

Minutes of the Environment Committee held at The Rackliff Centre on

Monday 17th January 2022 at 7.30 pm

Members Present:

Cllr A Britcher – Allan (ABA), Cllr A Taylor (AT), Cllr Liz Ellicott (LE), Cllr P Gripper (PG)

Non voting members; Jenny Blackburn; Jane Sharratt & Phillip Wheeler

Officer Present:

Ms L Neusten (LN)

In Attendance:

None

Members of the Public:

None

1. Enquire whether anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record the meeting
No

2. To receive and approve apologies for absence
None

3. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests
No

4. Declarations of Lobbying
No

5. Open session for questions from the public: nothing to report

6. i. Minutes 18th October 2021 approved and signed.

ii. Matters outstanding from last minutes - response from Land registry received regarding ownership of land adjacent to Cheese Pizza. We now plan to approach owners to seek permission to have a cycle rack placed on said land.

7. Update on Electrical Charging Point: RPC scored well in KCC application process. The next stage is for KCC to conduct a site visit. Action: Officer Neusten to contact KCC and try and arrange an appointment.

8. Update on Housing insulation schemes – New government scheme starting in April 2022, offering £5000 grants to householders to use in part payment towards a new Heat Pump. Rusthall Parish Council could consider purchase of a Thermal Imaging Camera (possibly to share with a neighbouring Council) to assist and promote improving insulation around the village.

- 9. Update on Arriva – nothing to report**
- 10. Update on Road safety visual audit with Commons Conservators –** work has already taken place to cut back verges Aim to keep lighting ‘clean’ and functional. This is an ongoing activity
- 11. NALC Climate Energy Conference – Cllr L Ellicott -** very useful with several ideas we could adopt.
3 levels of Council presented. Level 1 Kent County Council(KCC), Level 2 Canterbury Town Council and Level 3 Cranbrook Parish Council.
KCC – works to published UK target regarding achievement of net zero energy use. Recommends every council looks at ways to improve energy use ie. Go Paperless. More ideas to be found on Kent Green Action website.
Canterbury – All their decisions must consider climate impact. Ie. Parking schemes. Recommends all councils declare an Climate Emergency; also that we could try and calculate our Carbon footprint using online calculator.
Cranbrook – Have created an Eco Design Guide which is given to all contractors before engaging them
- 12. Litter Pick update:** - No activity during winter months. Aim to organise an event in March or April 2022, which will be advertised via website and Facebook and via Rusthall Life.
- 13. Fremlin Pond update:** Kent High Weald clean-up of pond scheduled for 16th March 2022. Need to plan for a successor to Jenny Blackburn who will act as 1st point of contact for liaison with contractors and users.
- 14. Proposal to declare a Climate Emergency:** Several other Parish councils have already declared, and are now working through all activities to aim at net zero carbon use. Action - Officer Neusten to investigate Declaration Statements used by other Councils. Cllr Ellicott proposed formation of a working party to draft the declaration in readiness for Council Meeting on 7th February 2022.
- 15. Organisations to consider liaison with:** - Kent High Weald; Kent Wildlife trust; Bee Keepers groups; Rusthall School – Eco systems already in place; Local businesses. Environment committee to aim at advertising it’s presence via social media and local press.
- 16. Items for information:**
- 16.i Queens Canopy – trees now distributed as per previous published list.
 - 16.ii Mans Shed – consider creation of one to support mental health issues of male residents.
 - 16.iii Sweeping of leaves – various streets now covered and in need of sweeping. Action: Cllr Britcher-Allan to investigate which council is responsible.
 - 16.iv Repair Café at Sunnyside Hall? Cllr Britcher-Allan reported it is already in planning stages.
- 17. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 17th January 2022 at 730pm**

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm



..... Chairman

Dated 25/4/22