



NOTES OF THE CLIMATE, SUSTAINABILITY AND BIODIVERSITY SUB-GROUP MEETING ON TUESDAY 2ND AUGUST 2022 COMMENCING AT 6.00PM IN THE OLD SCHOOL ROOM, MARDEN MEMORIAL HALL, GOUDHURST ROAD, MARDEN

1. PRESENT

Cllrs Besant, Boswell and Turner were present. Cllr Robertson and the Clerk was also in attendance.

2. APOLOGIES

Ray Morris, Marden Wildlife had given his apologies.

3. POLICY & TERMS OF REFERENCE

Both the policy and terms of reference for this Sub-Group had been drafted and agreed by Amenities Committee. These would now be put before Full Council and ratified. Once this had been done they would be uploaded to the website.

4. DRAFT SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

Cllr Boswell had drafted a sustainability plan several months ago and the Clerk had separated the items into Marden Parish Council projects and non-Parish Council projects so that Cllrs could see what MPC were able to achieve on its own land or assets etc.

Cllrs in attendance briefly looked through this and discussed what the next course of action would be in relation to realistic manageable ways in which MPC operates. Cllrs would look at MPC's processes in regard recycling, utility companies (are they sustainable etc), how to mitigate climate impact and the functions of employees and external contractors. Cllrs also proposed to put forward to Full Council a policy when making decisions: what is the climate impact? Can this be mitigated? It would be proposed to add to Terms of Reference for Council decision making and add additional items for consideration to Committee/Sub-Committee ToRs.

5. SUSTAINABILITY AUDIT

Cllr Turner had raised this at the last meeting and the Clerk asked if he had examples of this as couldn't find anything online. Cllr Boswell was part of a Climate WhatsApp group and would message out to see if anyone had a template. It was envisaged this audit would be done in house as a tick box exercise looking at utility companies; how the office works in regard to paper, recycling etc; how grounds staff dispose of grass cuttings, composting etc. This would be investigated further and report back to the next meeting.

6. OTHER ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED/ACTIONS

The Clerk had found an Open Spaces Biodiversity Policy online and Cllr Besant agreed to take this away and draft something for Marden.

Cllrs agreed to put forward the proposal of decision making in regard to any decision being considered for carbon footprint, climate impact etc.

Once the MPC document had been finalised Cllrs would then look at what could be done to assist the wider parish with biodiversity.

Cllr Besant would investigate carbon calculators to look at, initially, MPC run events such as Marden at Christmas to see how this could be offset.

The Clerk would look at an Estate Management Plan as to the work of the grounds staff (mowing, planting, purchasing of equipment, recycling etc) along with the ways of working within the office.

Cllr Boswell would review the Sustainability Plan and would liaise with the Administrative Assistant to help with this.

Cllr Turner would look into the Sustainability Audit along with the Clerk.