

**HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL**  
**CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY COMMITTEE 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Present:** Councillor Dan Powell (Chair) and Councillors Cat Hornsey, Rob Owens, Aubrey Oliver, Jeremy Milln and Diana Toynbee

**Attending:** Steve Kerry Town Clerk

**CBD2022/23.10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None

**CBD2022/23.11 SUBSTITUTIONS**

None

**CBD2022/23.12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**CBD2022/23.13 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Noted that in Minute 1 the reference to Councillor Tyler should read Councillor Toynbee.

With that correction, it was proposed by Councillor Oliver, seconded by Councillor Toynbee and unanimously

**RESOLVED That the minutes of the meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> June as corrected be accepted as a true record and signed accordingly by the Chair.**

**CBD2022/23.14 FUTURE PROJECTS**

The Clerk introduced this item explaining that without a dedicated officer to progress all projects it was necessary to prioritise time and resources to make sure some matters were delivered rather than lots of things started but not finished. The first annual award had taken place at the River Carnival and one project was to expand awards across local schools with a presentation at the pre-Christmas Council meeting. This needed to be considered alongside other possible areas of activity.

On the matter of better lighting for King George's Playing Fields to encourage cycling and running in the evenings, it was noted that, at a recent discussion of a grant application, Herefordshire Council members has said there was a proposal and some funds allocated at the County for precisely that purpose, as bringing parks into use, and enabling people to feel safe when using them, was something that had attracted some ring fenced funding and was likely to proceed. It was informally agreed not to progress this with the Committee at this time, as this was likely to be a duplication of effort.

Citizen Scientist Project – it was not clear if this actually needs any help form the City Council. A group of people are sampling the River Wye and testing for phosphate and other pollutants and building a scientifically valid database. It was also noted that the Friends of Bartonsham Meadow are seeking control of that area from the Church Commissioners which would open up further testing opportunities on that side of the river to compliment the work being done by St James and Bartonsham Community Association on the south side. If funding is an issue

local members will steer the groups towards our External Funding and Community Support Officer who is well placed to advise.

Increasing wildlife diversity is not going well in the City. Councillor Milln undertook to contact the Wildlife Trust to see specifically what the Committee could help with, if possible their new Chief Executive will be invited to the next meeting to see if a joint programme can be agreed. This would be particularly timely if and when the Bartonsham Meadows come under local management. If appropriate, the Environment Agency could be invited to full Council at some stage to talk about the Greyfriars flood alleviation issues following the major issues in recent years.

The issue of food share and related schemes was also raised. Councillor Hornsey will send the Clerk a copy of the Hereford Food Charter for circulation to members which will assist them in supporting their constituents. It was noted that local distribution of surplus allotment stock does take place, and with the consideration being given to financial support for the Allotments Society coming up at the next Community Development Committee it would be timely to log that as a reason for continuing to support the plot holders. It may be helpful to invite the Food Alliance and the Green Network to a future meeting to see how these two groups could most effectively support each other and the wider community.

Community Enforcement Office – the Clerk confirmed that Fiona Farrington is in post and has been deployed already at the City's request to known hot spots, including the colleges in Venns Lane to try and challenge littering especially to get across to the new student intake in September that this is a residential area and should be respected, as many do but sadly some do not. The lines across the old railway bridge was suggested as another area that would benefit from some regular patrolling and the Clerk will pass this on. There is also a problem with trees overgrowing the lights and possibly also obstructing the CCTV, which reduces the effectiveness of both and makes people feel less safe. The Clerk will pursue this with BBLP to see if pruning is planned, and if not suggest that it should be as a matter of some priority. The dog walking area gates need urgent attention.

Shrewsbury Cup – the Clerk will contact his opposite number at Shrewsbury to see how this is organised and whether we could introduce something similar in Hereford for Christmas shoppers. This will be discussed as part of the Hereford AppleFest feedback, noting that in Shrewsbury the reusable cup is a BID initiative, which doesn't necessarily mean it has to be in Hereford, but it is important to co-ordinate with the BID for the most cost effective outcome.

Hedgehog Street – Councillor Owens will follow up and seek some more information on how this could be encouraged.

Awards for Environmental Projects – it was noted that the River Carnival setting for the award to the Wildlife Trust local branch for their continuing efforts on the Yazor Brook had been well received. It was now time, with schools returning and over the initial administrative workload of admission and new classes etc, for each councillor to contact the schools in their wards to see who had projects that were worthy of consideration either for a habitat conservation, a wildlife restoration project or something related to climate issues more generally. The categories were primary, secondary and special schools and it was felt that this would be a useful opportunity for all members with schools in their wards to make contact and raise the profile of the parish council as an agency able to deliver local change. It should

also be mentioned that King Charles has given permission for the Queen's Green Canopy title to continue to be used well into next year as a lasting memorial to his late mother.

**CBD2022/23.15 ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Schools' awards (next meeting)

Litter and recycling bins

Updates on projects listed above

Presentation re future of Bartonsham Meadow

Food Alliance and Green Network joint working

**CBD2022/23.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 at 6 pm

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 6.55 pm

Signed .....

Date .....