



Stone
Town Council

Town Clerk

Les Trigg

Tel: 01785 619740

Email: clerk@stonetowncouncil.gov.uk

15 Station Road
Stone
ST15 8JP

5 August 2019

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT SUB COMMITTEE** will be held in the **Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone**, on **TUESDAY 13 AUGUST 2019** at 7:15pm or on the rising of the Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee, if later.

I trust you will be able to attend.

Les Trigg
Town Clerk

Councillors: P Leason (Chair), T. Adamson (Vice Chair), K. Argyle, Mrs A. Burgess, M. Hatton, T. Kelt, J. Powell and R. Townsend

AGENDA

1. **To receive apologies for absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations Received**
3. **Representations from Members of the Public**

To consider representations from members of the public on items to be considered at this meeting, in accordance with the Council's scheme of public participation

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Sub-Committee held on 18 June 2019, Minute No's ENV20/001 – ENV20/008 (attached)

5. **Item Referred from General Purposes Committee on 2 July**

- a) For Sale signs at the entrance to Trent Close (Minute GP20/045)

6. Working Groups

- a) To consider splitting the current Plastic Free Community and Environmental Issues Working Groups into two groups to deal with 'Plastic Free Community' separately from 'Environmental Issues'
- b) If agreed, to appoint members to the two working groups

7. Updates

To consider updates on matters from previous Minutes:

a) Leaflet on the Meadow

Minute Number ENV19/005 & ENV19/018:

That the costs of producing an information leaflet be investigated by Councillor Leason, and the findings reported back to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee

b) Community Planting Exercise

Minute Number ENV19/012 & ENV19/018:

That a community planting exercise is considered for the planting of new wild flowers on Crown Meadow

c) Tree & Hedge Planting – Charter for Trees Campaign

Minute Number ENV19/013 & ENV19/018:

That the location identified in Crown Meadow is recommended for tree planting and that this is undertaken through a community tree planting project

8. Members Motions Under Standing Order 4

Councillor Mrs A. Burgess

'I would like to set up contact lens recycling in Stone, hopefully involving the opticians, hotels, B&B's and AirBNB places in the area. I have some facts and figures about the number of contact lenses worn each year etc and am hoping to speak to the opticians in the town to ask whether they currently are involved in recycling contact lenses, and/or if they are interested in being involved, and also asking for some advice and help to enable this scheme to work.

The Sub-Committee is asked to support this initiative'.

9. Reports of Working Groups

- Plastic Free Community and Environmental Issues Working Group

Notes of the meeting are attached.

Will any Councillors who wish to speak at this meeting, but are not members of the Sub-Committee, please inform the Chairman before the start of the meeting

Members of the public are welcomed to attend the Environment Sub-Committee Meeting as observers and/or to make representations to the committee in accordance with the Council's scheme of public participation. Details of this scheme are displayed in the Council's notice boards and are also available from the Town Council.

Stone Town Council – Environment Sub-Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 18 June 2019

PRESENT: Councillor P. Leason in the Chair and
Councillors: T. Adamson, K. Argyle, Mrs A. Burgess, M. Green, M. Hatton, T. Kelt,
R. Kenney, J. Powell and R. Townsend

By Chairman's invitation: Mrs J. Hood

ABSENT: There were no Councillors absent

ENV20/001 **Apologies**

There were no apologies.

ENV20/002 **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

None received

ENV20/003 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None

ENV20/004 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

That the minutes of the Environment Sub-Committee meeting held on the 19 March 2019 (Minute Numbers ENV19/015 – ENV19/019), be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

ENV20/005 **Membership of Working Groups**

RESOLVED: To confirm membership of the following Working Groups:

Single Use Plastics and Environmental Issues Working Group

Councillors: T. Adamson, Mrs A. Burgess, M. Green, M. Hatton, T. Kelt, P. Leason,
R. Townsend

Co-opted non-Councillor Member: Mrs T. Lindop

ENV20/006 **Members Motions Under Standing Order 4**

Councillor T. Adamson

Stone Town Council should declare a climate emergency in common with an increasing number of other councils throughout the country. We have 12 years to act to reduce the effects of climate change and as a Town Council we need to

be clear that we want to address this emergency.

It is proposed that the Town Council:

- 1. Publicly declares a climate emergency.*
- 2. Sets a target that Stone should become carbon neutral by 2030.*
- 3. Assigns a climate emergency working group reporting to the Environment Sub-Committee. This group should co-opt members to ensure that it represents a cross section of the community. It should look at all aspects of how Stone could become carbon neutral.*
- 4. Puts pressure on the Borough and County Councils to also declare a climate emergency.*
- 5. Puts environmental impact as a higher priority in making decisions and considers how its decisions impact the goal of carbon neutrality.*

In proposing the above motion, Councillor Adamson expressed his vision that a climate crisis action plan be devised within a working group consisting of co-opted members appointed from a cross section of the community, incorporating all age ranges.

The Sub-Committee thanked Councillor Adamson for his briefing, but recognised that the subject matter was complex and raised concerns about Members being well enough equipped with knowledge of the subject matter to be able to consider his proposal at this meeting. It was considered that further investigation was required, including whether the cost implications of his proposal would be achievable within the constraints of the Town Council's budget (present and future).

RESOLVED: That the Single Use Plastics and Environmental Issues Working Group is asked to consider Councillor Adamson's proposal and that its findings are reported back to the Environment Sub-Committee.

