

Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Environmental Action Working Group held at 6.30pm on Thursday 2nd February 2023 in the Windrush Room at the George Moore Community Centre

Those Present: J Wareing (Chair), Tom Constant, Neil Cox, Madeleine Cox, Amanda Davis, Emma Dixon, Bob Hadley, Nick Hawke, Lynda Hicks, Jennifer Lanham, Andy Lewis, Andy Roberts, Sue Roberts

1. Welcome and Introductions. The Chairman welcomed all attendees to the meeting.
2. Terms of Reference: All new members who were not parish councillors were asked to sign Appendix 1 of the Terms of Reference to confirm their membership. Completed forms to be returned to the Parish Clerk.
3. Discussion of areas and ideas of interest
 - a) Drinking Fountain on the Village Green

It was reported that Steve Cotton is looking into the possibility of a drinking water point outside the Public Lavatories on the High St adjacent to Rectory Lane. In addition, Sea Salt are apparently offering water bottle refilling. The possibility of embracing the national sticker scheme for water bottle refilling was aired.

After much discussion it was concluded that the best option was to explore a drinking water point at the Victoria Hall.

- b) Community Composting Scheme

This scheme aims to reduce the requirement for green waste collection and your allotment/garden waste comes back as useful compost. (See more at: <http://compostworks.co.uk/community-composting/>)

The green waste bin scheme currently costs households £57pa (a £10 increase on last year owing to rising costs of diesel and Ubico pay increases. Given the relatively low population density of

Local Authority	Year	Charge	Duration (Months)	Equivalent Charge (for full year)	Area (m ²)	Population (2021)	Density	Charge (per m ²)
Cheltenham Borough	2022/23	£ 50.00	11.00	£ 54.55	18.00	118,836	6,602	£ 3.03
Gloucester City	2023/24	£ 44.00	10.00	£ 52.80	15.65	132,416	8,461	£ 3.37
Cotswold	2023/24	£ 57.00	11.50	£ 59.48	449.60	90,832	202	£ 0.13
Forest of Dean	2023/24	£ 50.00	11.50	£ 52.17	203.20	87,005	428	£ 0.26
Stroud	2023/24	£ 51.50	10.00	£ 61.80	177.90	121,104	681	£ 0.35
Swindon Borough	2023/24	£ 59.99	11.50	£ 62.60	88.84	233,407	2,627	£ 0.70
Tewkesbury Borough	2023/24	£ 52.00	11.50	£ 54.26	160.00	94,884	593	£ 0.34
Vale of the White Horse	2022/23	£ 55.00	11.50	£ 57.39	223.40	138,931	622	£ 0.26
West Oxfordshire	2023/24	£ 45.00	11.50	£ 46.96	275.83	114,237	414	£ 0.17

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Cotswolds District, we actually have the lowest cost of service relative to the area covered, although the third most expensive in annualised actual cost of neighbouring authorities). The rise in absolute cost may however encourage people to consider a community scheme more favourably. It was agreed that we should pursue this scheme.

c) Bee Squared

Bees and other pollinating insects are essential to life as we know it. Bees are vital to both pollinate the food we need to survive and pollinate many of the trees and flowers that provide habitats for wildlife. This scheme encourages everyone to plant a 1m squared area with wildflowers from seeds provided by the scheme. (See an example here: <https://climateactionnow.uk/bee-squares/>)

Discussion was had around potential planting sites around the village such as outside The Willow/Harrison James & Hardie with a view to preventing unauthorised usage of the paved area for motorbike parking. This option remains on the table for further exploration.

d) Carbon Reduction Plan

This suggestion is to support the Parish Council in its aspirations to be a zero-waste community by 2030 and to become carbon neutral. (See an example here: <https://www.harrogate.gov.uk/climate-change/carbon-reduction-strategy>)

It was agreed to look at what Northleach are doing and see if there is scope for working together. Interesting discussion points included tiered car park pricing, a low emissions zone and options for encouraging cycling.

e) Walking Bus

This scheme is aimed at encouraging a reduction in the number of School Car Runs in the Village. (See more here: <https://www.greenschoolruns.org/walking-bus>) Nick Hawke undertook to explore this option. It may also be useful to connect with Kate, CDC Community Support Officer from the Community Wellbeing team on this.

f) Community Energy Scheme

To explore the possibility of building on the example of Thameshead Energy in reducing energy costs, reducing carbon footprint and generating income for the community. (See more at: <https://thamesheadenergy.org/>) This is an interesting idea that needs more time for exploration and search out similar schemes in neighbouring areas.

g) Fresh Milk Dispensing Scheme

To understand the possibility of a fresh milk dispensing scheme in the Village to avoid purchasing milk in plastic containers. This is in progress and we will keep the group updated when we have more concrete news.

h) Reducing packaging waste from High Street hospitality outlets

To explore how to engage with local takeaways in order to reduce the amount of waste being generated by packaging that ends up in bins on the Village Green

At 20:00 the meeting was closed in order not to overrun the allotted time. At our next meeting we need to establish actions and interest in taking these and any other ideas forward.