 'individual 'Cllrs could do to reduce their carbon footprint themselves. All suggestions will be presented to the next Climate Committee for selection of the most popular 3 items in each category to pursue for individuals and the Council.

Meeting closed at 7.50 pm

Chairman

Date

DRAFT