ENV20/007 Updates

To consider updates on matters from previous Minutes:

- a) Leaflet on the Meadow

Minute Number ENV19/005 & ENV19/018:

That the costs of producing an information leaflet be investigated by Councillor Leason, and the findings reported back to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee

The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that the leaflet illustrating flora and fauna on Crown Meadow was making progress. A second leaflet featuring Spring and Summer was also to be planned.

b) Community Planting Exercise

Minute Number ENV19/012 & ENV19/018:

That a community planting exercise is considered for the planting of new wild flowers on Crown Meadow.

The Chairman informed the Sub-Committee that he would like to arrange an on-site meeting with Sub-Committee members and the Grounds Maintenance Contractor to discuss the execution of a community planting exercise on Crown Meadow. The findings from this meeting would be reported back to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

c) Tree & Hedge Planting – Charter for Trees Campaign

Minute Number ENV19/013 & ENV19/018:

That the location identified in Crown Meadow is recommended for tree planting and that this is undertaken through a community tree planting project

The Chairman informed the Sub-Committee that he would like to arrange an on-site meeting with Sub-Committee members and the Grounds Maintenance Contractor to discuss the execution of tree and hedge planting on Crown Meadow. The findings from this meeting would be reported back to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

It was suggested that an arboricultural officer/tree officer be invited to the next meeting.

The Chairman advised that he would be setting a schedule of dates for future meetings.

RESOLVED: To note the updates on matters brought forward from previous Minutes.

ENV20/008 Reports from Working Groups

To receive a report from the Chairman of the Sub-Committee and working groups:

Plastic Free Community & Environmental Issues Working Group

The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that no Working Group meeting had been held.

RESOLVED: To note the progress report on the work of the group.

Chairman

Report of Plastic and Environment Working group (25/06/2019)

Attendees: Phillip Leason, Robert Townsend, Angie Burgess, Tom Adamson, Tracey Lindop, Mark Green

Apologies: Mark Hatton

The meeting covered two topics and was the first meeting for the new councillors:

- Getting Stone Plastic Free Status
- Declaring a Climate emergency

Tracey as a co-opted member of the working group for her good work with 'Stone plastic free' stayed for the first part of the meeting.

Getting Stone Plastic Free Status

Tracey gave us an update on what herself and the 'Plastic Free Stone' facebook group were trying to achieve. Tracey informed us that she was following the campaign structure formulated by Surfers against Sewage (SAS) to try and get Stone declared a Plastic Free Town. The link below is for the SAS website and plastic free communities:

<https://www.sas.org.uk/plastic-free-communities/>

To achieve a Plastic Free Town Status there are a number of things that are required in accordance with the SAS campaign, the items that were discussed:

Business becoming Plastic Free Champions

STC becoming Plastic Free Champion

Recycling

Litter picks

Great unwrap

Allocate a STC councillor to the campaign

There has been some great successes with some Stone business's getting a Plastic free champion status, for a business to achieve this they have to remove or replace 3 single use plastic items from their business, this maybe plastic straws, plates, plastic bags etc.

We discussed how STC could become a plastic free champion, for example removal of all single use plastic cups in STC buildings, it was agreed that discussion would need to take place between the council and the town clerk on how to proceed with this

Tracey informed us of the new TerraCycle drop off point at Manor Rise school, TerraCycle is an innovative recycling company that recycle all plastics, the drop off at Manor Rise is for crisp packets and pens. The Borehole has also been a drop off point for crisp packet recycling as well.

Tracey has organised a number of litter picks and recorded them for the purpose of getting the plastic free status

Tracey is also trying to organise a Great Unwrap event at Morrison, no date has been confirmed. The event will encourage shoppers to unwrap their shopping in the carpark to show the ridiculous amount of single use plastic and this should be supported by STC councillors.

To achieve the town plastic free status a STC councillor needs to be assigned to the campaign, and to work with them to achieve the plastic free status. This will need to be discussed at the Subcommittee meeting and a Councillor to be appointed.

Overall the campaign group is doing a great job and it was decided that the STC should fully support this campaign in achieving a Plastic Free Status town.

Climate Emergency

The second part of the meeting discussed the members motion put forward by Cllr Adamson in the environment subcommittee meeting, see minute number ENV20/006. A detailed discussion on what the declaration would mean for the STC and what was achievable was undertaken. The outcome of the discussion was the working group recommended that the following actions to take place:

The STC should declare a Climate Emergency and recognise the threat to Stone, our country and our planet from the climate crisis.

The target will be for STC to be carbon neutral by 2030 and will endeavour to get Stone town carbon neutral by 2030, in line with many other councils.

STC will create a Climate Crisis work party to strategise on how these targets can be met. The council will advertise and call on the community and businesses to form the working parties. The council will act as facilitators and enablers for the community driven initiatives. The forming of these groups would be carried out in the first 6 months and an initial climate crisis plan drafted and reported to the Council at the end of this time period.

We did stress in the meeting that this is the first step in a long process to achieve the targets set and that as a small council with limited funds that we should act as community facilitators and enablers, and that we would put environmental impact a higher priority in all council decisions.

To conclude, we felt the climate emergency will be a positive action for the council to make and that it will have positive knock on effects, for example, tackling childhood obesity, increased fitness, reduction of traffic and increase of greenspaces.